



16 February 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 16 February 2023 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business
5. Deputation - Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Association

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 6. Development Report | 3 - 38 |
| 7. Sports Representative Grants | 39 - 42 |
| 8. Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24 | 43 - 66 |
| 9. Commencement of Sections 1-12 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 | 67 - 104 |
| 10. Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy | 105 - 460 |
| 11. Funding offer from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2022-2023 | 461 - 496 |

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 12. | Economic Development Report (OBFD) | 497 - 548 |
| 13. | SOLACE Report on Strategic Funding Alignment | 549 - 594 |

Matters for Information

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 14 | Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 January 2023 | 595 - 608 |
| 15 | Economic Development Report (OBFI) | 609 - 616 |

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

16. Development Report – Arts (SHHP)
17. Tender for the maintenance of play equipment and associated landscape works
18. Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan
19. Council-Led Entrepreneurship Support Service – Shared Prosperity Fund Bid

Matters for Information

20. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 January 2023

Report on	Development Report
Date of Meeting	16 th February 2023
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan-Good Relations & Peace Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Catherine Fox Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Homeplace Manager

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

1	Purpose of Report												
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolling Community Grants• Good Relations Plan 2023 – 24• TEO Refugee Support Programme• Development Update												
2	Key Issues												
2.1	<p>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2022 – 2023 Members are advised that the grants assessment panel are making the following recommendations to award grants.</p> <table><tr><th>Grant</th><th>No. of groups awarded</th><th>Value of Grant Awards</th></tr><tr><td>Community Festival Fund</td><td>2</td><td>£1800</td></tr><tr><td>Good Relations Grant</td><td>3</td><td>£1905</td></tr><tr><td>Decade of Anniversaries Grant</td><td>1</td><td>£2000</td></tr></table> <p>Please see attached in Appendix 1 grant award recommendations</p>	Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards	Community Festival Fund	2	£1800	Good Relations Grant	3	£1905	Decade of Anniversaries Grant	1	£2000
Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards											
Community Festival Fund	2	£1800											
Good Relations Grant	3	£1905											
Decade of Anniversaries Grant	1	£2000											
2.2	<p>Good Relations Plan 2023 – 24 Council annually submits a Good Relations Plan for funding as part of its partner delivery with the Northern Ireland Executive Office (TEO); strategy TBUC – Together Building a United Community. An annual amount of funding is provided to be matched 25% by Council. The Plan aligns to the TBUC themes and principles.</p> <p>See attached a copy of the Plan in Appendix 2 for consideration and approval.</p>												

2.3	<p>TEO Refugee Support Programme</p> <p>The Executive Office is currently leading on the support for the Ukrainian refugees to Northern Ireland. They have been liaising with all the relevant agencies regarding the required support; NIHE, Health Trusts, DFC, DE, others.</p> <p>TEO has approached Councils with regard to an allocation of funding that they would like to use to support refugees engage and be involved in community life.</p> <p>Council has liaised with STEP, who currently delivers the local support to migrants, BME and refugees, regarding further development and targeting of existing provision. The funding timeline is to end March 2023 initially with a potential fund to be considered again for proposals for 2023 – 2024. A concept programme has been developed with STEP for proposed delivery by end March, this will include; research, awareness information, language support, integration events and one to one support as required. The full cost of the concept programme is £26,250 with a contribution of salary time by STEP, there is no cost to Council. The proposal is a provisional concept and there is no confirmation of funding.</p>
2.4	<p>Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u> Support to groups to maximise investment to area is ongoing. Support is ongoing to groups including Council grants which are now open.</p> <p><u>Good Relations</u> The Good Relations Plan continues to be delivered across the District. A new Plan is currently in development to come to Committee.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> No minutes.</p> <p><u>Burnavon Arts Centre</u> The new Winter/Spring programme for Burnavon is being delivered at present, with positive numbers across performances and activities.</p> <p><u>Seamus Heaney Homeplace</u> The new Winter/Spring programme for Seamus Heaney Homeplace is being delivered at present, with positive numbers across performances, programmes, exhibition and education programme.</p> <p><u>Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House</u> Events are being planned and delivered at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House.</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Community Festival Grant £1800 Good Relations Grants £1905 Decade of Anniversary Grant £2000</p>

	Good Relations Plan – TEO funding £310,398, Council match £103,466.
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: NA
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA
	Rural Needs Implications: NA
5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are recommended to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Good Relations grant. (ii) Approve the Good Relations Plan 2023-2024. (iii) Approve the TEO Refugee Support Programme application submission. (iv) Note the update from the development department.
6	List of Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Community Rolling Grant Award Appendix 2 Good Relations Plan 2023 - 24

Appendix 1

Local Community Festival Grants February 2023 - (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Dungannon Music and Drama Festival Assoc	Community	Annual Music and Drama Festival	4	£2000	£840
2	Moneymore YFC	Community	Annual Young Farmers Arts Festival	3	£1000	£960
Total					£1800.00	

Good Relations Grants - (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1.	Donaghmore Historical Society	Community	Series of history lectures	4	£1150.00	£805.00
2.	Aughnacloy Historical Society	Community	Annual Historical Society Programme	6	£2605.50	£600.00
3.	Montober RBP 598	Community	Visit to Royal Black Institution Museum	1	£500.00	£500.00
				Total	£4255.50	£1,905.00

Decade of Anniversaries Grant (Maximum £2,000)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	RBL Dungannon & Moy	Community	Cenotaph Centenary	1	£2000.00	£2000.00
Total					£2000.00	

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%

1	90+	100%
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DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME

2023/24 ACTION PLAN

District Council: Mid Ulster District Council

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Adrian McCreesh



Appendix 1

1.1 Programme information

Number of programmes	12
Name/role/contact details of all staff responsible for programme management	Oliver Morgan GRM Oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605
Officer 1	Sean McElhatton GRO (4 days) Sean.mcelhatton@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 22507
Officer 2	Paula Kelly GRO(F/T) Paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605
Administrator	Good Relations Administrator (3 days) Danielle McCann Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24614

1.3 Claim deadlines

It is extremely important that all claims for expenditure are made promptly and that full expenditure is claimed for within six weeks of the end of the financial year. The claim deadlines for 23/24 are as follows:

- Quarter 1 to be with TEO no later than end of July 2022
- Quarter 2 to be with TEO no later than end of October 2022
- Quarter 3 to be with TEO no later than the end of January 2023
- Quarter 4 to be with TEO no later than 11th June 2023.

1.2 Financial information

Name/contact details for staff responsible for financial management of programme	(Principal Contact) Oliver Morgan GRM management Oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605
(Alternative Contact)	Albert Hogg Finance Manager Albert.hogg@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 23306

	100%	75%
Total cost	£413,864	£310,398
Total programme costs	£227,864	£170,898
Total staff costs	£186,000.00	£139,500
Staff cost breakdown		
Good Relations Officer 1 (4 days)	£38,561	£28,920.75
Good Relations Officer 2 (5 days)	£48,514	£36,385.50
Manager (5 days)	£57,967	£43,475.25
Assistant (minimum 2.5 days - 5 days) – note this is part funded Council – still to be agreed	£16,288 (£38,934)	£12,216.00
Project Administration (3 days scale 5)	£21,670	£16,252.50
Administration £3,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mileage £3000 • Learning and development – provided by Council corporate • Advertising & Promotion & administration overheads – Council corporate 		

Section 2

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Children & Young People’s Diversity Programme			MUC01	
2.02 KEY WORDS	Diversity & Cultural Awareness – Children’s Programme (primary school)			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£15,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	500	Indirect	500
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£30			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT71 6LJ/6LS/4AA/4NW
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT80 8PQ/8QB
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT45 6AX/5DB/6HQ
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children & Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who have a greater understanding of diversity. An increase in the number of wider school community who have a greater understanding of diversity.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)				
2.15 Link to good relations audit	• Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloted under Peace IV and very successful response
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • EA Shared Education
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>The following outcomes have been delivered upon within this programme in the year 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of children who believe they have a greater understanding of diversity • The percentage of young people who have or would not have experienced other traditional cultures • The percentage of wider school community who have a greater understanding of diversity. <p>GR officers have been working with schools across the District for a number of years and in 2021/22 it is planned to deliver programmes specific for each of the school sectors post primary and primary.</p>
Project	<p>The aim will be to engage primary schools to provide an insight into cultural diversity of the region.</p> <p>The target age group is 10-11 looking at the transfer from primary schools to large post primary and the magnitude of diversity on range at large campuses.</p> <p>Facilitators will deliver workshops based on different cultures. Up to 20 primary schools will be engaged across Mid Ulster, (primary schools will be linked together where possible).</p> <p>A number of sessions will be delivered across the schools different number of workshops per programme depending upon need re numbers engaging).</p> <p>Activities delivered will include diversity around us, diversity of culture and expression, our changing environment. – Creative Facilitator to be procured e.g. - ArtsEkta, IGAGU, Gathering Drum, Ten Minutes More</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME					
Children and Young People – Youth Engagement Programme				MUC02	
2.02 KEY WORDS	Diverse Youth Programme				
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan				
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£15,000				
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	200		Indirect	416
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£75				
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%				
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC		Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon		Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown		Postcode	BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt		Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children & Young People				
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Children engaging together via play				
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community				
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)					
2.15 Link to good relations audit	• Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021				
2.16 Complementarity	• Community Planning Mid Ulster				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • EA Shared Education
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>An increase in a number of people in our areas engaged in shared activity through arts, drama or sport.</p> <p>GR officers will work in communities to engage young people and bring them together through arts, drama, music, sports and civic leadership focused activities.</p>
Project 1	<p>Project –Engage the bespoke sports cross community engagement programme</p> <p>Budget £15,000 (Peace Players Executive Office tailored cross community programme).</p> <p>A project that will deliver across the region target 24 young people aged 16 – 24 yrs to participate in a training leadership course based on utilising sport to target segregation and sectarianism in detached and unattached youth across Mid Ulster.</p> <p>The programme will involve upskilling 24 young people to return to their areas and through voluntary sport sessions to reduce feelings of isolation and segregation. The programme will include a teacher training and capacity building component. The sessions will be designed to closely align with the academic curriculum for Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU).</p> <p>The young people will then deliver to 8 primary schools through a partnership approach (4 partnerships). This will include a 5 week programme on integrated good relations through sport games, conversations and team building activities - classes (primary 6 & 7) (3-4 controlled and 3-4 maintained). The schools will come from across the 5 towns in the Mid-Ulster Council area: concentrating on Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.</p> <p>Based on an average class size of 25, this will mean the project will work with at least 200 children from partner schools. In addition the project will seek to build the capacity of 8 teachers, two from each of the partner schools/classes. Based on the assumption that each direct project beneficiary will have a positive influence on 2 other people, the project will have a positive impact on an additional 416 indirect beneficiaries</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Children and Young People - MU Shared Youth Resilience and Development Programme				MUC03
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared Youth Resilience and Development Programme			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£22,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	250	Indirect	500
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£88			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT71 4AA, BT70 2LY, BT71 6LJ, BT71 4NW, BT70 3HE, BT71 6EG, BT71 6DS, BT69 6DX, BT75 0SB, BT71 6LS
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT80 8PQ, BT80 8QB
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT45 6AF, BT45 7AF, BT45 6HQ, BT46 5BN, BT45 6NR, BT45 6AX
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children and Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community.			

Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from a different background.
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • EA Shared Education
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	Increase in number of participants who feel more comfortable socialising or working with people from another community background
Project	<p>Project - £22,000 School/Youth Resilience Development –</p> <p>A project that will bring young people together from across diverse schools to develop coaching skills that will support younger children and mentoring within schools</p> <p>A specialised facilitator will work across the 20 post primary schools. Schools will be clustered to ensure a diverse range of young people work together in receipt of the coaching and mentoring support. This will include resilience and development training.</p> <p>The sessions will allow for direct engagement of the young people together from different schools (in literacy and numeracy) and then direct engagement with younger children to support their development</p> <p>All post primary across the District - 250 young people participating through school partnerships</p> <p>Over 500 young people will be supported indirectly from the programme.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Children and Young People – MU Youth Voice (partner EA YOUTH)				MUC04
2.02 KEY WORDS	Youth Voice Project			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£12,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	24 young people aged 16-24yrs /100	Indirect	1000
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£120			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children and Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community. An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.			

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • EA Shared Education
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	
Project 1	
Project 2	<p>Project - £12,000 - The Youth voice Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations. In the current uncertain political and social context that affects young people, they can be powerful catalysts for positive change and contributors of innovative solutions.</p> <p>To overcome the challenges faced by young people, the project will create-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater youth participation 2. Stronger youth organisations 3. Increased youth autonomy and inclusion. <p>This specific project will create a Mid Ulster based regional youth forum. The forum will consist of a minimum 24 young persons aged 16 years to 21 years, who interact regularly with their close friendship group, sharing detail. The project will reflect the Mid Ulster region with youth representatives from across the Mid Ulster region. The project level outcome being an 'improvement in attitudes between children & young people from different backgrounds.</p> <p>The group is actively involved in advocating on behalf of young people across Mid Ulster; this includes; policy engagement on LGBTQ+, rural transport, youth engagement, employment, social media protection etc.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Shared Community - Good Relations Small Grant Programme				MUC05
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared Communities			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£45,000 (up to £1,500 per group with 30 approx. per group participating x 40-50 groups)			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1,500 1000	Indirect	3,000
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£30			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51
	Location		Postcode	
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space & services			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)				
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021 			

2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • EA Shared Education
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>The grant programme has been running consistently for a number of years and was redeveloped in 18/19 to increase the use of programmes that could further enhance more shared space within Mid Ulster District Council area through activities and outcomes as noted below:</p> <p>% increase in community attitudes and perception of using and accessing shared activities in spaces.</p> <p>% increase in communities seeking funding and participation in good relations.</p> <p>A small grants programme will be managed by Mid Ulster District Council Programme will encourage community groups to come together to deliver good relations activities and shared space development.</p> <p>Approx. 20 – 30 small grants will be awarded to community organisations for shared space activity delivered over the year.</p> <p>A maximum grant up to £1,500 will be available</p> <p>Contribution towards strategic events grants programme to support range of good relations criteria re. Outreach for diversity and engagement of communities across the District see cultural expression.</p> <p>GR officers to continually engage with strategic partner projects and in partnership with the strategic community events grant with average 15 – 20 groups seeking to deliver events in partnership with good relations to develop diversity in cross community outreach and or migrant and new communities.</p> <p>GR Officers will engage with facilitators in areas where capacity is low and support groups develop and deliver projects particularly at key times of the year to engage people together.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME					
Shared Community - Shared Historic Perspectives Lectures Programme				MUC06	
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared cultural diversity				
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan				
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£3,864				
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	100 22/23 81 participants at talks + online	Indirect	300	
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£39				
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male 22/23 Baseline SHC 59% Catholic, 37% Protestant, 1% Other, 4% No Religion, 4% BME 51% Female 49% Male				
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT	
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide	Postcode		
	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78	
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80	
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51	
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community				
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services				
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.				
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)					

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme
2.17 Programme summary information 2022/23	<p>GR Officers will work with local communities interested in acknowledging Historic Perspectives and promote a series of lectures in shared Council venues that can continue to inform wider public across all communities in shared historic perspectives.</p> <p>4-5 lectures delivered across the District</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			
Shared Community - Shared Spaces		MUC07	
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared Communities		
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan		
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£8,000		
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect 200
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£200		
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%		
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide	Postcode
	Location	Dungannon	Postcode BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode BT41/44/45/46/51
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?			
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community		
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services		
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live in as welcoming to all communities. An increase in the number of participants who feel more comfortable using shared spaces and services traditionally associated with people from another community background.		
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)			

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>This will be a pilot biodiversity programme that will be further developed under Peace Plus. Good Relations officers will work with a facilitator to engage 100 young people from 2 targeted schools (schools not involved in earlier programmes). The programme will be cross community schools focusing on in-depth support for biodiversity (to include greater awareness of our surrounding areas and environment via environmental awareness and sustainability and biodiversity).</p> <p>Other key elements will include for cross community engagement and development friendships and team building re Environmental awareness and biodiversity sessions Local Habitats Wider Community Spaces shared by all communities Team building and development</p> <p>Specialist support will be procured to support facilitate and deliver the project.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME					
Employability and Development Programme				MUC08	
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared communities				
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan				
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£8,000				
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	120	Indirect	300	
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£25				
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%				
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT	
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide	Postcode		
	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78	
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80	
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51	
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community				
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services				
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.				
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)					

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>Good Relations officers will work with independent expertise from the private and public sector to deliver a mentoring program to upskill those leaving school with limited education, and this will seek to improve employability skills</p> <p>Key elements of delivery will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Development Confidence building Employability sector and skills and links to relevant training and support Engagement in employability skills from applications, interviews etc Customer care, engagement, team building <p>The young people will be targeted through partnership with EA Youth, Enterprise Centres, EA Welfare etc.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Our Safe Community - Responding to Local Community Issues				MUC09
2.02 KEY WORDS	Community Safety			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£10,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	80	Indirect	500
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£125			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Safe Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	Increase in the number of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and the wider area			

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • PCSP
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>GR officers will support PCSP regarding issues identified in local communities along with our partners (recorded instances, members, PCSP, PSNI, NIHE, Probation Board, and Youth justice Agency etc.) to provide a multi-agency approach to keep spaces and communities safe and accessible and open to all.</p> <p>The activities will be both proactive and reactive in nature. Where there are known yearly issues arising then a proactive approach will be taken with local people to seek to avoid issues reoccurring. .</p> <p>6 reactionary support activities working in a multi-agency approach.</p> <p>Support the ACT initiative £10,000 re support to communities re cultural expression and keeping areas safe at July bonfire season.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				
Our Safe Community – Overcoming Poverty and Social Inclusion				MUC10
2.02 KEY WORDS	Shared space and services			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£35,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	600	Indirect	1000
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£62			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Safe Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)				

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021 • Refer to Community Planning Mid Ulster Anti Poverty Plan and link to DFC – Government poverty plan
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>Outcomes to improve upon: Increase in the number of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and the wider area Increase the number of people who can access anti-poverty charities across Mid Ulster through a partnership approach</p> <p>Targeting those areas most in poverty due to the impact of the troubles and level of opportunity lost.</p> <p>GR Officers will work collectively with local foodbanks and food charities in our main towns to work together to support communities suffering from poverty and impact of the Troubles.</p> <p>Work with the identified Mid Ulster foodbanks and food charities across the District in our main towns. Model good practice as Covid hit as the foodbanks were already networked together across the 5 towns and Clogher rural area. Worked together to ensure shared service support.</p> <p>Facilitating a network of the foodbanks across the region to support continuing to work together and maximise limited resources to those most vulnerable. During Covid 19 the quick and effective response to the community need by the partner foodbanks was recognised by agencies. The foodbanks through previous support and engagement had developed partnership models in all the main towns to ensure all people from diverse communities were supported maximising partner resources.</p> <p>Reconnecting communities together after impact of Covid and Brexit and support disadvantaged communities.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME					
Our Cultural Expression - Celebrating Cultural Diversity o			MUC11		
2.02 KEY WORDS	CULTURE DIVERSE MUSIC				
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan				
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£22,000				
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	3,000 1600	Indirect	2,000	
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£10				
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%				
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT	
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78	
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80	
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51	
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Cultural Expression				
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Cultural diversity is celebrated				
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Catholic Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.				
	An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.				
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	Increase in the number of people who believe they have a greater appreciation and increased understanding or their own culture and our shared traditions.				
	Increased belief that culture can play a vital part in continuing to support communities in collaborating together.				

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning Mid Ulster • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>Reaching out to the wider community through engagement in cultural activities / events including the following (match and partner culture & arts in all activities below)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £5,000 - Ulster Scots cultural promotion (Andy Mc Gregor piping music programme). 2. £5,000 - Pipe Band Championships (Cookstown) – engaging young people from diverse communities and promoting piping tradition 3. £6000 – Cultural Music in Schools programme -working with primary schools in the Cookstown area since 2007 and more recently has extended into the Magherafelt and Dungannon area, teaching children traditional music skills (guitar, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin and flute). 4. £4000 – Charlie Donnelly Winter School – annual event in March held in Mid Ulster 5. £2000 – partner engagement on cultural arts with Arts Section <p>Multiple organisations linked to cultural events to work together. Delivery of the following projects;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ulster Scots Cultural expression programme, using piping 2. Annual Pipe Band Championships event in Cookstown, in partnership with RPBANI - 2,000 people attending 3. Traditional Music in Schools, this programme will work with 30 schools teaching traditional music skills 4. Charlie Donnelly Winter School - Looking at Poets and literary profiles of those who fought in international conflict and impact of this on other international communities. 5. Good Relations officers to engage with the Arts regarding delivery of the arts and culture strategy to seek to support cultural expression and diversity across the District. Work alongside arts, literary and heritage on above and also on key activities in the 3 facilities on cultural expression via the arts & performances.

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME					
Our Cultural Expression - Supporting BME Communities & Diversity			MUC12		
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE SOCIAL INCLUSION CULTURE				
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan				
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£32,000				
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	500	Indirect	2000	
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£50				
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population breakdown 50% Female, 50% Male, 62% Catholic, 27% Protestant, 10% Other Age 22% under 14, 15- 39 32%, 40 – 64 31%, over 65 15% People born outside of NI and Ireland and UK is 9%				
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT	
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78	
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT70/79/80	
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT41/44/45/46/51	
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?					
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Cultural Expression				
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased sense of community belonging				
2.13 Project Level Outcome – This should relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.				
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes (optional)	An increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland as a whole.				
2.15 Link to good relations audit	• Refer to the Good Relations Audit 2021				
2.16 Complementarity	• Community Planning Mid Ulster				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Plus programme in development • TBUC Regional Programme • CRC Regional programme • Mid Ulster Arts and Heritage
2.17 Programme summary information 2021/22	<p>Outcomes to improve upon: % increase in targeted work within Section 75 groupings allowing further engagement of marginalised groups within Mid Ulster</p> <p>Good relations Officers will build on the good work delivered to date through STEP, an Tearmann (Traveller Support Group) and the local migrant community groups (East Timorese Community Association, Lithuanian Folk Group, and The Polish Association), working in partnership to support inclusion and integration of migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster. Good Relations Officers continue to liaise with honorary consuls to develop actions and projects that can contribute to good integration at a local level.</p>
Project 1	<p>Project £10,000 BME support</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer will work with partners (STEP and An Tearmann) in the development of programmes and activities to assist in the support for migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster to promote and encourage respect for diversity, culture and integration.</p>
Project 2	<p>Project £10,000 Engaging diverse and new communities</p> <p>Develop a series of support programmes that will provide direct support to a number of migrant groups and refugees and asylum seekers now situated within Mid Ulster. Engagement with Honorary Consuls and agencies to engage diverse communities. This will include engagement with the Intercultural Education Service (EA) with pupils from our target communities: Traveller; Newcomer; Asylum-Seekers; Refugees and Roma.</p> <p>Support Section 75 groups to participate in an active life within Mid Ulster GR officers will work with a series of marginalised groups including LGBT+, disability groups and Women's groups to encourage more inclusion and equality. Engage partner organisations within these sectors to deliver meaningful programmes that can change attitudes toward the more marginalised within our society.</p>
Project 3	<p>Deliver a promotional campaign to address diversity and respect for diversity. £12,000</p>

Section 3

Action Plan Programme Outcome Summary Table 2022/23

Code (2.02)	Key Priority (2.11)	T:BUC Outcome (2.12)	Project Level Outcome – difference between baseline and end of project(2.2)		No. direct participants (2.05)	Total Cost (2.04)	Post Code (2.09)
			Number	%			
MUC1	CYP	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			500	£15K	BT71 6DT BT71 6LJ/6LS/4AA/4NW BT80 8PQ/8QB BT45 6AX/5DB/6HQ
MUC2	CYP	Children engaging together via play			200	£15K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC3	CYP	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			250	£22K	BT71 6DT BT71 4AA, BT70 2LY, BT71 6LJ, BT71 4NW, BT70 3HE, BT71 6EG, BT71 6DS, BT69 6DX, BT75 0SB, BT71 6LS BT80 8PQ, BT80 8QB BT45 6AF, BT45 7AF, BT45 6HQ, BT46 5BN, BT45 6NR, BT45 6AX
MUC4	CYP	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			100	£12K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC5	Shared Comm	Increased use of shared space & services			1500	£45K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51

DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
2022/23 ACTION PLAN

MUC6	Shared Comm	Increased use of shared space and services			100	£3,864	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC7	Shared Comm	Increased use of shared space and services			100	£8K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC8	Shared Comm	Increased use of shared space and services			120	£8K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC9	Safe Comm	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			50	£10K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC10	Safe Comm	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			600	£35K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC11	Cultural Exp	Cultural diversity is celebrated			3000	£22K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51
MUC12	Cultural Exp	Increased sense of community belonging			500	£32K	BT71 6DT BT68/69/70/71/75/76/77/78 BT70/79/80 BT41/44/45/46/51

Section 4

T:BUC Strategic Outcome

	C&YP	Shared community	Safe community	Cultural Expression	DCGRP Total
Total no. of programmes	4	4	2	2	12
Total no. of direct participants	1050	1820	650	3,500	7020
Unit cost of programme activity	61	34	69	16	32.50
Total cost of programmes	64,000	64,864	45,000	54,000	227,864

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date of Meeting:	16 th February, 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Margaret McCammon Community Development Officer

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 present to Members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Representative Grant – Individuals (January 2023)
2.0	Background
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.
2.2	Previously in December 2022, Members approved the recommendation for the period up to November 2022.
2.3	Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached with Appendix A for information.
3.2	Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Individual application was received during this period Proposal to award a total of £900 in respect of the above 4 eligible applications.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with an annual allocation for 2022/2023 of £15,000. £1,350 was approved in May 2022, £450 in June 2022, £7,250 in September 2022, £1,775 in October, £500 in December leaving a balance of £3,675.

	Should the grant recommendations contained within this report be approved, £2,775 remains available to be allocated for the remainder of this financial year until March 2023.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the sports grant allocations as recommended within this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

Appendix A: Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

Sportsperson Representative on eligible cost to a max of £250

Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Hannah	Kelly	British Schools Pistol Shooting Championships	£265	2	£225
Lucy	Manelly	British Schools Pistol Shooting Championships	£1,251	2	£225
Sarah	McKenzie	Barrier Animal Health Spring Festival 2023	£250	2	£225
Michael	O'Neill	KUGB Grandslams - Home Nation Teams Karate	£1,500	2	£225
Total					£900

Band	Amount
1	£250.00
2	£225.00
3	£200.00
4	£175.00
5	£150.00

Report on	Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24		
Date of Meeting	16 th February 2023		
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing		
Contact Officer	John Howard, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Paul Bailie, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Sean Cavlin, Leisure Services Development Manager		
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 information to Members on the proposed Scale of Charges April 2023 – March 2024 for the Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service area and to seek approval to implement from 1 st April 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council agreed a new organisational structure in July 2021 which resulted in a series of changes to the then Council structure. Arising from the amendments to the Council structure was the creation of a new service area fully inclusive of previous standalone services involving Environmental Health, Events, Leisure and Parks.
2.2	Previously in February 2022, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approve the report that sought to consolidate all the fees and charges across the new service area into one document in which all previous Council approvals from the creation of Mid Ulster District Council in 2015 to February 2022 relating to pricing/charging. (minute reference: D026/22)
2.3	Previously in January 2015, approval was given for the approach to deliver harmonised fees, charges and concession pricing for the commencement of the new Mid Ulster District Council in April 2015. This included approval for an approach to groupings that would be eligible for concession pricing along with the mechanism for promotional pricing (based on market conditions) – see below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Management have the discretion (agreed by the Director) to apply discounted pricing packages, varied times and activities in order to market less attractive facilities, low usage periods and to promote Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing initiatives.”</i>
2.4	All fees and charges that are proposed for the April 2023 – March 2024 year within the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing service area are detailed in appendix A.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members should note that all fees and charges detailed within Appendix A are reflective of previous relevant Council reports pertaining to charging and the subsequent approvals previously applied for the various service areas of Environmental Health, Leisure and Parks.

3.2	There is a variety of legislation enforced by Councils which regulates environmental controls whereby a permit, licence or registration is required to legally operate. There are a number of charges and fixed penalties whereby Council has discretion to set the level of charge or fixed penalty within the parameters of applicable legislation and previously in November 2014, Members considered and agreed the approach for the new Mid Ulster District Council forming in April 2015.
3.3	It is proposed to have a price freeze and not to apply any additional inflationary annual price increase to any charges for the period April 2023 – March 2024.
3.4	<p>Future Analysis Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 Swimming lessons, gymnastics, dance, Tobermore Golf Centre memberships and personal training within fitness suites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decision deferred pending wider consideration of delivery methods; pricing and options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting. Pavement Café Licensing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In March 2017 Members agreed a zero fee for the grant, renewal or variation of a pavement café licence and that licences would be granted for an initial period of one year (minute reference: E070/17) ➤ The planned review into the fee structure and duration of pavement café licences was postponed due to the pandemic and remains outstanding. ➤ Options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting. Room hire rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A cross departmental working group are currently actively reviewing room hire rates across arts & culture, leisure, parks and tourism sites. ➤ Options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The 2023/2024 budget setting approach for income has been based on the scale of charges approach outlined in Appendix A. The proposed scale of charges structure for 2023/2024 seeks to balance affordability with cost of providing the service; Cost recovery and maintenance of income has been considered as far as reasonably possible.</p> <p>Human: Officer time – to make staff aware of the scale of charges and to update and configure literature and computerised till systems. Officer time required to discharge the functions will remain regardless of fees (particularly for any statutory duties or enforcement activities)</p> <p>Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach to fees and charges across Environmental Health, Leisure and Parks services and facilities.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.</p>

	Rural Needs Implications: The proposal and recommendations tabled for consideration do not fall within an activity subject to Section 1 (1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24

Product	2022/23 Pricing	2023/24 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Memberships						
Memberships (DD)						
Adult All Inclusive	£29.95	£29.95			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£20.00	£20.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£14.98	£14.98			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£10.00	£10.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£22.50	£22.50			SR	
Lead Household	£31.67	£31.67			SR	12 month agreement term. Inclusive of 2 adults (aged 19 or older) and unlimited children aged 18 years old or younger (at the time of registration)
Mid Ulster Swim Academy	£20.40	£20.40			Ex	
Move More Programme	£14.98	£14.98			SR	
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£15.00	£15.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£21.00	£21.00			SR	
Memberships (Cash Payments, 3 Months)						
Adult All Inclusive	£89.85	£89.85			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£60.00	£60.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£44.94	£44.94			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£30.00	£30.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£67.50	£67.50			SR	
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£45.00	£45.00			SR	

Student All Inclusive	£63.00	£63.00			SR	
Move More All Inclusive	£30.00	£30.00			SR	12 weeks
PARS All Inclusive	£30.00	£30.00			SR	12 weeks
Memberships (Cash Payments, 6 Months)						
Adult All Inclusive	£179.70	£179.70			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£120.00	£120.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£89.85	£89.85			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£60.00	£60.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£135.00	£135.00			SR	
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£90.00	£90.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£126.00	£126.00			SR	
Memberships (Cash Payments, 12 Months)						
Adult All Inclusive	£359.40	£359.40			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£240.00	£240.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£179.70	£179.70			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£120.00	£120.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£270.00	£270.00			SR	
Lead Household	£380.00	£380.00			SR	Inclusive of 2 adults (aged 19 or older) and unlimited children aged 18 years old or younger (at the time of registration)
Household Additional Adult					SR	

Household Additional Child					SR	
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£180.00	£180.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£252.00	£252.00			SR	
Wetside						
Pools						
Adult Swim	£3.75	£3.75	Y	N	SR	
Family Swim (2 Adults And 2 Children, 1 Adult and 3 Children)	£10.00	£10.00	N	N	SR	
School Swim (Including Instructor)	£1.30	£1.30	N	N	Ex	
Swimming Gala (25m, hourly rate) Sites: CLC, DLC	£77.50	£77.50	N	N	SR SOL Possible	
Swimming Gala (50m, hourly rate) Site: GLC	£133.30	£133.30	N	N	SR SOL Possible	
Small Pool (Hourly)	£33.00	£33.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Local District Clubs: Main Pool	£47.40	£47.40	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: Main Pool	£160.00	£160.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Local District Clubs: 25m Lane	£7.90	£7.90	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: 25m Lane	£25.00	£25.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Local District Clubs: 50m Lane	£15.80	£15.80	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: 50m Lane	£40.00	£40.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Swim Ulster Bookings 25m Lane	N/A	£25.00	N	Y		Discount based on the pro-rata of the approved rates by the percentage of coaching spaces that are made available to the 3 x Mid Ulster District based swim clubs
Swim Ulster Bookings 50m Lane	N/A	£40.00	N	Y		Discount based on the pro-rata of the approved rates by the percentage of coaching spaces that are made available to the 3 x Mid Ulster District based swim clubs

Health Suite						
Adult (Inc. Swim)	£50.00	£50.00	Y	N	SR	
Adult (Maghera - No Swim)	£4.10	£4.10	Y	N	SR	

School Health Suite (Group Rate)	£1.20	£1.20	N	N	SR	
Pool Classes & Courses						
NPLQ	£260.00	£260.00	N	N	Ex	Included the cost of the examination package and admin fees
Rookie Lifeguard	£6.40	£6.40	N	N	Ex	
Survive and Save	£6.40 & £26.00 certification	£6.40 & £26.00 certification	N	N	Ex	
Mid Ulster Swim Academy	£6.25	£6.25	N	N	Ex	
Adult Swimming Lessons	£9.50	£9.50	N	N	Ex	
1:1 Lesson 30mins	N/A	£15.00	N	N	Ex	
2:1 Lesson (30mins)	N/A	£20.00	N	N	Ex	
Gym & Fitness						
Adult Induction	£25.00	£25.00	Y	N	Ex	
Casual Adult	£6.00	£6.00	Y	N	SR	
Casual School	£2.00	£2.00	N	N	SR	
Gym and Health Suite	£8.30	£8.30	Y	N	SR	
Gym and Health Suite (no pool)	£6.30	£6.30		N	SR	
Personal Trainer (Single) (60mins)	N/A	£25.00	N	N	Ex	Contracted member
Personal Trainer (Single) (60mins)	N/A	£30.00	N	N	Ex	Non-contracted member
Personal Trainer (Double) (60mins)	N/A	£30.00	N	N	Ex	Two contracted members

Personal Trainer (Double) (60mins)	N/A	£35.00	N	N	Ex	One contracted member and one non contracted member
Personal Trainer (Double) (60mins)	N/A	£40.00	N	N	Ex	Two non-contracted member
Gym (Limited Facility)- Gortgonis, MSA, MUSA						
Adult Induction	£25.00	£25.00	Y	N	Ex	
Casual Adult	£2.60	£2.60	Y	N	SR	
Discount Card (10 Sessions)	£20.60	£20.60	Y	N	SR	
Classes						
Classes	£5.00	£5.00	Y	N	Ex	
Virtual Classes	£3.00	£3.00	Y	N	Ex	
Schools	£1.10	£1.10	N	N	Ex	
Indoor Sports						
All Activities: per badminton court (per hour)						
Adult	£7.50	£7.50	Y	Y	SR	
School	£2.60	£2.60	N	N	SR	
Bowls	£10.30	£10.30	Y	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Martial Arts	£10.30	£10.30	Y	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Activities: 4 badminton courts (per hour)						

Adult	£30.00	£30.00	Y	N	SR	
School	£10.40	£10.40	N	N	SR	
Non Commercial Full Hall	£63.00	£63.00	N	Y	Ex	
Non Commercial Half Hall	£44.00	£44.00	N	Y	Ex	
Non Commercial Full Hall Before 6pm	£47.60	£47.60	N	Y	Ex	
Non Commercial Half Hall Before 6pm	£31.10	£31.10	N	Y	Ex	
Squash/Handball/Racquetball (Per Hour)						
Squash/Handball/Racquetball Court	£5.70	£5.70	Y	N	SR	
School	£2.00	£2.00	N	N	SR	
Table Tennis (Per Hour)						
Adult	£5.70	£5.70	Y	N	SR	
School	£2.00	£2.00	N	N	SR	
Ten Pin Bowling (Per 30 Minutes)						
Per Lane	£7.90	£7.90	Y	Y	SR	
School	£5.20	£5.20	N	N	SR	
Birthday Parties & Soft Play						
Soft Play						

Child	£3.10	£3.25	N	N	SR	
Birthday Parties						
Bouncy Castle Party	£65.00	£65.00	N	N	SR	
Party Room Hire: Cat A	£15.00	£15.00	N	Y	Ex	
Party Room Hire: Cat B	£10.00	£10.00	N	Y	Ex	
Party Room Hire: Cat C	£8.00	£8.00	N	Y	Ex	
Classes/ Courses						
Gymnastics	£2.50	£2.50	N	N	Ex	
Dance Session	£3.70	£3.70	N	N	Ex	
Scheme Per Session	£2.60	£2.60	N	N	Ex	
Scheme Card 10 Sessions	£20.60	£20.60	N	N	Ex	
Golf						
Driving Range Balls (60)	£4.00	£4.00	N	N	SR	
Par 3	£2.70	£2.70	Y	N	SR	
Putting Green	£1.70	£1.70	Y	N	SR	
Golf Club Hire	£0.70	£0.70	N	N	SR	

Golf Coaching						
Standard Golf Lesson 30mins	£15.50	£15.50	N	N	Ex	
Standard Golf Lesson 45mins	£23.20	£23.20	N	N	Ex	
Standard Golf Lesson 60mins	£31.00	£31.00	N	N	Ex	
Trackman Golf Lesson 30mins	£18.50	£18.50	N	N	Ex	
Trackman Golf Lesson 60mins	£37.10	£37.10	N	N	Ex	
Golf Coaching Balls	£2.90	£2.90	N	N	Ex	
Group Lessons						
Group Golf Lesson	£35.00	£35.00	N	N	Ex	6 x 2 hour lessons.
Junior Golf Academy	£2.60	£2.60	N	N	Ex	1.5 hours lessons
Academy Golf Ball Pack	£1.60	£1.60	N	N	Ex	3 x golf balls (resale)
Junior Golf Camp	£41.20	£41.20	N	N	Ex	3 x day camp (full days)
School/ Youth Group Lessons	£15.50	£15.50	N	N	Ex	
Misc						
Meeting Rooms						
Meeting Room Hire: Cat A	£15.00	£15.00	Y	Y	Ex	
Meeting Room Hire: Cat B	£10.00	£10.00	Y	Y	Ex	
Meeting Room Hire: Cat C	£8.00	£8.00	Y	Y	Ex	

Spectator						
Spectator (Applied At Management Discretion)	£1.10	£1.10	Y	N	SR	

Participation Pricing						
Active Recreation Plan	£1.00	£1.00			Ex	
Summer Camps	£25.00	£25.00			Ex	Dance Gymnastics Tennis etc (£5 per day)
Canoeing	£45.00	£45.00			Ex	

Product	2022/23 Pricing	2023/24 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Indoor Pitches									

MINI PITCHES
(Indoor, per Hour)

Mini pitch	£30.90	£30.90	Y	Y	£15.50	N	Y	SR	
Badminton Court	£7.10	£7.10	Y	Y	£3.50	N	Y	SR	

MAXI PITCHES
(Indoor, per Hour)

Maxi pitch (4 tennis courts)	£51.50	£51.50	Y	Y	£25.80	N	Y	SR	
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FULL PITCH
(Indoor, per Hour)

Full pitch (12 tennis courts) - per hour	£154.50	£154.50	Y	Y	£77.30	N	Y	SR	
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INDOOR TENNIS COURT
(Indoor, per Hour)

Tennis Court	£15.50	£15.50	Y	Y	£7.80	N	Y	SR	
Birthday Party - inflatable & sports games	£41.20	£41.20	N	N				SR	
Table Tennis	£5.80	£5.80	Y	N				SR	
Outdoor Pitches									

3G/4G Pitches

Match Bookings (2 Hours)

Soccer/Rugby Match Adult	£51.50	£51.50	Y	Y				SR	
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Soccer/Rugby Match Adult with lights	£72.10	£72.10	Y	Y				SR	
Gaelic Match Adult Price	£72.10	£72.10	Y	Y				SR	
Gaelic Match Adult with lights	£92.70	£92.70	Y	Y				SR	

Training Bookings
(per Hour)

Soccer/Rugby Training Adult	£30.90	£30.90	Y	Y				SR	
Soccer/Rugby Training Adult with lights	£41.20	£41.20	Y	Y				SR	
Gaelic Training Adult	£41.20	£41.20	Y	Y				SR	
Gaelic Training Adult with lights	£54.10	£54.10	Y	Y				SR	

Multi-Use Games
Area

Without Lights	£25.80	£25.80	Y	Y				SR	
With Lights	£31.00	£31.00	Y	Y				SR	

Outdoor Astro Turf

Adult - per hour	£27.50	£27.50		Y				SR	
Priority Group - per hour (up to 6.00pm Monday to Friday)	£13.80	£13.80		Y				SR	

Outdoor Pitches
(per match)

Adult Match	£37.10	£37.10	Y	Y				SR	
Adult Match with Lights	£69.00	£69.00	Y	Y				SR	

Tennis (per hour)

Adult	£6.20	£6.20		Y				SR	
Priority Group - per hour (up to 6.00pm Monday to Friday)	£3.10	£3.10		Y				SR	
Clubs: Adult (2 tennis courts - coached session)	£6.00	£6.00		Y	£3.00			Ex	
Athletics Track and Field									
Casual Track use Adult	£2.60	£2.60	Y	N				SR	
Synthetic Full Track: Adult Group / Event	£41.20	£41.20	Y	Y				SR	
Cinder Track (per hour)	£13.40	£13.40	Y	Y				SR	
Cinder Track & Lights Floodlight (per hour)	£19.00	£19.00	Y	Y				SR	
Other Outdoor									

Bowling Green

Casual Adult	£3.60	£3.60	Y	N				SR	
Season Ticket Adult	£42.20	£42.20	Y	N				SR	
Club Rent (Season Hire)	£1,442.00	£1,442.00	N	N				Ex	

Cricket Wicket – Club Rent

Cricket Wicket – Club Rent (Season Hire)	£530.00	£530.00						Ex	
Senior (grass)	£47.90	£47.90		Y				SR	

Junior (grass)	£50.00	£50.00		Y				SR	
Synthetic wicket	£19.00	£19.00	Y	Y				SR	
Product	2021/22 Pricing	2022/23 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession		VAT	
Pitch Hire: Special Events									
Per pitch (up to 8 hours)	£113.00	£113.00	N	Y				SR	
Per pitch (up to 4 hours)	£59.50	£59.50	N	Y				SR	

Car Park Hire

Half Day	£57.20	£57.20	N	Y				Ex	
Full Day	£101.00	£101.00	N	Y				Ex	

Parks

Product	2022/23 Pricing	2023/24 Pricing	VAT	Notes
Marina Fees				
Boat Park - Annual Storage per vessel	£365.00	£365.00	SR	
Boat Park - Canoe Storage (Club) Summer Season per vessel	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Boat Park - Daily Storage per vessel	£9.45	£9.45	SR	
Boat Park - Dinghy Storage (Club) Summer Season per vessel	£15.00	£15.00	SR	
Boat Park - Empty Trailer Storage Annual	£55.00	£55.00	SR	
Boat Park - Empty Trailer Storage Seasonal (6 months)	£30.00	£30.00	SR	
Boat Park - Summer Storage per vessel (Apr-Sept)	£210.00	£210.00	SR	
Boat Park - Weekly Storage per vessel	£52.50	£52.50	SR	
Boat Park - Winter Storage per vessel (Oct-Mar)	£210.00	£210.00	SR	
Deposit - Keys Jetty & Boat Yard	£20.00	£20.00	Ex	
Deposit - Swipe card	£20.00	£20.00	Ex	
Electricity Card - £1 Credit	£1.00	£1.00	SR	
Electricity Card - £5.00 Credit	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Electricity Card - 10kw Credit	£2.65	£2.65	SR	
Electricity Smart Card Top Up	£1.00	£1.00	SR	Minimum top up £1
Mooring - Annual Permit (vessel greater than 60ft)	£1,050.00	£1,050.00	SR	
Mooring - Annual Permit (vessel requires 1 berth)	£415.00	£415.00	SR	
Mooring - Annual Permit (vessel requires 2 berths)	£790.00	£790.00	SR	
Mooring - Daily Mooring per Vessel (1 berth)	£11.00	£11.00	SR	
Mooring - Daily Mooring per Vessel (2 berths)	£19.00	£19.00	SR	
Mooring - Early Discount **APRIL-JUNE**	Deduct £10.00	Deduct £10.00	SR	Early Payment Discount
Mooring - Monthly Permit (1 berth)	£145.00	£145.00	SR	
Mooring - Monthly Permit (2 berths)	£265.00	£265.00	SR	
Mooring - Season Permit (vessel requires 1 berth)	£240.00	£240.00	SR	
Mooring - Season Permit (vessel requires 2 berths)	£458.00	£458.00	SR	
Mooring - Seasonal Permit *NEW BOAT INTRO OFFER* (1 berth)	£180.00	£180.00	SR	
Mooring - Seasonal Permit *NEW BOAT INTRO OFFER* (2 berths)	£344.00	£344.00	SR	
Mooring - Weekly Permit (1 berth)	£58.00	£58.00	SR	
Mooring - Weekly Permit (2 berths)	£105.00	£105.00	SR	
Slipway - Annual Use of Slipway	£100.00	£100.00	SR	
Slipway - Club/Group use of slipways	£12.50	£12.50	SR	
Slipway - Daily Launching per Vessel	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Slipway - Seasonal Use of Slipway	£60.00	£60.00	SR	
Campsite Fees				
Touring and Camping - Cancellation Admin Fee	£5.00	£5.00	5%	Ballyronan, Dungannon & Roundlake
Touring and Camping - Use of Sluice Room Only	£5.00	£5.00	SR	Ballyronan, Dungannon & Roundlake
Touring and Camping (Half Day Stay)	£13.75	£13.75	5%	Ballyronan, Dungannon & Roundlake
Touring and Camping (Hard Standing Pitch with Electric)	£27.50	£27.50	5%	Ballyronan, Dungannon & Roundlake
Touring and Camping (Tent Pitch - No Electric)	£14.50	£14.50	5%	Ballyronan, Dungannon & Roundlake
Miscellaneous - Laundry Income	£1.00	£1.00	SR	Ballyronan & Dungannon
Deposits - Swipe Card	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Houseboat Hire (per night)	£120.00	£120.00	5%	
Water sports Fees				
Water Sports - Canoe Course	£40.00	£40.00	SR	
Water Sports - Canoe Taster Session	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Observatory & Forest Trails Fees				
Car Park Charge (per hour) first hour free	£0.45	£0.45	Ex	
Exhibition Tour Adult	£5.00	£5.00	Ex	
Exhibition Tour Concession (over 60 & under 16)	£3.50	£3.50	Ex	
OM Odyssey Projection Show	£3.00	£3.00	Ex	
Davagh Forest Trails - Bike Hire Provider	£50.00	£50.00	SR	
Blessingbourne FMBT - Car Park Income	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Allotments Fees				
Allotments - Full Plot (Castledawson)	£30.00	£30.00	SR	
Allotments - Full Plot (Nunnery Hill)	£50.00	£50.00	SR	
Allotments - Half Plot (Nunnery Hill)	£50.00	£50.00	SR	
Allotments - Keyholder Deposit	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Allotments - Raised Bed Large (Ballygawley)	£5.00	£5.00	SR	

Allotments - Raised Bed Small (Ballygawley)	£3.00	£3.00	SR	
Deposits - Keyholder	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Angling Fees				
Angling - (Coarse) Adult (concession)	£3.00	£3.00	SR	
Angling - (Coarse) Adult Day Ticket (Bank Only)	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Angling - (Coarse) Adult Group Rates (Events/Competitions/Return all fish)	£4.00	£4.00	SR	
Angling - (Coarse) Junior day ticket (Bank Only)	£3.00	£3.00	SR	
Angling - (Coarse) Junior Group Rate (Events/Competitions/Return all fish)	£2.00	£2.00	SR	
Angling - Coarse Angling Equipment Hire (Fishing rod/Pole/Landing net)	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Angling - Coarse Fishing Tuition Adult (Equipment Excluded)	£9.00	£9.00	SR	
Angling - Coarse Fishing Tuition Junior (Equipment Excluded)	£5.00	£5.00	SR	
Room Hire Fees				
Miscellaneous - Conference Suite/Display Boards	£105.00	£105.00	SR	
Miscellaneous - Room Hire	£15.00	£0.00	SR	
Deposits - Keyholder	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Room Hire - Annual (Club Rate) Ballyronan	£200.00	£200.00	SR	
Room Hire - Changing Block per day (Clubs/Groups)	£7.90	£7.90	SR	
Events Fees				
Events - Large Event Space Hire	£100.00	£100.00	SR	
Events - Small Event Space Hire	£10.00	£10.00	SR	
Outdoor Recreation & Miscellaneous Fees				
Tennis - Adult 1 hour court hire	£6.00	£6.00	SR	
Tennis - Junior 1 hour court hire	£3.00	£3.00	SR	
Tennis - Tennis Racquet hire	£1.00	£1.00	SR	
BBQ - 1 Ring	£8.00	£8.00	SR	
BBQ - 2 Rings	£15.00	£15.00	SR	

Commercial/Non-Commercial Classification

There are a range of variables and differing definitions for Commercial and Non-Commercial organisations and therefore for the purposes of the Leisure and Parks Pricing application, the following definitions and criteria will be applied in order to establish the appropriate definition of a group or organisations.

Non-Commercial Organisations - can be part of the public sector, the community and voluntary sector or the charitable sector who aim to provide products and services to the community however they will not make a profit. However, there are some groups, organisations and initiatives that could define themselves as Non-Commercial but nonetheless operate with the intentions of making a profit and therefore a criteria needs be established to ensure adherence to the definition.

To determine any eligibility issues as a Non-Commercial organisation, if required the following documentation should be requested as proof of this:

1. Charitable Organisation Numbers.
2. Vat Registration Numbers.
3. Any membership fee information.
4. Copy of most recent AGM minutes and Committee members.
5. Copy of most recent audited accounts.
6. Any affiliations to relevant governing body.
7. Previous facilities hire information.

Groups or organisations that cannot prove their eligibility for Non Commercial rates based on the above criteria will then be considered Commerical and the Commercial rate options will apply.

Environmental Health

Product	2022/23 Fee	2023/24 Fee	Notes
Amusement Permits			
Application / Annual Renewal	£250.00	£250.00	
Caravan Site Licence			
One off application fee	£10.00	£10.00	
Cosmetic piercing, tattooing, semi-permanent makeup and electrolysis			
One off registration fee	£50.00	£50.00	
Dog Charges			
Unwanted dog	£15	£15	
Stray collection	£30	£30	
Dog Licence full	£12.50	£12.50	
Dog Licence reduced fee	£5	£5	
Kennel fee per night (after 1st night)	£15	£15	
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme			
Requests for revisit under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (per visit)	£150.00	£150.00	
Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's)			
Litter Fixed Penalty Notice	£80.00	£80.00	
Dog Fouling Penalty Notice	£50.00	£50.00	
High Hedges			
Complaint Fee	£250.00	£250.00	This fee is refundable if the complaint is substantiated.
Housing			
PTO Fitness Inspections	£50.00	£50.00	To landlord
Pavement Café Licences			
Granting initial licence and annual renewal thereafter	£0.00	£0.00	To be kept under review as initially zero charge applied in order to promote pavement cafes culture.
Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Permits			
Permit application charges			
Standard charge	£1,821 per activity	£1,821 per activity	
Reduced charge for certain activities	£175 per activity	£175 per activity	
PVR I and II combined	£309	£309	
Vehicle refinishers	£314	£314	
Standard subsistence charges			
Low	£840 per activity	£840 per activity	
Medium	£1,229 per activity	£1,229 per activity	
High	£1,616 per activity	£1,616 per activity	
Reduced subsistence charge for certain activities	£175	£175	
PVR I and II combined	£272	£272	
Vehicle refinishers	£314	£314	
Variation charges			
Standard charge	£1,165	£1,165	
Reduced charge for certain activities	£115	£115	
Transfer charges			
Transfer of whole permit - standard charge	£180	£180	
Transfer of whole permit - reduced charge for certain activities	£18	£18	
Transfer of part permit - standard charge	£543	£543	
Transfer of part permit - reduced charge for certain activities	£54	£54	
Additional fee for operating without a permit			

Standard charge	£1,428	£1,428	
Reduced charge for certain activities	£86	£86	
Late payment fee	£50	£50.00	
Road Closures for Special Events			
Small Community and Not for Profit	£0.00	£0.00	Generally only pay the cost recovery of the public notice advertisement for the event as the administrative fee is waived.
Commercial Events	£415.00	£415.00	This fee is in line with regionally agreed levy
Filming on a Public Road	£415.00	£415.00	This fee is in line with regionally agreed levy
Societies Lotteries			
Registration of a society	£35.00	£35.00	
Annual Renewal of Registration	£17.50	£17.50	
Street Trading			
One year Stationary / Mobile Street trading licence	£205.00	£205.00	
Temporary street trading licence	£55.00	£55.00	
Variation of Conditions on licence	£70.00	£70.00	
Temporary trading licence for civic event	£25.00	£25.00	

Report on	Commencement of Sections 1-12 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
Date of Meeting	16th February 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Anne Caldwell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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 update Members of the new provisions of the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 commencing on 1st April 2023 and to seek approval to set fixed penalty levels for certain offences under said Act.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in July 2022, information was presented to Members on the introduction of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (minute reference: D121/22).
2.2	Thereafter, following a Members workshop on 14th September 2022 relating to Houses of Multiple Occupation and general housing matters relating to the Environmental Health remit, Members received a copy of a presentation provided by DFC at a stakeholder workshop which provided details on the implementation of sections of the Private Tenancies Act 2022.
2.3	The Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (appendix 1) has 11 substantive clauses and three schedules aimed at making the private rented sector a safer and more protected housing option. The Act amends existing Articles and inserts new Articles into the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006 (PTO).
2.4	The Environmental Health team have now received confirmation of changes to the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and that the commencement date for the first six sections of the Act will now be 1 April 2023. Tenancy Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 will also come into operation at this time.
2.5	This report provides the key details of the elements of the new legislation that will come into effect on the 1st April 2023, however it should be noted that there are still a number of provisions which require further consultation and members will be provided with an update when officers receive the Department for Communities (DfC) consultation papers.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Act creates several new offences for which the Council will have powers to issue fixed penalty notices. The fixed penalty payable in respect of an offence is an amount determined by the Council, being an amount not exceeding one-fifth of the maximum fine payable on summary conviction of that offence which is set by legislation at £2,500 in each case.

3.2	Therefore, the maximum level of fixed penalty fine that the Council can set for the new offences is £500.
3.3	In November 2012, the Council has previously set the fine level at £500 for failure to register as a landlord under the same legislation. Therefore, it is proposed that the fines for the new offences are set at the same level of £500 as detailed below.
3.4	The Council will seek to publicise the new legislative provisions in advance of the start date on 1st April 2023 using our media outlets.
3.5	<p><u>Tenancy Information Notice</u></p> <p>The Act amends the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 requiring Landlords to give a tenant a Tenancy Information Notice containing specified information on a prescribed form within 28 days of the commencement of a tenancy. A tenant must not be required to pay for this notice. Any landlord who fails to give the required Tenancy Information Notice within the required 28-day period is guilty of an offence (Article 4A(4)PTO)</p> <p>A Tenancy Information Notice is an important legal document which provides the landlord and tenant with information on their respective rights and responsibilities. It can help to minimise disputes, as information, such as, the rent payable, deposit details, duration of tenancy, responsibility for repairs and notice of termination are given in writing.</p> <p>The Notice also provides tenants with the landlord's (and, if appropriate, agent's) contact information.</p> <p>If the landlord has previously given a tenant a Notice which substantially meets the specified requirements, this would be deemed compliant.</p> <p>In respect of the offence in Article 4A(4) of the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 as amended by the Private tenancies Act (NI) 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Notice Relating to the Variation of a Private Tenancy</u></p> <p>The Act will introduce the requirement for landlords to provide the tenant with a Notice of Variation if there is any change to the information contained in the original Tenancy Information Notice. The new Notice must contain the address of the dwelling-house, the provision to be varied and the new provision. For example, if there is a new landlord contact number then a Notice should be provided with 28 days of the new contact number coming into effect.</p> <p>The landlord must provide this within 28 days of any changes made and the Notice must be free of charge.</p> <p>Any landlord who fails to give the required Notice of Variation within the required 28-day period is guilty of an offence (Article 4B(5)PTO)</p> <p>In respect of the offence relating to Article 4B(5) of the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 as amended by the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500.</p>

3.7	<p><u>Continued failure by landlord to provide information notice or variation notice after fixed penalty has been paid</u></p>
	<p>Where Council issues a landlord with a fixed penalty notice for failing to provide an information notice or variation notice, and a landlord continues to fail to provide either of these notices for more than 14 days after the payment of the fixed penalty, then they are deemed to have committed a further offence.</p> <p>In respect of the offence relating to Article 4C(3) of the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 as amended by the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Notice regarding past matters</u></p>
	<p>For any tenants who would have received notices under previous Article 4 of the 2006 Order but did not do so because of its' accidental removal from legislation, and who are still in a private tenancy on 1 April 2023 their landlord must provide them with a free notice regarding past matters and any variations.</p> <p>However, where a landlord has, between the granting of the tenancy and the 1 April 2023, given the tenant a notice that substantially meets the requirements, that landlord is to be regarded as having complied with the legislation. The tenant should be given these notices within 28 days of 1 April 2023 and they must be given free of charge.</p> <p>Any landlord who fails to give the required Tenancy Information Notice or Notice of Variation within the required 28-day period is guilty of an offence. If a landlord continues to fail to provide either of these notices for more than 14 days after conviction, then they are deemed to have committed a further offence (paragraphs 1(5), 2(6) and 3(3) of Schedule 1 of the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022)</p> <p>In respect of the offences in paragraphs 1(5), 2(6) and 3(3) of Schedule 1 of the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500</p>
3.9	<p><u>Receipts</u></p>
	<p>There is a new requirement for a landlord to provide a written receipt for any payment made in cash in relation to a tenancy. A receipt is a method of documenting cash payments that a tenant pays to a landlord under a tenancy. A receipt is beneficial to both tenants and landlords offering tenants documented proof of cash payments and landlords a record of cash payments. For tenants who pay their rent in cash a rent receipt may be the only written evidence they have of their payments Any written receipt must detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the payment date; • what the payment was for; and • the amount paid, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if any amounts remain outstanding, and • if the payment was made in full. <p>The landlord or his/her representative/agent commits an offence by failing to provide the receipt for cash payments (Article 5(7)PTO)</p> <p>Where Council issues a landlord with a fixed penalty notice for failing to provide a receipt, and a landlord continues to fail to provide a receipt for more than 14 days after the payment of the fixed penalty, then they are deemed to have committed a further offence. (Article 5ZA(3)PTO)</p>

	<p>In respect of the offences relating to Article 5(7) and 5ZA(3) of the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 as amended by the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Changes to Tenancy Deposits</u></p> <p>A requirement will be introduced that a landlord cannot ask for or retain a tenancy deposit that is more than one month's rent. If a landlord has unlawfully requested or retained a tenancy deposit of more than one month's rent, they are guilty of an offence (Article 5Z(4)PTO). A council can issue a fixed penalty notice or fine for this offence. If a landlord is convicted of requiring or retaining a deposit in excess of one month's rent, the court may order the excess to be repaid to the person who paid it.</p> <p>In respect of the offence in Article 5ZC(4) of the Private Tenancies NI Order 2006 as amended by the Private Tenancies Act NI 2022, it is proposed that the fixed penalty notice level is set by the Council at £500.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Increase in time for requirements relating to tenancy deposits</u></p> <p>The time limit for a deposit to be protected in an approved scheme will change from 14 days to 28 days and landlords have additional time to provide the prescribed information to the tenant as this has changed from 28 days to 35 days. If a landlord or agent fails to protect the deposit or notify a tenant of the deposit information, then they will be guilty of an offence. The Council may issue a fixed penalty three times the value of the deposit taken. If convicted of this offence, they may be liable for a fine not exceeding £20,000</p>
3.12	<p><u>Removal of the 6-month time barrier to prosecution of tenancy deposit offence</u></p> <p>The Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 makes the failure to protect a tenancy deposit a continuing offence and removes the 6-month time limit on prosecutions. This legislation provides that those offences continue to be committed throughout any period during which the failure to protect a deposit, or supply the required information to the tenant, continues. The result of this is that there will be no time barrier on prosecuting a person who fails to comply with the requirements.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The Private Tenancies Act will provide Councils with new enforcement powers to deal with issues in the Private Rented sector which will place additional resources demands on our existing resources. There is no financial support available from the Department for Communities (DfC) to assist Councils with these additional powers. The fixed penalty regime introduced for some of the new offences may provide some income to Council however it will not cover all of the additional resourcing required. Setting the fixed penalty fine to the maximum of £500 for each offence is a key consideration in the absence of any financial support to implement this important legislation.</p> <p>Human: Due to the additional enforcement powers provided by the Act and responsibility for Councils to implement, as there is no budgetary provision or resource from the Department of Communities to facilitate this (or to recruit additional staff), this may have an impact on the Environmental Health Service resourcing in terms of response times and involvement in other statutory work areas.</p>

	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered by DfC as per implementation of the Act.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered by DfC as per implementation of the Act.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of the report, namely the new legislative powers for Council's in relation to the private rented sector and give approval for Officers to enforce by way of fixed penalty levels at £500 for offences detailed as per sections 3.5 through to section 3.10 of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022.



Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

2022 CHAPTER 20

An Act to amend the law relating to private tenancies. [27th April 2022]

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

Tenant to be given notice regarding certain matters

- 1.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (4).
(2) In Part 2, after the italic heading “Particulars relating to the tenancy, etc.” insert—

“Tenant to be given notice regarding certain matters: grant of tenancy

4A.—(1) This Article applies where a private tenancy of a dwelling-house is granted on or after the date on which section 1 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 comes into operation.

(2) The landlord under the tenancy must, within 28 days after the date on which the tenancy is granted, give to the tenant a notice—

- (a) in the prescribed form, and
- (b) containing the prescribed particulars and other prescribed information relating to the tenancy.

(3) A tenant must not be required to make a payment in respect of any notice under paragraph (2).

(4) A landlord who fails to comply with paragraph (2) is guilty of an offence under this Order.

Tenant to be given notice regarding certain matters: variation of certain terms

4B.—(1) This Article applies where, on or after the date on which section 1 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 comes into operation, a prescribed term of a private tenancy of a dwelling-house is varied; and it applies regardless of the date on which the tenancy was granted.

(2) The landlord under the tenancy must, within 28 days after the date on which the term of the tenancy is varied, give to the tenant a notice—

- (a) in the prescribed form, and
- (b) containing the prescribed information relating to the variation of the term.

(3) In paragraphs (1) and (2) “varied” includes varied by omission.

(4) A tenant must not be required to make a payment in respect of any notice under paragraph (2).

(5) A landlord who fails to comply with paragraph (2) is guilty of an offence under this Order.

Continued failure by landlord to provide notice under Article 4A or 4B after conviction or fixed penalty

4C.—(1) If a landlord is convicted of an offence under Article 4A(4) or 4B(5), and the failure continues for more than 14 days after the conviction, the landlord is deemed to have committed a further offence under that paragraph in respect of that failure.

(2) Paragraph (3) applies where—

- (a) a landlord fails to comply with Article 4A(2) or 4B(2),
- (b) the landlord is given a fixed penalty notice under Article 68A in respect of an offence under Article 4A(4) or 4B(5) on the grounds of that failure, and
- (c) the landlord pays the fixed penalty stated in the notice.

(3) If the failure to comply with Article 4A(2) or 4B(2) continues for more than 14 days after the landlord pays the fixed penalty, the landlord is guilty of an offence under this Order.”.

(3) In Article 68(1) (prosecution and punishment of offences), after “Article” insert “4A(4), 4B(5), 4C(3),”.

(4) In Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences)—

- (a) in paragraph (1), after “has committed” insert—
 - “(za) an offence under Article 4A(4) or 4B(5), except one deemed to have been committed by virtue of Article 4C(1);

- (zb) an offence under Article 4C(3);”;
- (b) in paragraph (8), after “under Article” insert “4A(4), 4B(5), 4C(3),”.
- (5) Omit section 1 of the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Tenant to be given notice regarding certain past matters

2. Schedule 1 provides for the giving of notice regarding certain matters to the tenants of dwelling-houses that are let under a private tenancy on the date on which section 1 comes into operation—

- (a) where the tenancy was granted on or after 30 June 2011 but before the date on which section 1 comes into operation;
- (b) where certain terms of the tenancy were varied on or after 30 June 2011 but before the date on which section 1 comes into operation.

Tenant to be provided with a rent receipt for payment in cash

- 3.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended as follows.
- (2) For Article 5 substitute—

“Tenant to be provided with a rent receipt for payment in cash

5.—(1) This Article applies where the tenant of a dwelling-house makes to the landlord in cash—

- (a) any payment in consideration of the grant, renewal or continuance of a private tenancy, or
- (b) any payment in satisfaction (or part satisfaction) of an obligation arising under a private tenancy.

(2) The landlord must provide the tenant with a written receipt for the payment stating—

- (a) the date of payment;
 - (b) what the payment was for;
 - (c) the amount paid;
 - (d) if any amount remains outstanding, that amount;
 - (e) if no further amount remains outstanding, that fact.
- (3) Where a tenant pays a single sum consisting of two or more payments—
- (a) the duty in paragraph (2)(c) includes a duty to state how the sum paid is apportioned between each payment, and
 - (b) sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) of that paragraph apply in respect of each payment.

(4) Where, in the case of any payment within paragraph (1)(b), it is not possible for the person giving the receipt to state with certainty the amount that was required to satisfy the obligation in question, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) of paragraph (2) require the matters mentioned in them to be stated to the best of that person's knowledge and belief.

(5) The receipt must be provided—

- (a) at the time the payment is made, or
- (b) if that is not possible, as soon as reasonably possible after that time.

(6) A tenant must not be required to make a payment in respect of the provision of the receipt.

(7) In the event of a failure to comply with paragraph (2) or (5), the following are guilty of an offence under this Order—

- (a) the landlord, and
- (b) any person appointed by the landlord to provide the receipt.

(But see Article 5ZB for a defence to this offence.)

(8) In this Article—

“landlord” includes a former landlord and (in a case falling within paragraph (1)(a)) a prospective landlord;

“tenant” includes a former tenant and (in a case falling within paragraph (1)(a)) a prospective tenant.

Continued failure by landlord to provide rent receipt after conviction or fixed penalty

5ZA.—(1) If a landlord is convicted of an offence under Article 5(7)(a) in respect of a failure to comply with Article 5(2), and the failure continues for more than 14 days after the conviction, the landlord is deemed to have committed a further offence under Article 5(7)(a) in respect of that failure.

(2) Paragraph (3) applies where—

- (a) a landlord fails to comply with Article 5(2),
- (b) the landlord is given a fixed penalty notice under Article 68A in respect of an offence under Article 5(7)(a) on the grounds of that failure, and
- (c) the landlord pays the fixed penalty stated in the notice.

(3) If the failure to comply with Article 5(2) continues for more than 14 days after the landlord pays the fixed penalty, the landlord is guilty of an offence under this Order.

(But see Article 5ZB for a defence to this offence.)

(4) In this Article “landlord” has the meaning given by Article 5(8).

Controlled tenancies: defence to offences under Articles 5 and 5ZA

5ZB.—(1) This Article applies where, in the case of a controlled tenancy (within the meaning given by Article 40(4)), a payment in cash was made in respect of rent for the tenancy.

(2) If—

- (a) a person is charged with an offence under Article 5(7) and a qualifying receipt was provided in accordance with Article 5(5), or
- (b) a person is charged with an offence under Article 5ZA(3) and a qualifying receipt was provided at any time before the end of the period of 14 days mentioned in Article 5ZA(3) (including before the fixed penalty notice was given),

paragraph (6) applies.

(3) A receipt is a qualifying receipt for the purposes of paragraph (2) if—

- (a) it complies with Article 5(2)(a), (b) and (c),
- (b) it complies with Article 5(2)(d) and (e) in respect of any payment, other than the rent, that was included in the sum paid, and
- (c) either condition A or condition B is met.

(4) Condition A is that—

- (a) after the cash payment, no further amount in respect of rent in fact remained outstanding,
- (b) the receipt stated that there was an amount outstanding, and
- (c) that amount consists wholly of a sum that is irrecoverable by virtue of Article 50(1).

(5) Condition B is that—

- (a) after the cash payment, an amount in respect of rent in fact remained outstanding (“the true arrears”),
- (b) the receipt stated as outstanding an amount that was more than the true arrears, and
- (c) the difference between the stated amount and the true arrears consists wholly of a sum that is irrecoverable by virtue of Article 50(1).

(6) It is a defence to the offence under Article 5(7) or (as the case may be) Article 5ZA(3) for the person charged to prove that the landlord (or former landlord) had a bona fide claim that the sum mentioned in paragraph (4)(c) or (5)(c) was recoverable.”.

(3) In Article 50 (tenancies subject to rent control: rent in excess of limit to be irrecoverable), after paragraph (3) insert—

“(4) In paragraph (2) “similar document” does not include a receipt under Article 5(2).”.

(4) In Article 66(1)(a) (service on an agent named in the rent book deemed to be service on the landlord), for “the rent book” substitute “a rent book”.

(5) In Article 68(1) (prosecution and punishment of offences), for “5(4)” substitute “5(7), 5ZA(3)”.

(6) In Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences)—

(a) in paragraph (1), after sub-paragraph (zb) (as inserted by section 1), insert—

“(zc) an offence under Article 5(7), except one deemed to have been committed by virtue of Article 5ZA(1);

(zd) an offence under Article 5ZA(3);”;

(b) in paragraph (8), after “4C(3),” (as inserted by section 1) insert “5(7), 5ZA(3),”.

Limit on tenancy deposit amount

4.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended as follows.

(2) After Article 5ZB (as inserted by section 3) insert—

“Limit on tenancy deposit amount

Tenancy deposit limit of 1 month’s rent

5ZC.—(1) A person (A) must not—

(a) require the payment by another person of a tenancy deposit in connection with a private tenancy, or

(b) require that the person to whom a tenancy deposit would otherwise be repaid (B) consent to the retention of a deposit (by A or a third person) in connection with a private tenancy,

that is in excess of the amount of 1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b), A requires that B consent to the retention of a deposit if—

(a) a tenancy deposit is paid (at any time) in connection with a private tenancy (“the first tenancy”),

(b) a person proposes to grant, or has granted, a private tenancy of that or another dwelling-house (whether to the tenant of the first tenancy or to another person), and

(c) A requires that B consent to some or all of the deposit continuing to be held, on or after the ending of the first tenancy, in connection with the new tenancy.

(3) “1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy”, where the rent under a private tenancy is not payable monthly, means—

- (a) where the rent under the tenancy is payable for periods of whole months, the rent for a period divided by the number of months in the period;
- (b) where the rent is payable for periods determined otherwise than by reference to whole months, the rent attributable to 1 day’s letting under the tenancy multiplied by 30.

(4) A person who contravenes paragraph (1) is guilty of an offence under this Order.

(5) Where a person—

- (a) is convicted of an offence under paragraph (4), and
- (b) has received or, as the case may be, retained a tenancy deposit in excess of the amount of 1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy,

the court may order the excess to be repaid to the person who paid it.

(6) In this Article—

“tenancy deposit”, in relation to a private tenancy, means any money intended to be held (by the landlord or otherwise) as security for—

- (a) the performance of any obligations of the tenant arising under or in connection with the tenancy, or
- (b) the discharge of any liability of the tenant so arising;

“money” means money in the form of cash or otherwise.

Breach of tenancy deposit limit: recoverability of excess

5ZD.—(1) A tenancy deposit in relation to a private tenancy that has not been paid is irrecoverable to the extent that it exceeds the amount of 1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy (and this is so despite anything in any agreement).

(2) Where, in connection with a private tenancy—

- (a) a tenancy deposit has been paid or retained (as defined in paragraph (3)), and
- (b) at the time of payment or retention, or at any time thereafter, the deposit exceeds the amount of 1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy,

the excess is recoverable by the person who paid it.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), if—

- (a) a tenancy deposit is paid (at any time) in connection with a private tenancy (“the first tenancy”),

- (b) a private tenancy is granted of that or another dwelling-house (whether to the tenant of the first tenancy or to another person) or (where the first tenancy is a protected tenancy) a statutory tenancy comes into existence, and
 - (c) on or after the ending of the first tenancy, some or all of the deposit continues to be held in connection with the new tenancy,

the deposit is retained in connection with the new tenancy.
- (4) In this Article “1 month’s rent payable under the tenancy” and “tenancy deposit” have the same meaning as in Article 5ZC.”.
- (3) In Article 68(1) (prosecution and punishment of offences), after “5ZA(3)” (as inserted by section 3) insert “, 5ZC(4)”.
- (4) In Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences)—
 - (a) in paragraph (1), after sub-paragraph (zd) (as inserted by section 3) insert—
 - “(ze) an offence under Article 5ZC(4);”;
 - (b) in paragraph (8), after “5ZA(3),” (as inserted by section 3) insert “5ZC(4),”.
- (5) The following provisions (inserted by subsection (2)) have effect as follows—
 - (a) Article 5ZC(1)(a) prohibits the making of a requirement within that sub-paragraph on or after the commencement date;
 - (b) Article 5ZC(1)(b) prohibits the making of a requirement within that sub-paragraph on or after the commencement date, regardless of the date on which the deposit was paid or the date on which the first tenancy ends;
 - (c) Article 5ZD(1) does not prevent the recovery of a tenancy deposit under a legal obligation that existed before the commencement date (whether that obligation accrues before or after that date);
 - (d) Article 5ZD(2) has effect in relation to tenancy deposits that are paid on or after the commencement date except where the deposit was required to be paid under or in connection with a legal obligation that existed before the commencement date (whether that obligation accrues before or after that date);
 - (e) Article 5ZD(2) has effect in relation to tenancy deposits that are retained on or after the commencement date except where the deposit was liable to be retained under or in connection with a legal right that existed before the commencement date (whether that right accrues before or after that date).
- (6) In subsection (5) “commencement date” means the date on which this section comes into operation.

Increase in time limits for requirements relating to tenancy deposits

5. In Article 5B of the 2006 Order (requirements relating to tenancy deposits)

—

- (a) in paragraph (3), for “14 days” substitute “28 days”;
- (b) in paragraph (6)(b), for “28 days” substitute “35 days”.

Certain offences in connection with tenancy deposits to be continuing offences

6. In Article 5B of the 2006 Order (requirements relating to tenancy deposits), after paragraph (11) insert—

“(11A) A person who commits an offence by failing to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3) or (6) continues to commit the offence throughout any period during which the failure continues.”.

Regulation of rent

7.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended as follows.

(2) After Article 5B insert—

“Rent decreases

Rent decreases

5C.—(1) This Article applies in relation to private tenancies.

(2) The Department may by regulations do either or both of the following regarding the rent payable under private tenancies in relation to which this Article applies—

- (a) provide that, for a prescribed period, the rent is, or may not exceed, a prescribed proportion of the rent that would be payable apart from the regulations;
 - (b) provide that, for a prescribed period, the rent is, or may not exceed, the rent that was payable on a prescribed date, or during an earlier prescribed period.
- (3) Regulations under paragraph (2) may not—
- (a) specify, for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a) of that paragraph, a proportion that is less than 90%;
 - (b) provide for any limitation, or any series of limitations, to last for longer than 4 years in relation to any particular tenancy.
- (4) Regulations under paragraph (2) may in particular—

- (a) provide for how the rent that would be payable apart from the regulations is to be determined;
 - (b) provide that—
 - (i) the prescribed date for the purposes of sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph, or
 - (ii) the earlier prescribed period for those purposes,is a date, or a period, that falls before the date on which the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 was passed;
 - (c) provide for different limitations to apply to the same tenancy for different periods;
 - (d) provide for exceptions in relation to tenancies of prescribed descriptions, or make different provision in relation to tenancies of different descriptions;
 - (e) make further or consequential provision in relation to the limitations, including provision amending any statutory provision (within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954);
 - (f) make such other consequential, supplementary, transitory or transitional provision, or such savings, as the Department considers appropriate.
- (5) Tenancies may be described for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d) by reference to (among other things)—
- (a) the amount of rent payable under the tenancy;
 - (b) the area within which the dwelling-house in question is situated;
 - (c) whether the tenant is in receipt of housing benefit or any other benefit payable under a statutory provision (within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954).
- (6) The Department must consult the following persons as to whether to exercise the powers conferred by paragraph (2)—
- (a) district councils,
 - (b) such persons as appear to it to be representative of landlords,
 - (c) such persons as appear to it to be representative of tenants, and
 - (d) such other persons as it considers appropriate (which may include landlords or tenants).
- (7) The Department must prepare a report on the consultation and—
- (a) lay the report before the Assembly, and
 - (b) publish it in such manner as the Department considers appropriate.

(8) The Department must lay and publish the report under paragraph (7) before the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 receives Royal Assent.

(9) If the Department does not make regulations under paragraph (2) before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which it lays the report under paragraph (7), this Article ceases to have effect at the end of that period.

Rent increases

Restriction on frequency of rent increases

5D.—(1) This Article applies to any private tenancy except a controlled tenancy (within the meaning given by Article 40(4)).

(2) The rent payable under a tenancy to which this Article applies may not be increased—

- (a) within the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which the tenancy is granted, or
- (b) within the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which the last increase took effect;

but this is subject to regulations under paragraph (3).

(3) The Department may by regulations specify circumstances in which paragraph (2) does not apply.

(4) Circumstances specified under paragraph (3) may include, in particular, circumstances in which the dwelling-house let under the tenancy is renovated, refurbished, altered or extended.

(5) The Department may by regulations amend paragraph (2)(a) or (b) so as to substitute, for the period that is for the time being specified there, a period that is 12 months or more but not more than 2 years.

Requirement to give written notice of increase

5E.—(1) This Article applies to any private tenancy except a controlled tenancy (within the meaning given by Article 40(4)).

(2) The rent payable under a tenancy to which this Article applies may not be increased unless the landlord gives written notice complying with paragraphs (3) to (5).

(3) The notice must specify—

- (a) the date on which the increase in the rent will take effect, and
- (b) the rent that will be payable after the increase.

(4) The date specified under paragraph (3)(a) must be not less than 3 months after the date on which the notice is given to the tenant.

(5) The notice must—

(a) contain such other information, and

(b) be in such form,

as may be prescribed.”.

(3) In Article 72 (provisions concerning regulations)—

(a) in paragraph (3), after “5A,” insert “5C, 5D(3) or (5),”;

(b) after paragraph (4) insert—

“(5) Before laying a draft of regulations under Article 5D(5) before the Assembly, the Department must consult—

(a) such persons as appear to it to be representative of landlords,

(b) such persons as appear to it to be representative of tenants, and

(c) such persons as the Department considers appropriate (which may include landlords or tenants).”.

Fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, etc.

8.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended as follows.

(2) After Article 11 insert—

“Application of Articles 11B to 11F

11A.—(1) The provisions set out in Articles 11B to 11F apply in relation to—

(a) any private tenancy of a dwelling-house granted on or after the date on which section 8 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 comes into operation, and

(b) any private tenancy of a dwelling-house granted before the date on which section 8 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 comes into operation (but only from the prescribed date).

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b), a statutory tenancy is to be treated as if it were a private tenancy granted before the commencement of section 8 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (regardless of when the dwelling-house in question became subject to the statutory tenancy).

Landlord’s duties: fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

11B.—(1) The landlord under a private tenancy must keep in repair and in proper working order—

- (a) sufficient appliances for detecting fire or smoke, and for giving warning in the event that they are detected, and
- (b) sufficient appliances for detecting whether carbon monoxide is present at levels that are harmful to people, and for giving warning if it is.

(2) The Department may by regulations set minimum standards for the purpose of determining whether the duties under paragraph (1) have been complied with.

(3) The standards that may be set under paragraph (2) include standards as to the number, type and condition of appliances that should be installed in circumstances specified in the regulations.

(4) A landlord who fails to comply with a duty under paragraph (1) is guilty of an offence under this Order.

Tenant's duties: fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

11C. The tenant under a private tenancy—

- (a) must take proper care of the appliances installed for the purposes of Article 11B as a good tenant;
- (b) must make good any damage to those appliances wilfully or negligently done or caused by the tenant, by any tenant of his or hers or by any other person lawfully living in or lawfully visiting the premises.

Landlord's duties: private tenancy of part of a building

11D. Where a dwelling-house let under a private tenancy consists of a part of a building, the duties imposed on the landlord by Article 11B may require the landlord to position appliances in a part or parts of the building not comprised in the tenancy.

General qualification on landlord's duties

11E. The duties imposed on the landlord by Article 11B do not require the landlord to carry out works or repairs for which the tenant is liable by virtue of Article 11C.

Knowledge of disrepair

11F. A landlord is not under a duty to carry out works by virtue of Article 11B unless the landlord has actual knowledge (whether because of notice given by the tenant or otherwise) of the need for those works”.

- (3) In Article 68(1) (prosecution and punishment of offences), after “5ZC(4),” (as inserted by section 4) insert “11B(4),”.

- (4) Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences) is amended as follows.
- (5) In paragraph (1)—
 - (a) at the end of sub-paragraph (a), omit “or”;
 - (b) after that sub-paragraph insert—
 - “(aa) an offence under Article 11B(4);”.
- (6) In paragraph (8), after “5B(10)” insert “, 11B(4)”.

Energy efficiency regulations

9. Schedule 2 contains amendments to the 2006 Order enabling the Department for Communities to make regulations concerning the energy efficiency of dwelling-houses let under a private tenancy.

Electrical safety standards regulations

10. Schedule 3 contains amendments to the 2006 Order enabling the Department for Communities to make regulations concerning electrical safety standards in dwelling-houses let under a private tenancy.

Validity requirements for notices to quit given by landlords and tenants

- 11.—(1) The 2006 Order is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (7).
- (2) Article 14 (length of notice to quit) is amended in accordance with subsections (3) to (5).
 - (3) For paragraph (1) substitute—
 - “(1) A notice by a landlord to quit a dwelling-house let under a private tenancy is not valid unless—
 - (a) it is in the prescribed form and contains the prescribed information, and
 - (b) it is given not less than the relevant period before the date on which it is to take effect.”.
 - (4) For paragraphs (1A) and (2) substitute—
 - “(1A) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the relevant period is—
 - (a) 8 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
 - (b) 4 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years;
 - (c) 6 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and
 - (d) 7 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 year

but this is subject to regulations made under paragraph (5).

(2) Paragraph (1) applies whether the private tenancy was granted before or after the commencement of this Order.

(3) The Department may by regulations amend any sub-paragraph of paragraph (1A) so as to provide a different relevant period.

(4) Regulations under paragraph (3) may provide that the relevant period is different in different cases within a particular sub-paragraph of paragraph (1A) described by reference to the period for which the tenancy has been in existence

(But this is without prejudice to the application of section 17(5) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.)

(5) The Department may by regulations provide that, in cases falling within the circumstances set out in paragraph (6), the relevant period for the purposes of paragraph (1) is as prescribed in the regulations.

(6) The circumstances are—

- (a) the tenant is in substantial arrears of rent;
- (b) the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house;
- (c) the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence

(But see paragraph (9) for provision regarding other circumstances.)

(7) Regulations under paragraph (5)—

- (a) may make provision that applies to all cases that fall within a sub-paragraph of paragraph (6) and, for that purpose, may make provision about the meaning of any expression used in that sub-paragraph;
- (b) may make provision that applies to cases of a prescribed description that fall within a sub-paragraph of paragraph (6);
- (c) may provide that the relevant period is different in different cases that fall within a sub-paragraph of paragraph (6) described by reference to the period for which the tenancy has been in existence;
- (d) may make provision about the evidence to be provided to show that a case falls within a sub-paragraph of paragraph (6) or within a prescribed description

(But sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) are without prejudice to the application of section 17(5) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.)

(8) The Department—

- (a) may not make regulations under paragraph (5) that come into operation before the end of the emergency period within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Private Tenancies (Coronavirus Modifications) Act (Northern Ireland) 2020, but
- (b) must make regulations under paragraph (5) that come into operation before the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the date on which this Act receives Royal Assent.
- (9) The Department may by regulations amend paragraph (6) so as to add to the list of circumstances set out in it.
- (10) Amendments made by virtue of regulations under paragraph (3), and provision made by regulations under paragraph (5), do not apply in relation to a notice to quit given before the date on which the regulations come into operation.”.
- (5) At the end of the heading to the Article add “: by landlords”.
- (6) After Article 14 insert—

“Length of notice to quit: by tenants

14A.—(1) A notice by a tenant to quit a dwelling-house let under a private tenancy is not valid unless—

- (a) it is given in writing, and
 - (b) it is given not less than the relevant period before the date on which it is to take effect.
 - (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the relevant period is—
 - (a) 4 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 10 years;
 - (b) 12 weeks, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 10 years.
 - (3) Paragraph (1) applies regardless of the date on which the private tenancy was granted.
 - (4) The Department may by regulations amend paragraph (2) so as to provide that, in relation to a tenancy in existence for more than 12 months but not more than 10 years, the relevant period is a period that is more than 4 weeks but not more than 12 weeks.
 - (5) Regulations under paragraph (4) may provide that the relevant period is different in different cases within that paragraph described by reference to the period for which the tenancy has been in existence.
- (But this is without prejudice to the application of section 17(5) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.)

(6) Any amendment made by virtue of regulations under paragraph (4) does not apply in relation to a notice to quit given before the date on which the amendment comes into operation.”.

(7) In Article 72 (provisions concerning regulations)—

(a) in paragraph (3), after “5D(3) or (5),” (as inserted by section 7) insert “14, 14A,”;

(b) in paragraph (5) (as inserted by section 7), after “Article 5D(5)” insert “, 14 or 14A”.

(8) In consequence of subsections (3) and (4), omit section 3 of the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

(9) At any time before the coming into operation of sub-paragraph (a) of Article 14(1) (as inserted by subsection (3)), paragraph (1) of that Article has effect as if, before sub-paragraph (b), there were inserted—

“(aa) it is given in writing, and”.

(10) At any time before the coming into operation of the paragraph (1A) of Article 14 that is inserted by subsection (4), that Article has effect as if, before paragraph (2), there were inserted—

“(1A) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the relevant period is—

(a) 4 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;

(b) 8 weeks, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 10 years;

(c) 12 weeks, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 10 years.”.

(11) The amendments made by this section do not apply in relation to a notice to quit given before the date on which this section comes into operation.

Payment options for tenants: power to make provision and duty to consult

12.—(1) The Department for Communities may by regulations make provision for the purpose of ensuring that, when a private tenancy of a dwelling-house is granted, the tenant is given options as to the method of payment of rent and other sums due in respect of the tenancy.

(2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular—

(a) impose duties on prospective landlords to provide specified information or documents before the terms of a tenancy are agreed;

(b) require that tenancy agreements, or proposed tenancy agreements, contain specified terms or (if they are in writing) that they be in a specified form;

- (c) specify methods of payment that must or must not be offered by a prospective landlord, or that may or must not be agreed by the parties, for the purposes of payment of rent or other sums due in respect of a tenancy;
 - (d) make provision as to the rights of tenants or landlords to vary any term of the tenancy as to the method of payment (including provision restricting or excluding any such right);
 - (e) make provision as to the consequences of a failure to accept, or a failure to tender, payment by a method agreed under a tenancy (including provision as to whether or not the tenant is to be regarded as being in arrears);
 - (f) make provision as to the consequences of a breach of a prohibition imposed by the regulations or a failure to comply with a requirement imposed by them (including provision that creates offences);
 - (g) amend any statutory provision (within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954);
 - (h) make such consequential, supplementary, transitory or transitional provision, or such savings, as the Department considers appropriate.
- (3) In subsection (2), “specified” means specified in the regulations.
- (4) Any offence created by virtue of subsection (2)(f)—
- (a) is not to be triable on indictment or punishable with imprisonment;
 - (b) is not to be punishable with a fine exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (5) The Department must consult the following persons as to whether to exercise the power conferred by subsection (1)—
- (a) district councils,
 - (b) such persons as appear to it to be representative of landlords,
 - (c) such persons as appear to it to be representative of tenants, and
 - (d) such other persons as it considers appropriate (which may include landlords or tenants).
- (6) The Department must prepare a report on the consultation and—
- (a) lay the report before the Assembly, and
 - (b) publish it in such manner as the Department considers appropriate.
- (7) The Department must lay and publish the report under subsection (6) before the end of the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.
- (8) The Department may not make regulations under subsection (1) unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

Interpretation

13. In this Act “the 2006 Order” means the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Commencement

14.—(1) The following provisions come into operation on the day after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent—

- (a) sections 12 and 13;
- (b) this section; and
- (c) section 15.

(2) The following provisions come into operation on the day after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent insofar as they confer power to make regulations—

- (a) section 1;
- (b) section 2 and Schedule 1;
- (c) section 7;
- (d) section 8;
- (e) section 9 and Schedule 2;
- (f) section 10 and Schedule 3; and
- (g) section 11, except in so far as it confers a power to make regulations under Article 14(3) of the 2006 Order (as inserted by subsection (4) of that section).

(3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply to the provisions of section 11, except—

- (a) the provisions of that section commenced by subsection (2)(g),
- (b) subsection (3) of that section in so far as it inserts sub-paragraph (a) into Article 14(1) of the 2006 Order, and
- (c) subsection (4) of that section in so far as it substitutes paragraph (1A) of Article 14 of the 2006 Order and inserts paragraphs (3) and (4) into that Article.

(4) The provisions to which this subsection applies come into operation on the day after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.

(5) But if (apart from this subsection) those provisions would come into operation before the end of the emergency period within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Private Tenancies (Coronavirus Modifications) Act (Northern Ireland) 2020 they come into operation at the end of that period.

(6) Section 11(4), in so far as it substitutes paragraph (1A) of Article 14 of the 2006 Order and inserts paragraphs (3) and (4) into that Article, comes

into operation on the coming into operation of the first regulations made under Article 14(5) of the 2006 Order (as inserted by section 11(4)).

(7) The other provisions of this Act come into operation on such day or days as the Department for Communities may by order appoint.

(8) An order under this section may make such transitory or transitional provision, or savings, as the Department for Communities considers appropriate.

Short title

15. This Act may be cited as the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 2.

Tenant to be given notice regarding certain past matters

*Tenancies granted on or after 30 June 2011 but
before the coming into operation of section 1*

- 1.—(1) This paragraph applies where—
- (a) a private tenancy of a dwelling-house was granted on or after 30 June 2011 but before the commencement date; and
 - (b) the dwelling-house is let under that tenancy on the commencement date.
- (2) The landlord under the tenancy must, within 28 days after the commencement date, give to the tenant a notice—
- (a) in the prescribed form, and
 - (b) containing the prescribed particulars and other prescribed information relating to the tenancy.
- (3) Where a landlord has, between the granting of the tenancy and the commencement date, given the tenant a notice that substantially meets the requirements of sub-paragraph (2), the landlord is to be regarded as having complied with that sub-paragraph.
- (4) A tenant must not be required to make a payment in respect of any notice under sub-paragraph (2).
- (5) A landlord who fails to comply with sub-paragraph (2) is guilty of an offence.

*Variation of certain terms on or after 30 June 2011
but before the coming into operation of section 1*

- 2.—(1) This paragraph applies where—
- (a) on or after 30 June 2011 but before the commencement date, a prescribed term of a private tenancy of a dwelling-house was varied; and
 - (b) the dwelling-house is let under that tenancy on the commencement date; and it applies regardless of the date on which the tenancy was granted.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1) “varied” includes varied by omission.

(3) The landlord under the tenancy must, within 28 days after the commencement date, give to the tenant a notice—

- (a) in the prescribed form, and
- (b) containing the prescribed particulars and other prescribed information relating to the tenancy.

(4) Where a landlord has, between the varying of the prescribed term and the commencement date, given the tenant a notice that substantially meets the requirements of sub-paragraph (3), the landlord is to be regarded as having complied with that sub-paragraph.

(5) A tenant must not be required to make a payment in respect of any notice under sub-paragraph (3).

(6) A landlord who fails to comply with sub-paragraph (3) is guilty of an offence.

*Continued failure by landlord to provide notice under
paragraph 1 or 2 after conviction or fixed penalty*

3.—(1) If a landlord is convicted of an offence under paragraph 1(5) or 2(6), and the failure continues for more than 14 days after the conviction, the landlord is deemed to have committed a further offence under that sub-paragraph in respect of that failure.

(2) Sub-paragraph (3) applies where—

- (a) a landlord fails to comply with paragraph 1(2) or 2(3),
- (b) the landlord is given a fixed penalty notice under paragraph 6 in respect of an offence under paragraph 1(5) or 2(6) on the grounds of that failure, and
- (c) the landlord pays the fixed penalty stated in the notice.

(3) If the failure to comply with paragraph 1(2) or 2(3) continues for more than 14 days after the landlord pays the fixed penalty, the landlord is guilty of an offence.

Punishment and prosecution of offences under this Schedule

4. A person who is guilty of an offence under paragraph 1(5), 2(6) or 3(3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

5. Proceedings for an offence under paragraph 1(5), 2(6) or 3(3) may be instituted by the appropriate district council.

Fixed penalty notices

6.—(1) This paragraph applies where on any occasion an authorised officer of a district council has reason to believe that a person (“P”) has committed—

- (a) an offence under paragraph 1(5) or 2(6), except one deemed to have been committed by virtue of paragraph 3(1), or
 - (b) an offence under paragraph 3(3).
- (2) The authorised officer may give P a notice in the prescribed form offering P the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.
- (3) A fixed penalty payable under this paragraph is payable to the district council whose officer gave the notice.
- (4) Where P is given a notice under this paragraph in respect of an offence—
- (a) no proceedings may be instituted for that offence before the expiration of the period of 14 days, or such other period as may be specified in the notice, following the date of the notice; and
 - (b) P may not be convicted of that offence if P pays the fixed penalty before the expiration of that period.
- (5) A notice under this paragraph must give such particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence as are necessary for giving reasonable information of the offence.
- (6) A notice under this paragraph must also state—
- (a) the period during which, by virtue of sub-paragraph (4), proceedings will not be taken for the offence;
 - (b) the amount of the fixed penalty; and
 - (c) the person to whom and the address at which the fixed penalty may be paid.
- (7) The fixed penalty payable to a district council under this paragraph in respect of an offence under paragraph 1(5), 2(6) or 3(3) is an amount determined by the council, being an amount not exceeding one-fifth of the maximum fine payable on summary conviction of that offence.
- (8) In any proceedings a certificate which—
- (a) purports to be signed on behalf of the clerk of the council, and
 - (b) states that payment of a fixed penalty was or was not received by a date specified in the certificate,
- is evidence of the facts stated.
- (9) A district council may use amounts paid to it in pursuance of notices under this paragraph only for the purposes of its functions under this paragraph or the 2006 Order, or such other of its functions as may be prescribed.
- (10) In this paragraph “authorised officer”, in relation to a district council, means an officer of the council who is authorised in writing by the council for the purposes of this paragraph.

Supplementary and interpretation

7. Regulations under paragraph 1, 2 or 6 are subject to negative resolution.
8. In paragraphs 1 and 2 “the commencement date” means the date on which section 1 comes into operation.
9. Any expression that is used in both this Schedule and the 2006 Order has the same meaning in this Schedule as in that Order.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 9.

Energy efficiency regulations

1. The 2006 Order is amended as follows.
2. After Article 11F (as inserted by section 8) insert—

“Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency of dwelling-houses let under a private tenancy

11G.—(1) The Department may by regulations provide that a person may not—

- (a) grant a private tenancy of a dwelling-house to which paragraph (2) applies;
 - (b) continue to let out under a private tenancy a dwelling-house to which paragraph (2) applies.
- (2) This paragraph applies to a dwelling-house—
- (a) in relation to which there is an energy performance certificate, and
 - (b) that falls below such level of energy efficiency (as demonstrated by the energy performance certificate) as is provided for by the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under paragraph (1) may provide for the granting to a person, in respect of a dwelling-house, of—
- (a) an exemption on the ground that the dwelling-house is of such description as is provided for in the regulations;
 - (b) an exemption that is to have effect for a period of time and is subject to the condition that specified works or measures for improving efficiency in the use of energy in the dwelling-house are carried out within that period (an “improvement exemption”);
 - (c) an exemption on such other grounds as may be provided for in the regulations.

- (4) In paragraph (3)—
- (a) “exemption” means an exemption from a prohibition imposed under paragraph (1);
 - (b) “specified” means specified in the improvement exemption.
- (5) Regulations that provide for exemptions by virtue of paragraph (3) may include, in particular, provision—
- (a) for exemptions to be granted by a prescribed person or prescribed persons (the “authority”);
 - (b) about the making of applications to the authority (including provision about the evidence which must or may be provided with applications);
 - (c) for exemptions to have effect for a specified period of time (including provision for the authority to determine that period);
 - (d) for a limit on the estimated cost of works or measures that may be specified in an improvement exemption (including a limit set by reference to the value of the dwelling-house or any other prescribed circumstances);
 - (e) for the authority to maintain a publicly-accessible register of exemptions granted;
 - (f) about appeals to a prescribed person or body against decisions regarding exemptions (including provision about how such appeals may be disposed of and the effect of any exemption pending the determination of an appeal);
 - (g) about the inspection of dwelling-houses for the purposes of an application for an exemption or for the purposes of an appeal;
 - (h) in a case where an application or appeal is made in respect of a dwelling-house which is (on the date the application or appeal is made) let under a private tenancy, for the applicant or appellant to be exempt from a prohibition imposed under paragraph (1)(b) in respect of the dwelling-house pending the determination of the application or appeal;
 - (i) about the consequences of providing false or misleading information in an application to the authority or in proceedings on an appeal (including provision creating criminal offences or invalidating exemptions);
 - (j) for a person who acquires an estate in a dwelling-house which is (on the date of the acquisition) let under a private tenancy to be exempt from a prohibition imposed under paragraph (1)(b) in respect of that dwelling-house for a prescribed period of time.
- (6) The regulations may provide that if—

- (a) a person is granted an improvement exemption, and
- (b) the person complies with prescribed conditions regarding the giving of notice to any tenant of the dwelling-house, or with such other conditions as may be prescribed,

works or measures specified in the exemption are to be regarded, for the purposes of Article 12, as works that the person is under a duty to execute.

(7) The regulations may also include such supplementary, incidental or consequential provision as the Department considers appropriate, including provision modifying any statutory provision.

(8) In this Article—

“private tenancy” does not include a protected tenancy or a statutory tenancy;

“energy performance certificate” means—

- (a) an energy performance certificate within the meaning given by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, or
- (b) such other statutory document issued for the purpose of determining or recording the energy performance or efficiency of a dwelling-house as may be prescribed.

(9) In paragraph (8) “statutory document” has the meaning given by section 1(e) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.

Private tenancy energy efficiency regulations: power to create offences

11H.—(1) Regulations under Article 11G may provide that a person who breaches a prohibition imposed under paragraph (1) of that Article is guilty of an offence.

(2) Regulations under Article 11G may provide that a person commits an offence if—

- (a) the person is granted an improvement exemption;
- (b) the person fails, without reasonable excuse, to carry out the works or measures specified in the exemption within the period of time so specified;
- (c) Article 11G(2) applies to the dwelling-house immediately after the expiration of that period of time; and
- (d) at any time during which the exemption had effect, the person—
 - (i) granted a private tenancy of the dwelling-house, or
 - (ii) continued to let the dwelling-house out under a private tenancy that was granted before the exemption had effect.

(3) The regulations may provide for inspections of a dwelling-house in respect of which an exemption has been granted by virtue of Article 11G(3)(b), for the purpose of investigating whether an offence created by virtue of this Article has been committed.

(4) The regulations may set out circumstances in which a person is, or is not, to be regarded as having a reasonable excuse for the purposes of an offence created by virtue of paragraph (2) (including circumstances where a person ceases to hold an estate in the dwelling-house).

(5) Any offence created by regulations under Article 11G—

- (a) is not to be triable on indictment or punishable with imprisonment;
- (b) is not to be punishable with a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (but, in the case of an offence in respect of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b), this is subject to paragraphs (6) to (9)).

(6) Paragraphs (7) and (8) apply where regulations under Article 11G create an offence in respect of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b).

(7) The regulations must provide that where—

- (a) a person is convicted of an offence in respect of the granting of a private tenancy, or the letting out of a dwelling-house under a private tenancy, in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(a) or (b) (“the initial conviction”),
- (b) after the initial conviction, the person continues to let out the dwelling-house under the tenancy, and
- (c) the person is convicted of an offence in respect of that continued letting in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b) (“the continuing offence”),

the continuing offence is to be punishable with a fine not exceeding one-hundredth of level 5 on the standard scale for every day or part of a day for which the letting continues after the initial conviction.

(8) The regulations must also provide that where—

- (a) a person grants a private tenancy, or continues to let out a dwelling-house under a private tenancy, in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(a) or (b),
- (b) the person is given a fixed penalty notice under Article 68A in respect of an offence on the grounds of that breach,
- (c) the person pays the fixed penalty stated in the notice,
- (d) after payment of the fixed penalty, the person continues to let out the dwelling-house under the tenancy in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b), and

- (e) the person is convicted of an offence in respect of that continued breach (“the post-payment offence”),

the post-payment offence is to be punishable with a fine not exceeding one-hundredth of level 5 on the standard scale for every day or part of a day for which the breach continues after payment.

- (9) A fine imposed by virtue of paragraph (7) or (8) may exceed level 5 on the standard scale.”.

3. In Article 68(3) (prosecution by appropriate district council), after “this Order” insert “(including any offence created by regulations under Article 11G)”.

4. In Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences)—

- (a) in paragraph (1), after sub-paragraph (aa) (as inserted by section 8) insert—

“(ab) an offence created by regulations under Article 11G (but this is subject to paragraph (1A))”;

- (b) after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) This Article does not apply where—

- (a) P has been convicted of an offence in respect of the granting of a private tenancy, or the letting out of a dwelling-house under a private tenancy, in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(a) or (b) (“the initial offence”),
- (b) an authorised officer has reason to believe that, after that conviction, P has committed an offence in respect of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b) (“the continuing offence”), and
- (c) it appears to the authorised officer that the continuing offence has been committed by P continuing to let out the dwelling-house under the tenancy in respect of which the initial offence was committed.”;

- (c) after paragraph (8) insert—

“(8A) The fixed penalty payable to a district council under this Article in respect of an offence created by regulations under Article 11G is an amount determined by the council, being an amount not exceeding one-fifth of the amount prescribed as the maximum fine for that offence; but this is subject to paragraphs (8B) and (8C).

(8B) Paragraph (8C) applies where—

- (a) P grants a private tenancy, or continues to let out a dwelling-house under a private tenancy, in breach of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(a) or (b) (“the initial breach”),
- (b) P is given a fixed penalty notice under this Article in respect of an offence on the grounds of the initial breach,

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

- (c) P pays the fixed penalty stated in the notice,
- (d) an authorised officer has reason to believe that, after payment of the fixed penalty, P has committed an offence in respect of a prohibition imposed under Article 11G(1)(b) (“the continuing offence”), and
- (e) it appears to the authorised officer that the continuing offence has been committed by P continuing to let out the dwelling-house under the tenancy in respect of which the initial breach was committed.

(8C) Where this paragraph applies, the penalty payable is an amount determined by the council, being an amount not exceeding one-five-hundredth of the amount prescribed as the maximum fine for that offence for every day or part of a day for which it appears to the officer that the letting has continued after payment (and, accordingly, the penalty payable may exceed one-fifth of the amount prescribed as the maximum fine for that offence).”.

5. In Article 72 (provisions concerning regulations)—

- (a) in paragraph (3), before “14” (as inserted by section 11) insert “11G,”;
- (b) after paragraph (5) (as inserted by section 7) insert—

“(6) Before making regulations under Article 11G, the Department must consult—

- (a) the Department for the Economy and the Department of Finance,
- (b) district councils,
- (c) such persons as appear to the Department to be representative of landlords,
- (d) such persons as appear to the Department to be representative of tenants, and
- (e) such other persons as the Department considers appropriate (which may include landlords or tenants).”.

SCHEDULE 3

Section 10.

Electrical safety standards regulations

1. The 2006 Order is amended as follows.
2. After Article 11H (as inserted by Schedule 2) insert—

*“Electrical safety standards***Electrical safety standards for dwelling-houses let under a private tenancy**

11I.—(1) The Department may by regulations impose duties on the landlord of a dwelling-house let under a private tenancy for the purposes of ensuring that electrical safety standards are met during the period when the dwelling-house is let under the tenancy.

(2) “Electrical safety standards” means standards specified in, or determined in accordance with, the regulations in relation to—

- (a) the installations in the dwelling-house for the supply and use of electricity, or
- (b) electrical fixtures, fittings or appliances provided by the landlord.

(3) The duties imposed on the landlord may include duties to ensure that a qualified person has checked that the electrical safety standards are met.

(4) The regulations may make provision about—

- (a) how and when checks are carried out;
- (b) who is qualified to carry out checks.

(5) The regulations may require the landlord to undertake works as a result of checks carried out by the qualified person.

(6) The regulations may require the landlord—

- (a) to obtain a certificate from the qualified person confirming that electrical safety standards are met;
- (b) to give a copy of the certificate to the tenant, or a prospective tenant, or any other person specified in the regulations;
- (c) where the electrical safety standards are not met, to obtain from the qualified person a written description of the works required to meet the standards.

(7) Regulations under this Article are referred to in Articles 11J and 11K as “electrical safety standards regulations”.

Electrical safety standards regulations: power to create an offence

11J.—(1) Electrical safety standards regulations may provide that a landlord who fails to comply with a duty imposed under Article 11I(1) is guilty of an offence.

(2) Any offence created by virtue of paragraph (1)—

- (a) is not to be triable on indictment or punishable with imprisonment;

- (b) is not to be punishable with a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Electrical safety standards regulations: other enforcement

11K.—(1) Electrical safety standards regulations may make provision, for the enforcement of a duty imposed under Article 11I(1)—

- (a) under which a landlord may be required to take remedial action;
- (b) under which a district council may, with the consent of the tenant, arrange for a person to enter the dwelling-house and take remedial action.

(2) Regulations made by virtue of paragraph (1) may include, in particular, provision about procedural matters.

(3) Regulations made by virtue of paragraph (1) that make provision in connection with paragraph (1)(a) may include, in particular, provision enabling the landlord to make representations against any requirement to take remedial action.

(4) Regulations made by virtue of paragraph (1) that make provision in connection with paragraph (1)(b) may include, in particular, provision—

- (a) about appeals against any proposed remedial action;
- (b) enabling a district council to recover from the landlord any costs incurred by it in taking remedial action (“remedial costs”);
- (c) enabling a district council to recover from any agent of the landlord any remedial costs, up to the total amount of money held by the agent on behalf of the landlord;
- (d) under which any remedial costs due under the regulations are deemed, until recovered, to be charged on and payable out of the estate of the landlord in the land in relation to which the costs were incurred and the estate in that land of any person deriving title from the landlord;
- (e) about the enforceability and registration of any charge created under the regulations;
- (f) about the application of costs recovered.”.

3. In Article 68(3) (prosecution by appropriate district council), after “11G” (as inserted by Schedule 2) insert “or 11I”.

4. In Article 68A (fixed penalty for certain offences)—

- (a) after paragraph (1)(ab) (as inserted by Schedule 2) insert—
 - “(ac) an offence created by regulations under Article 11I; or”;

- (b) in paragraph (8), after “or 65A(4)” insert “or an offence created by regulations under Article 11I”.
5. In Article 72 (provisions concerning regulations)—
- (a) in paragraph (2), for “paragraph (3)” substitute “paragraphs (3) and (3A)”;
 - (b) after paragraph (3) insert—
 - “(3A) Regulations under Article 11I(1) that contain provision mentioned in Article 11K(4)(d) may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.”;
 - (c) after paragraph (6) (as inserted by Schedule 2) insert—
 - “(7) Before making regulations under Article 11I(1), the Department must consult—
 - (a) district councils,
 - (b) such persons as appear to the Department to be representative of landlords,
 - (c) such persons as appear to the Department to be representative of tenants, and
 - (d) such other persons as the Department considers appropriate (which may include landlords or tenants).
 - (8) In the case of regulations that contain provision mentioned in Article 11K(4)(d), the consultation must take place before the draft of the regulations is laid before the Assembly.”.

Report on	Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy
Date of Meeting:	16 th February, 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	John Howard, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Paul Bailie, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Sean Cavlin, Leisure Services Development Manager

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	Previously in February 2021, it was noted to Members that Officers were continuing with work to develop a Mid Ulster District Council Pitch Strategy (which is an action reflective of a recommendation from the previously approved 2018 Sports Facility Strategy).
1.2	A report was brought to Development Committee in May 2021 with information on what the project entails and key milestones to be achieved with a further update to Development Committee in November 2021.
1.3	Various workshops have been arranged for Members during this process - 25th October 2021 and also workshops within each of the 7 DEA's during late August/early September 2022.
1.4	The purpose of this report is to provide information on the proposed plan and indicative budget allocations and to seek Member approval to adopt the proposed Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	As highlighted previously in May 2021, following a procurement process, Otium Leisure Consultancy were commissioned to undertake the work associated with this strategy development, broken down into a two part study.
2.2	It is envisaged that the final reports enclosed will provide a practical working tool to which Council can refer to alongside the other relevant Council strategies and plans (eg. Playpark Strategy and Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan) whenever decisions relating to pitch and recreational provision are made in the future and this should reference indicative capital and ongoing annual revenue cost estimates.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Further information on the process is provided within Appendix A . During this process, the project team have carried out detailed visits and assessments on all Council operated sites relating to association football, bowls, gaelic games, hockey and rugby and have focused on current condition/quality, location, size, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities (ie. changing provision).

3.2	<p>An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), and sporting clubs. In addition, four public consultation events took place alongside a comprehensive survey being issued.</p> <p>The strategy should be thought of as an opportunity to promote and develop partnership working in order to deliver pitches and ancillary accommodation as efficiently and cost-effective as possible. At times the Council will be the lead organisation in project development whilst at other times it will have an enabling role.</p> <p>The Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions are enclosed with Appendix B with Table 1.10 noting the specific recommendations, supporting detail, costed plan and proposed profiling of the actions over the 5 year term.</p> <p>These strategic recommendations and actions are informed by analysis of the research and consultation carried out in the audit of facilities and clubs of the five designated sports, however, they also recognise and consider the significant contribution by the community and education sectors in the provision and operation of sports facilities; the Council owns 22% of all pitches in all ownerships in the district across the five sports and noting that there are approx. 21,000 players in these sports within the club environment across the 5 sports which is approx. 14% of the districts entire population which demonstrates the role and value of sports and recreational participation (figures don't include education participation or informal/non-club participation so the percentage residents within the District engaging in sports/recreational participation could be even higher).</p> <p>The proposed strategic plan sets out a 5 year plan on a priority basis (with cost estimates) and 28 strategic recommendations are proposed and each strategic recommendation has partnership potential. They have been categorized into 4 areas:</p> <p><u>(1) Facility Maintenance (Council-owned assets)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches and ancillary accommodation must be maintained to ensure they are fit for purpose, able to be used to their full potential and support the development of greater levels of participation. • Includes refurbishments/extensions to assets <p><u>(2) Development (including non-Council assets)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This category looks at how the Council can work in partnership with clubs and other stakeholder organisations, effectively supporting the delivery of community-based opportunities for participation in sport and physical recreation. • Includes opportunities for multi-use of facilities including formalised sports and informal recreational use to support community engagement and health and wellbeing • Includes funding and support opportunities <p><u>(3) Facility Development (Council-owned assets)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations in this category look to ensure the Council's pitches are high quality and achieve best use of resources to maximise community benefit. • Includes new provision based on need • Includes obsolete pitch provision, new identified shared space community need, potential for partnership provision/shared and also opportunities for long term leases
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	<p><u>(4) Staffing Resource</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-active management of the strategic plan delivery and sports participation programming will help to ensure efficient use of the pitches and aim to deliver higher levels of participation.
3.3	<p>Value of the Strategy</p> <p>This plan sets out a strategic framework for the next five years in order to help reposition our outdoor recreation opportunities across Mid Ulster District Council. It should help improve coordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.</p> <p>The proposed value of the draft strategy totals £9.58M of which 51.1% is to be secured from external sources/funding applications (if available and subject to eligibility criteria) and the remaining 48.9% is proposed to be financed through Council.</p>
3.4	<p>Whilst costs are set against the actions, it is emphasised that they are intended as a high level indication of cost based on industry knowledge and experience. In taking forward any of the actions a comprehensive analysis will be carried out prior to each action, not only to estimate costs but also to assess affordability and sustainability as well as the community benefit that will be achieved.</p>
3.5	<p>The proposed financial breakdown of the strategy is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUDC capital expenditure over 5 years: £4,273,792 MUDC revenue expenditure over 5 years: £334,000 External sources/funding applications: £4,980,000 <i>(subject to availability & eligibility criteria)</i> <p>It is proposed that the strategic plan should be reviewed in year three to assess progress and profile the remaining two years where needed. Whilst the plan is sequenced over the 5 years, flexibility will be retained should opportunities for development/funding arise at any point then the sequencing can be re-profiled where necessary.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUDC capital expenditure over 5 years: £4,273,792 MUDC revenue expenditure over 5 years: £334,000* External sources/funding applications: £4,980,000 <i>(subject to availability & eligibility criteria)</i> <p>*£334k in Council recurring revenue in total over the 5 year term – £30k is projected for year 1 (April 23-March 24) and it is anticipated that adoption of recommendations to de-classify specific pitches as competitive/training/available for booking along with progressing specific pitches for leasing can yield efficiencies within year 1 and this can be absorbed within existing revenue budgets.</p> <p>Consideration for the additional recurring revenue (<i>approx. £76k additional per year</i>) will need considered as part of the annual estimates process and added into the relevant revenue budgets for 24/25 onwards, as investment in identified pitch enhancements will require a higher quality/frequency of maintenance in order to maintain the investment moving forward.</p>

	<p>Human: A Programme Co-ordinator post has been included, on a temporary basis, for the term of the strategic plan. The role of the Co-ordinator will be to ensure pro-active co-ordination, management and delivery of the strategic plan delivery and sports participation programming. <i>(Costs associated with this post have been included in the overall capitalised cost for the strategy, as outlined above)</i></p> <p>Staff time to appoint and engage with appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and supply team (IST) where deemed relevant.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: The strategic plan will be managed and monitored in line with Council's risk management governance procedures.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to Equality and Good Relations.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to rural proofing.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the content of the report and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan; Recommending to the Policy & Resources committee that the Pitch & Recreational Strategy 2023 -2028 is included as part of the Council capital programme and the required capital financing allocated (£4,273,792). Consideration of the additional re-current revenue costs (approx. £76k per annum) as part of the 24/25 rates estimates and beyond.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix A: Summary Information on the process to develop the Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Appendix B: Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan Part 1; Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions</p> <p>Appendix C: Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan Part 2; Audit Report</p>

Appendix A: Summary Information on the process to develop the Pitch and Recreational Spaces Five Year Strategic Plan.

During this process, the project team have carried out detailed visits and assessments on all Council operated sites relating to association football, bowls, gaelic games, hockey and rugby and have focused on current condition/quality, location, size, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities (ie. changing provision).

Arising from these visits, in terms of Council ownership/responsibility, it has been established that there are:

- 38 sites; 55 pitches (35 grass, 17 Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP's), 3 shale)
- 16 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)
- 4 Bowling Greens

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), and sporting clubs. In addition, four public consultation events took place alongside a comprehensive survey being issued.

Public focus groups:

- Magherafelt, 7th June (25 attendees)
- Cookstown, 8th June (8 attendees)
- Dungannon, 9th June (25 attendees)
- Cookstown, 27th September (19 attendees)

The focus groups sought to establish the attendees views on:

- Quality of council's pitches / changing accommodation
- Need for Council pitches
- Sports development aspirations
- Future need for facilities
- Open discussion

During this period, a comprehensive survey was commissioned and promoted via social media, website along with targeted emails to relevant Council distribution lists. A number of stakeholder interviews also took place to include the Education Authority. The survey sought to establish clubs/groups and schools views on:

- Training and match facilities
- Membership and usage profile
- Teams profile
- Leagues/competitions
- Match and training venues
- Demand, pitch quality, leases
- Attitude to synthetic surfaces
- Development plans

The survey engagement was extremely high with 87 of the 89 District's clubs and 18 of the Districts 20 post primary schools submitting a return:

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Survey Returns	% Returns
Association Football	31	29	94%
Gaelic Games	47	47	100%
Rugby	3	3	100%
Hockey	3	3	100%
Lawn Bowls	5	5	100%

Various workshops have been arranged for elected Members during this process - 25th October 2021 and also workshops within each of the 7 DEA's during late August/early September 2022.

Inspection Findings

During this process, the project team have carried out detailed visits and assessments on all Council operated sites relating to association football, bowls, gaelic games, hockey and rugby and have focused on current condition/quality, location, size, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities (ie. changing provision).

- 38 Council sites; 55 pitches (35 grass, 17 ATP, 3 shale)
- Grass Pitch Ratings: Good 16; Standard 13; Poor 5
- Grass Pitch Dimensions: 40 full/youth size; 15 small size
- Changing Facilities Ratings: Good 7; Standard 13; Poor nil
- 4 Council Bowling Greens (7 Bowling Clubs) - Condition of playing surfaces generally satisfactory.
- 2 x pavilions in need of immediate investment
- 16 MUGAs - Small – 18m x 10m; Big 60m x 30m - Surfaces mostly bitmac (Ratings: Good 4; Satisfactory 8; Poor 4)

Surveys Findings

The survey of sports clubs presented an opportunity to obtain a profile of participation across the five sports in terms of numbers of clubs, teams and players, as follows:-

Table 1.1: Clubs and Teams							
Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Totals	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	% of Total Teams
Association Football	31	201	25	31	6	232	18
Gaelic games	47	514	64	393	80	907	70
Rugby	3	63	8	5	1	68	5
Hockey ¹	4	21	2	60	12	81	6
Lawn Bowls ²	5	5	1	2	1	7	1
Totals	90	804	100%	491	100%	1,295	100%

A summary of players reveals there are 13,555 male players and 7,278 female players across the five sports, giving a total of 20,833 players in these sports within the club environment. The breakdown is as follows:-

Table 1.2: Players by Sport						
Sport	Male		Female		Totals	
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Players	% of Total Players
Association Football	2,464	1,142	414	71	4,091	20
Gaelic games	5,841	2,732	4,312	1,463	14,348	69
Rugby	623	310	124	27	1,084	5
Hockey	158	150	610	190	1,108	5
Lawn Bowls	3	132	2	35	172	1
Totals	9,089	4,466	5,462	1,786	20,803	100%

It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all pitches for the five sports under consideration – multi use games areas are addressed separately. The following summary shows there are 212 ‘pitches’ across the five sports:-

Table 1.3: Summary of All Pitches								
Sport	Grass		ATP		Shale		Totals	
	Full	Small	Full	Small	Full	Small	No	%
Association Football	41	4	9	3	-	-	57	27
Gaelic Games	74	37	3	8	-	-	122	57
Rugby	15	2	-	-	-	-	17	8
Hockey	-	-	6	-	2	4	12	6
Lawn Bowls	3	-	1	-	-	-	4	2
Totals	133	43	19	11	2	4	212	100%

Table 1.4 below presents a breakdown of the ownership of pitches by sport, type and ownership:-

Table 1.4: Ownership of Pitches – All Sizes													
Ownership	Grass				ATPs							Totals	
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Rugby	Lawn Bowls	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Rugby	Lawn Bowls	Hockey			No	%
									Water-Based	Astro	Shale		
Club/Community	9	88	6	0	3	9	0	1	1	0	0	117	55
Education	7	15	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	6	46	22
Mid Ulster DC	27	5	1	3	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	43	20
Leased from Mid Ulster DC	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3
Totals	45	111	17	3	12	11	0	1	1	5	6	212	100%

Proposed Summary of Investment Plan

	Facility Maintenance (Council-owned assets)	Development (including non-Council assets)	Facility Development (Council-owned assets)	Pitch De-classification from Commencement of Strategy
Number of Council Owned Assets	12 sites	N/A	22 sites (funded via Council) 8 sites (external funding needed)	6 sites <i>(therefore unavailable for booking – grounds maintenance department to maintain as biodiversity/set aside areas until future use is determined either via leasing or disposal)</i>
Supporting Details	Ballygawley, Beechway, Benburb, Cahore, Castlecaufield, Clady, Drumcoo, Dungannon Park, King George V, Meadowbank, Newmills, Tobermore	<p>Aughnacloy partnership development</p> <p>Hockey SLA's (Cookstown, Dungannon)</p> <p>Financial Assistance: Increase School's Sports Facilities Access fund to £15,000 annually (currently £10k)</p> <p>Financial Assistance: Sports Capital fund (4 Years) at £50k annually to include assistance for feasibility studies/economic appraisals/equipment (consider eligibility criteria)</p> <p>Financial Assistance: Capital Match Funding Scheme (4 Years) to be introduced to assist with groups larger projects/developments - £150,000 annually (consider eligibility criteria)</p>	<p>Benburb Development, Drumcoo Bowls, Fairhill Bowls, Magherafelt Bowls, Monrush Development, MUSA/MSA Development, Newmills Development, Riverside Castledawson</p> <p><u>MUGA's:</u> Blackhill, Broacagh, Caledon, Clogher, Donaghmore, Gortnasoar, Gortalowry, Gulladuff, Henderson Park Stewardstown, Killymerron, Meadowview, Millburn, Moygashel, Money more Recreation Centre</p> <p><u>External Funding</u> Benburb 3G, Castlecaufield Facility Development, King George V 3G, Fairhill Recreation Development, Maghera LC Facility Development, Moy 3G, MUSA Facility Development, Riverside Castledawson Recreation Development</p>	<p>Aughnacloy Playing Fields <i>(also potential for lease/disposal)</i></p> <p>Bellaghy <i>(subject to future re-development)</i></p> <p>Boyne Row Castledawson <i>(also potential for lease/disposal)</i></p> <p>Clady <i>(also potential for lease/disposal)</i></p> <p>Fairhill Playing Fields <i>(subject to future re-development but will continue to be maintained as a pitch until new 3G at MUSA opened)</i></p> <p>Glenone <i>(also potential for lease/disposal)</i></p> <p>Knockloughrim <i>(also potential for lease/disposal)</i></p>

In addition, it is proposed that the following sites are recommended to be made available for future leasing via public expressions of interest:

- Beechway
- Moneymore
- Newmills

The estimated value of the draft strategy totals £9,582,792 of which approx. 51.1% is to be secured from external sources and the remaining 48.9% to be financed through the Council.

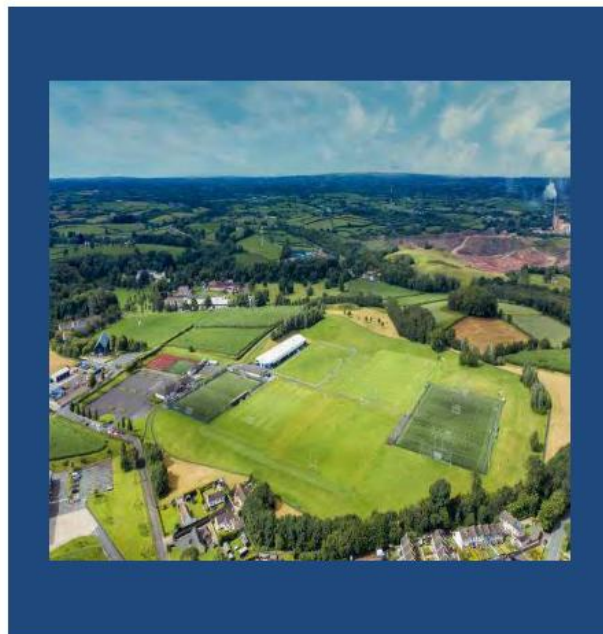
It is envisaged that the vast majority of this strategy will be via capital expenditure with approx. £354k required from an ongoing revenue perspective over the term of the 5 years.

Whilst costs are set against the actions it is emphasised that they are intended as a high level indication of cost based on industry knowledge and experience. In taking forward any of the actions a comprehensive analysis should be carried out, not only to estimate costs but also to assess affordability and sustainability as well as the community benefit that will be achieved.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

DRAFT
Development Committee
Consideration, February 2023



Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy

**Part 1 of 2: Executive
Summary, Strategic
Recommendations and
Costed Actions**

February 2023



This project has been supported by The Executive Office funded through its District Council Good Relations Program in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council.



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Executive Summary

Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council has commissioned a Condition Survey of Council pitches and Council Pitches Strategy. The Council set out a two-part study to look at current pitch and associated changing provision; the first part is a condition survey and audit of all Council pitches and recreational spaces and the second part is to make recommendations for a Council pitches/spaces strategy. The objective of the study is to *‘create a Strategy that could be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the district in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision.’* The facilities under consideration are for the sports of association football, gaelic games, hockey, lawn bowls, rugby.

The methodology for the study is based on Sport England’s Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model. This model is used to look at facilities for association football, gaelic games, hockey and rugby; the principles of the model are also applied to lawn bowls and multi use games areas. GIS mapping is used to look at the distribution of facilities.

From the outset an emphasis was placed on getting an accurate picture of activity in each sport; this was achieved by obtaining a high response to a survey of the clubs in each sport across the district, as follows:-

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Survey Returns	% Returns
Association Football	31	29	94%
Gaelic Games	47	47	100%
Hockey	3	3	100%
Lawn Bowls	5	5	100%
Rugby	3	3	100%

Post-primary schools were also surveyed, with 18 returns received from the 20 schools in the district.

Pitches’ Profile and Quality

The quality of the Council-owned pitches and changing facilities was scored using a Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment produced by Sport England. The aim of the assessment is to rate the pitches and changing facilities based on several factors. For the pitches, the assessment is based on:

Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

- a) A visual inspection of the pitch including grass cover, slope of pitch (gradient and cross-fall); evenness of the ground, length of grass, problem areas: evidence of dog fouling/ litter/ glass/ vehicle tracks/ unofficial use/ damage to the surface and evidence of poor drainage.
- b) Maintenance of the pitch including grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilisation and weed killing.
- c) This information is collated, and a formula applied resulting in a percentage score and a rating.

Pitch Score %	Rating
80-100	Good
50-79	Standard
0-49	Poor

The changing facilities were also rated using the Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment. The assessment is based on:

- a) The existence of a changing facility, clubhouse and kitchen, exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, official's changing area, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- b) Are DDA compliant facilities provided?
- c) Boundary fence and parking

Changing Facilities Score %	Rating
65-100	Good
35-64	Standard
0-34	Poor

The results of the quality assessments are outlined below. The scores provide a starting point when considering the condition of each pitch and changing facility.

Table 1.1: Pitches' Profile Summary

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Aughnacloy	Grass	Association Football	91 x 60	Full	42.9	Poor	-	-
Ballygawley Playing Fields 1	Grass	Association Football	92 x 62	Full	78.6	Standard	50.8	Standard
Ballygawley Playing Fields 2	Grass	Gaelic Games	126 x 72	Training	LEASED	LEASED		
Ballygawley Playing Fields 3	Small 3G	Multi Sport	40 x 20	n/a	-	-		
Beechway 1	Grass	Association Football	95 x 56	Full	78.6	Standard	43.1	Standard
Beechway 2	Shale	Multi Sport	74 x 44	n/a	-	-		
Bellaghy	Grass	Association Football	90 x 45	Full	31.4	Poor	-	-
Benburb 1	Grass	Association Football	90 x 55	Full	71.4	Standard	55.4	Standard
Benburb 2	Small 3G	Multi Sport	40 x 20	n/a	-	-		
Boyne Row	Grass	Association Football	94 x 62	Full	67.1	Standard	40	Standard
Cahore Road 1	Grass	Gaelic Games	133 x 82	Full	91.4	Good	70.8	Good
Cahore Road 2	Grass	Association Football	96 x 64	Full	67.1	Standard		
Cahore Road 3	Grass	Association Football	100 x 61	Full	80	Good		
Castlecaulfield Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	100 x 63	Full	85.7	Good	44.6	Standard
Clady	Grass	Gaelic Games	94 x 66	Training	11.4	Poor	-	-
Drumcoo 1	3G	Multi Sport	90 x 54	n/a	-	-	52.3	Standard
Drumcoo 2	Grass	Association Football	83 x 58	Youth	85.7	Good		
Drumcoo 3	Grass	Association Football	75 x 60	Under 12s	51.4	Standard	55.4	Standard
Drumcoo 4	Grass	Association Football	100 x 44	Full	81.4	Good		

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Drumcoo Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Good	n/a	Good
Dungannon Park 1	Grass	Rugby	120 x 68	Full	84.3	Good	70.8	Good
Dungannon Park 2	Grass	Association Football	102 x 58	Full	87.1	Good		
Fairhill Recreation Grounds 1	Grass	Association Football	94 x 60	Full	72.9	Standard	40	Standard
Fairhill Recreation Grounds 2	Grass	Association Football	94 x 56	Full	72.9	Standard	55.4	Standard
Fairhill Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Satisfactory	n/a	Standard
Glenone, Portglenone	Grass	Association Football	90 x 60	Full	32.9	Poor	-	-
Gortgonis Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	105 x 59	Full	84.3	Good	58.5	Standard
Gulladuff	Grass	Association Football	28 x 21	Small Kick-about	42.9	Poor	-	-
Henderson Park	Grass	Association Football	31 x 23	Small Kick-about	42.9	Poor	-	-
King George V 1	Grass	Association Football	91 x 55	Full	77.1	Standard	43.1	Standard
King George V 2	Grass	Association Football	90 x 50	Full	61.4	Standard		
King George V Bowling Green	Synthetic	Lawn Bowls	25 x 37	5 rinks	n/a	Satisfactory	n/a	Standard
Knockloughrim	Grass	Association Football	110 x 52	Full	68.6	Standard	-	-
Maghera Leisure Centre 1	3G	Multi Sport	115 x 65	n/a	-	-	70.8	Good
Maghera Leisure Centre 2	Small 3G	Multi Sport	30 x 27	n/a	-	-		

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Magherafelt Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Good	n/a	Good
Meadowbank 1	Indoor Astro	Hockey/ Multi Sport	100 x 65	n/a	-	-	76.9	Good
Meadowbank 2	Grass	Association Football	98 x 56	Full	94.3	Good	52.3	Standard
Meadowbank 3	3G	Multi Sport	145 x 88 (Gaelic) 100 x 68 (Rugby) 90 x 66 (A. Football 1) 90 x 60.5 (A. Football 2)	Full Full Full	-	-		
Meadowbank 4	Small Astro	Multi Sport	34 x 37	n/a	-	-		
Meadowbank 5-8	Small indoor 3G	Multi Sport	30 x 16	n/a	-	-		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 1	Grass	Association Football	100 x 55	Full	88.6	Good	76.9	Good
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 2	Grass	Gaelic Games	138 x 86	Full	88.6	Good	76.9	Good
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 3	3G	Multi Sport	130 x 80 (Gaelic) 120 x 70 (Rugby)	Full Full	-	-		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 4	Grass	Gaelic Games	120 x 76	Training	91.4	Good		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 5	Grass	Association Football	101 X 64	Full	82.9	Good		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 6	3G	Association Football	93 x 55	Full	-	-	-	-

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 7	Small 3G	Multi Sport	34 x 29	n/a	-	-	-	-
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 8	Indoor 3G	Multi Sport	57 x 22	n/a	-	-	-	-
Mill Park, Tobermore	Grass	Association Football	97 x 68	Full	57.1	Standard	36.9	Standard
Millburn, Cookstown	Small Shale	Association Football	25 x 18	Small Kick-about	-	-	-	-
Moneymore Recreation Centre	Grass	Association Football	95 x 47	Full	80	Good	81.5	Good
Monrush 1	Small Grass	Association Football	38 x 20	Small Kick-about	45.7	Poor	-	-
Monrush 2	Shale	Multi Sport	42 x 30	n/a	-	-	-	-
New Mills Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	91 x 53	Full	85.7	Good	47.7	Standard
Riverside, Castledawson	Grass	Association Football	91 x 60	Full	68.6	Standard	-	-
Tobermore Golf Centre	Grass	Association Football	99 x 52	Full	82.9	Good	35.4	Standard

Multi Use Games Areas

Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are developed by local authorities to supplement play areas and complement training facilities for outdoor team sports such as association football and hockey. Depending on markings and equipment they may also facilitate basketball. There is no 'one size fits all' in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council's MUGA's are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are also capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities. MUGAs tend to fall between two stools; on the one hand they are viewed primarily as play facilities, on the other hand they are viewed primarily as sports facilities. There are 16 MUGAs in the Mid Ulster District.

Table 1.2: MUGAs Profile Summary

Site	Size	Surface	Fixed Equipment	Surface Condition
Blackhill Play Area, Cookstown	20 x 12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Boyne Row, Castledawson	-	-	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	New
Brocagh	18 x 10m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Caledon	37 x 20m	Tarmac with light shale covering	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Clogher	30 x 20m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Donaghmore	38 x 20m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Gortgonis	40 x 20m	Astro	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Gortalowry, Cookstown	20 x 12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Gortnasoar, Dungannon	30 x 14m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Killymerron, Dungannon	18 x 10m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Meadowview Park, Dungannon	22 x 15m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Milltown, Dungannon	28 x 15m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good
Moneymore Recreation Centre	60 x 30m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 2 sets basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Monrush, Cookstown	20 x 12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good
Moygashel, Dungannon	40 x 24m	Tarmac	Small fixed association football goals	Satisfactory
Upperlands	28 x 14m	Astro	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good

Clubs, Teams, Participants, Pitches

The survey of sports clubs presented an opportunity to obtain a profile of participation across the five sports in terms of numbers of clubs, teams and players, as follows:-

Table 1.3: Clubs and Teams							
Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Totals	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	% of Total Teams
Association Football	31	201	25	31	6	232	18
Gaelic games	47	514	64	393	80	907	70
Hockey ¹	4	21	2	60	12	81	6
Lawn Bowls ²	5	5	1	2	1	7	1
Rugby	3	63	8	5	1	68	5
Totals	90	804	100%	491	100%	1,295	100%

A summary of players reveals there are 13,555 male players and 7,278 female players across the five sports, giving a total of 20,833 players in these sports within the club environment. The breakdown is as follows:-

Table 1.4: Players by Sport						
Sport	Male		Female		Totals	
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Players	% of Total Players
Association Football	2,464	1,142	414	71	4,091	20
Gaelic games	5,841	2,732	4,312	1,463	14,348	69
Hockey	158	150	610	190	1,108	5
Lawn Bowls	3	132	2	35	172	1
Rugby	623	310	124	27	1,084	5
Totals	9,089	4,466	5,462	1,786	20,803	100%

It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all pitches for the five sports under consideration – multi use games areas are addressed separately. The following summary shows there are 212 ‘pitches’ across the five sports.

¹ Rainey Endowed School is included here as a hockey ‘club’ as it plays most of its hockey at Meadowbank Arena in Magherafelt.

² Magherafelt Bowling Club and Dungannon Bowling Club each have Men’s and Ladies sections but are viewed as single clubs.

Table 1.5: Summary of All Pitches

Sport	Grass		ATP		Shale		Totals
	Full	Small	Full	Small	Full	Small	
Association Football	41	4	9	3	-	-	57
Gaelic Games	74	37	3	8	-	-	122
Hockey	-	-	6	-	2	4	12
Lawn Bowls	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Rugby	15	2	-	-	-	-	17
Totals	133	43	19	11	2	4	212

Table 1.6 presents a breakdown of the ownership of pitches by sport, type and ownership.

Table 1.6: Ownership of Pitches – All Sizes

Ownership	Grass				ATPs							Totals
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Lawn Bowls	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Lawn Bowls	Rugby	Hockey			
									Water-Based	Astro	Shale	
Club/Community	9	88	0	6	3	9	1	0	1	0	0	117
Education	7	15	0	10	4	0	0	0	0	4	6	46
Mid Ulster DC	27	5	3	1	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	43
Leased from Mid Ulster DC	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	45	111	3	17	12	11	1	0	1	5	6	212

Further breakdown of the supply of pitches is presented in each sport-specific section. In presenting the above summary tables it's useful to note:-

- ❖ Pitches are counted within the sport that best suits their size. So, for example, the Council's full-size multi sports pitches at Meadowbank and Mid Ulster Sports Arena are counted in gaelic games.
- ❖ AstroTurf pitches are all allocated to hockey as hockey is their primary purpose, however, it's recognised they are also used by other sports for training and recreational play.

Adequacy of Provision

So how is adequacy of provision assessed? There are two assessment models relevant to this project.

- ❖ 'Playing Pitch Model' – Sport England
- ❖ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' – Fields in Trust

Sport NI's *'Bridging the Gap: Active Places Research Report'* (2009 with 2014 update) uses Fields in Trust guidance to assess the provision of grass and artificial turf pitches in each local authority. Field in Trust's guidance resonates with national planning policy, in particular *'the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the promotion of its economic, social and environmental roles and the seeking of positive improvements in the quality of the environment and people's quality of life.'* It further states that *'quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision; rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances.'* The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) effectively examines local circumstances by assessing actual demand through consultation and survey work with local sports clubs, schools and local community groups. The result is an accurate assessment of adequacy of provision that is locally specific, enabling development of the most beneficial investment strategy.

Sport England

Sport England's *Playing Pitch Model* (PPM) has been applied to the assessment of provision relating to association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey; PPM principles been applied in the assessment of adequacy of provision for lawn bowls. The assessment process matches the number of pitches available (supply) against the demand for competitive play. Three scenarios of supply are considered in accordance with the PPM as follows:-

Reference	Description
Scenario 1	All pitches
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).
Scenario 3	Council pitches only

Provision across the district for each of association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey is summarised for each scenario, where a *positive* result indicates supply exceeds demand and a *negative* result indicates supply fails to meet demand. It is suggested that in each case Scenario 2 is the most realistic picture of provision across these sports given that it includes all pitches that are available for matches, regardless of ownership. For lawn bowls the PPM principles have been applied in an assessment of provision.

A summary of adequacy of provision using the Sport England PPM model looks like this:-

Table 1.7: Playing Pitch Model – Adequacy of Provision (Scenario 2)

Sport	Adequacy of Provision
Association Football	+ 9 pitches
Gaelic Games	- 10 pitches
Hockey	+ 1 pitch
Lawn Bowls	Surplus hours across all sites
Rugby	+ 1 pitch

Fields in Trust

Fields in Trust's³ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' is used to highlight adequacy of provision for formal space for association football, rugby, hockey, lawn bowls and multi use games areas. The following table compares Fields in Trust's guidance for level of provision of open space based on the district's population of 146,427 against the current stock of facilities that are available for community use for matches. For the purposes of this comparison the stock of gaelic games pitches is included in the calculations given that gaelic games is integral to the district's sporting culture.

Table 1.8: Comparison of Fields in Trust with Current Stock

Type of Open Space (FiT categories)	FiT Guidance (ha per 1,000 population)	Level of provision required to meet FiT Guidance (ha)	Current Stock (ha)	Difference (ha)	Number of Pitches ⁴
Playing pitches (association football, gaelic games, hockey, rugby)	1.20	175.71	115.33	-60.38	-60 pitches
All outdoor sports (all above plus lawn bowls, athletics, tennis)	1.60	234.28	120.33	-113.95	n/a
Other outdoor provision (MUGA's, skateboard parks)	0.30	43.93	0.67	-43.26	n/a

Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap' (2014 update) report assessed adequacy of provision (grass and artificial turf pitches combined) for the Mid Ulster district to be an over-supply of 6 pitches when

³ The National Playing Fields Association is re-named Fields in Trust.

⁴ Sport NI estimates an average pitch size to be 2.5 acres (association football, gaelic games, rugby); 1 acre = 0.40468 hectares. In reality a full size gaelic games pitch (145mx90m) is 3.22 acres, or 1.30 hectares.

artificial turf pitches in the education sector are included but education's grass pitches are excluded.

Association Football

Quantity

There are 31 association football clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	2,464	1,142	414	71	4,091

The 4,091 players represent 20% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

There is a total of 47 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and small sided games matches and 10 full size 3G pitches. In addition there are a number of pitches of various sizes used for training.

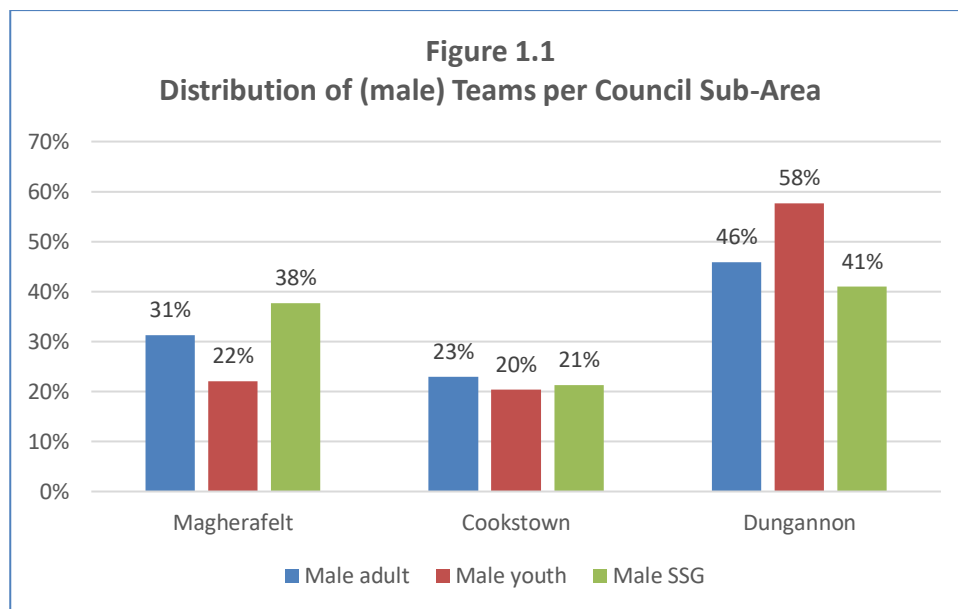
Ownership	Full & SSG Match Pitches			Pitches used for training – varying sizes		
	Grass Full	3G Full	SSG Grass + 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G
Clubs/Community	9	1	2 x 3G	3	0	4
Education	5	4	3 x grass	3	1	5
MUDC	25	4	1 x grass	16	1	4
Leased from MUDC	2	1	0	2	0	1
Total	41	10	6	26	2	14

An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for association football matches reveals the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+9 pitches	Supply Surplus
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The assessment suggests that, for adult matches on a Saturday afternoon there is a surplus of pitches. This picture is of course impacted by a number of variables including pitch condition, cancellations and changing accommodation being available. A 'buffer' of pitches is needed to cover maintenance closures, resting pitches, events/competitions and increased demand in the future.

It was deemed of interest to assess *adequacy of provision* in each of three sub-areas in the district; Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon. Figure 1.1 shows the Dungannon sub-area as having the greater percentage of teams across each of three male age categories.



Adequacy of provision for adult and youth football at peak demand time – Saturday afternoons – across these three sub-areas is:-

Magherafelt	+5 pitches
Cookstown	+3 pitches
Dungannon	+2 pitches

Looking at *adequacy of provision* of facilities for training for association football, it has been calculated (see Part 2: Section 6) that the 232 association football teams in the district (a combination of male and female at all ages) require 247 one hour training slots each week; currently there are 247 slots available, an under-supply of 36 slots or 12% of the total requirement. If AstroTurf facilities are removed from the calculation the under-supply increases to 56 slots. AstroTurf is rapidly becoming less desirable as a training surface for any 'large ball' sport due to the growth in availability of 3G facilities; in the survey of clubs just 15% of clubs responded 'favourable' when asked about AstroTurf surfaces for training. It's also noted that this analysis of training requirements does not take into account any training needs required for elite pathway development squads, social football programmes or five-a-side recreational activity.

Quality

For association football all Council pitches and ancillary accommodation were inspected and given a quality rating in accordance with Sport England's non-technical inspection system; facilities in other ownerships were assessed through the club and schools survey.

Pitches

Summary of Quality Rating for Full Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total No of Pitches
Clubs/Community	7	2	0	3	12
Education	6	2	2	2	12
MUDC	11	13	2	4	30
Leased from MUDC	2	0	0	1	3
Total	26	17	4	10	57

The four Council pitches rated *poor* are at Bellaghy, Clady, Portglenone, Monrush1. The clubs were asked their opinion on the overall quality of their 'home' pitch.

Overall Quality of your Home Pitch		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	15	48
Standard	9	29
Poor	7	23
Total	31	100%

Built Facilities

The Council's changing facilities and other on-site accommodation were also rated. The ratings are based on:-

- ❖ The existence of a changing facility, clubhouse and kitchen, exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, official's changing accommodation, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- ❖ Are DDA-compliant facilities provided?
- ❖ Boundary fence and parking.

Here's the results:-

Good	7 sites
Standard	13 sites
Poor	None

Conclusions

Association football relies on the Councils' provision of pitches and changing accommodation to a much greater extent than the other 'large ball' sports. Summary points are made:-

- ❖ Thinking about membership in the future, the clubs mostly aspire to membership growth with some clubs citing more girls coming into the sport and one club placing a '*greater emphasis on girl's football*'. At 88% of club players the gender balance is heavily weighted towards males. This points to the continuing need for participative programmes, both Council and club based, to target girls and for facility developments to consider the needs of females, especially in relation to changing accommodation.
- ❖ Two thirds of association football clubs in the district have a positive attitude to 3G surfaces for training with a further 31% adopting a neutral position. Thinking about matches, 54% of clubs are favourably inclined to the use of 3G with 31% taking a neutral stance. These results are slightly more positive than the results coming from the same survey in a neighbouring Council area carried out in late 2017. This could suggest that association football clubs in Mid Ulster are catching up with governing body thinking on the use of 3G, perhaps encouraged also by the increasing number of professional clubs turning to 3G or a hybrid surface.
- ❖ Whilst 'club' is widely used as a group identifier within association football at a local level, it begs the question – what constitutes a club? Of the 18 clubs fielding *only* adult teams, only 8 have two teams and none have more than two teams. This question becomes important when the Council is considering applications for funding support. It's suggested that the Council establishes criteria for recognising a 'club' across all sports.

Gaelic Games

Quantity

There are 47 gaelic games clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	5,841	2,732	4,312	1,463	14,348

The 14,348 players represent 69% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

Gaelic games clubs generally train and play matches at their club base, mostly on one or two grass pitches. With a playing season that spans the spring and summer months and given that clubs in Mid Ulster average 300 players, clubs' pitches are often used most weekday evenings and weekends. This can and does put pressure on pitch maintenance.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches (full) and training					
Ownership	Full Grass	Full 3G	Training Grass	Training 3G	AstroTurf
Clubs/County Board	65	1 ⁵	23	6	0
Education	5	0	10	4	1
MUDC	2	2	3	8 ⁶	1
Leased from MUDC	2	0	1	1	0
Total	74	3	37	19	2

An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for gaelic games matches and training reveals the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	-10 pitches	Supply Shortfall
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The assessment accounts for training and matches as both take place on the same pitch. The assessment here presented suggests that demand outstrips supply, further evidenced in the survey and consultation responses wherein some clubs note the need for additional facilities.

Looking at *adequacy of provision* in each of three sub-areas, Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon, whilst the 47 clubs are spread evenly across the three sub-areas, clubs in the Magherafelt area have the greater percentage of teams:-

Distribution of Gaelic Games Teams by Sub-Area			
Sub Area	% Adult Teams	% Youth Teams	% Go Games Teams
Magherafelt	43	42	45
Cookstown	31	28	28
Dungannon	26	30	27
Totals	100	100	100

⁵ Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre.

⁶ Includes the majority of MUDC's 3G pitches excludes full size GAA 3G pitches, so for example includes Maghera LC 3G, Drumcoo 3G, Benburb 3G etc and Backrow 3G – details of these pitches are included in the Association Football section of this report.

Adequacy of provision for adult and youth gaelic games for matches and training on grass pitches across these three sub-areas is:-

Magherafelt	-6.5 pitches
Cookstown	+2.5 pitches
Dungannon	-6.5 pitches

The online survey asked gaelic games clubs to record the number of hours their pitches are used for training and matches each week. The average weekly pitch use across all clubs is 24 hours per week for a first pitch, and for those clubs with two pitches, 18 hours per week for the second pitch. Given the carrying capacity of a grass pitch is two matches per week for 30 weeks annually (as recommended by Sport England), most gaelic games pitches are heavily over-used. Whilst this is mitigated to some degree by the gaelic games season and careful in-club pitch maintenance, over-use of club-based grass pitches continues to be a challenge for gaelic games clubs.

Quality

The Council's gaelic games pitches were inspected and given a quality rating; pitches in other ownerships were rated for quality by the pitch owners, clubs and schools.

Summary of Quality Rating for Gaelic Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	46	11	3	8	68
Education	3	1	0	1	5
MUDC	2	0	0	2	4
Total	51	12	3	11	77

The three pitches rated *poor* are at Dungannon GAC, Errigal Ciaran GAC, Desertmartin GAC. Two thirds of the pitches are rated as *good*, that is, 51 of the total of 77 pitches. Of the 11 pitches where quality is unknown, 6 are located at Tyrone's Garvaghy GAA complex.

Conclusions

Gaelic games clubs are in the same way as rugby clubs, generally self-contained, having a pitch/pitches and indoor accommodation at their club grounds. As gaelic games clubs have grown in recent decades, with more players including significantly more participation by females, club-based facilities have been put under pressure, especially pitches, which tend to be used for training activity and matches, but also indoor accommodation. Like many sports, gaelic games is constantly evolving, with strategic direction from its governing body, and covered

synthetic surfaces for training and youth matches are beginning to appear on clubs' wish lists. The tendency is for gaelic games clubs to focus on developing facilities at club grounds, however, in the Mid Ulster district the Council's provision of multi-sport ATPs, full size for gaelic games, complements club-based facilities in those parts of the district where they can be readily accessed. It's also noted that some gaelic games clubs are based in parts of the district where they act as the main community resource.

Gaelic games clubs in the Mid Ulster area are clearly a major provider of sports facilities and opportunities to play sport, both for males and females. Within the 47 clubs in the district there are at least 12 teams for every gaelic games full size grass pitch, pointing to the need to 'spread the load' of pitch use by accessing other facilities for training activity. The Ulster Council GAA recognises and supports the use of 3G surfaces for training and for some youth matches, however, clubs do not always have the same acceptance, particularly when it comes to matches. The challenge is to provide suitable facilities in suitable locations that will serve community needs and support clubs in their development aspirations. Future provision could be developed in centralised multi-sport hubs or as community-based facilities.

Hockey

Quantity

There are three hockey clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	158	150	610	190	1,108

The 1,108 players represent 5% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

Whilst shale hockey pitches still persist in some school sites, Ulster Hockey requires that matches are played on AstroTurf pitches, either sand (dressed or filled) or water. Shale pitches are included in this inventory for sake of completeness and recognising that they may be considered for conversion to an accepted sports surface at some point in the future.

Hockey Pitches used for Matches and Training			
Ownership	AstroTurf	Shale	Totals
Education	5	6	11
MUDC	1	0	1
Totals	6	6	12

An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for hockey matches is as following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+1 pitch	Supply just meeting demand
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This picture of *adequacy of provision* is based on four of the six AstroTurf pitches as two AstroTurf pitches, located in post-primary schools, are generally not available for competitive matches; all six shale pitches are excluded from the assessment given their unsuitability for the modern game.

Quality

A summary of the quality of the district's AstroTurf pitches is as follows; again, shale pitches are included here for completeness although they are used by schools with reluctance and only in the absence of an accessible AstroTurf pitch.

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (Astro Turf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total Number of Pitches
MUDC	0	0	1	0	1
Education	6	2	3	0	0
Total	6	2	4	0	12

- ❖ The Council's AstroTurf pitch (indoor) at Meadowbank Arena is rated as *poor*, as reported in the pitches inspection document which notes:-

'It has been used as a factory during the Covid-19 pandemic and as such needs repair. There are bumps on the surface, the carpet has separated in places and the overall condition of the Astro Turf is worn. The main strengths of this pitch are its size and the fact that it is indoor and therefore allows teams to train and compete all year round.'

- ❖ It's of interest to note that whilst Dungannon Hockey Club report that the quality of their home base pitch at Royal School Dungannon is *poor*, the school itself rates the pitch as *good*.

Generally speaking, the issue with sand-filled/dressed AstroTurf pitches is that they have traditionally been used by a range of sports as they were the only synthetic surfaces pre-3G and were seen as being multi-sport. Different sports put different pressures and stresses on AstroTurf carpets, especially when used for a mix of training and matches. This can lead to unevenness and separation of carpet sections. Maintenance regimes can help avoid these issues.

Conclusions

Adequacy of provision of pitches for hockey, given the Council operates only one AstroTurf pitch, relies on school facilities, both at Cookstown High School and Royal School Dungannon. Hockey is a minority sport within the District, however, the clubs aspire to considerable growth; Rainey Hockey Club (closely linked to Rainey Endowed School) emphasises its success at team and individual level, producing numerous Ulster and Ireland players over the years.

It's known that Rainey Endowed School is at an advanced stage in its application to Sport NI's Multi Facilities funding programme to develop sports facilities at the school, including an AstroTurf pitch. The local club make the point that two AstroTurf pitches are needed in Magherafelt in order to support current and projected levels of activity.

Cookstown Hockey Club put forward an idea to construct an air dome cover over its sand-dressed pitch at Cookstown High School. Dungannon Hockey Club aspire to grow player numbers and become a hockey 'centre of excellence' for the Mid Ulster area, however, consultation with the club reveals issues with their use of the AstroTurf pitch at Royal School Dungannon.

Lawn Bowls

Quantity and Quality

The Mid Ulster District has five lawn bowls clubs, two of which have men's and ladies' sections. The breakdown of players is as follows:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	3	132	2	35	172

The 172 players represent 1% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

There are four bowling greens in the district, three operated by the Council and the fourth green, a synthetic surface, operated by Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation. Here's a summary of the quality of the greens.

Bowling Greens - Quality				
Ownership	No of Greens	Good	Standard	Poor
Clubs	1	0	1	0
MUDC	3	1	2	0
Totals	4	1	3	0

One of the Council's greens – Magherafelt Bowling Green – is rated as *good*, the remaining greens are rated as *standard*. Natural turf bowling greens require a good deal of regular maintenance throughout the bowling season and restorative work out of season. In past decades Councils usually engaged a green keeper to look after a single green, however, most Councils now contract-out bowling green maintenance. Clubs feel this has resulted in a lesser standard of playing surface.

For lawn bowls, adequacy of provision is assessed by looking at training and competition time compared to the total hours available for club activities. The assessment for each of the district's four greens is as follows:-

	Supply against Demand (hrs)
Fairhill Bowling Green	+ 26
Magherafelt Bowling Green	+ 36
Drumcoo Bowling Green	+ 37
Fivemiletown Bowling Green	+ 52

From the quantitative analysis of *demand* for training and match green-time at each facility compared to *supply* as measured in available green-hours it is clear that supply comfortably meets demand. Most greens appear to be well used by members.

Conclusions

Lawn bowls, whilst involving a relatively small number of players across the five clubs, offers an important recreational and social activity for the older generation. The clubs and the governing body aspire to grow membership, not least amongst the younger generation. It isn't clear how this will be achieved, however, actions may result from the Irish Bowls Federation current survey of its membership that will assist clubs to re-group post-COVID-19.

There is an issue with the standard of greens maintenance. One option is to convert natural turf greens to synthetic greens; this would appear to be a growing trend in Ireland with an estimated half of all bowling greens now synthetic.

In 2022 Cookstown Bowling Club is set to take on presidency of NI Provincial Bowling Association and the Irish Bowling Association which will see the club hosting regional and national events. With this in mind the club see the need for improved facilities at their home ground, Fairhill Bowling Green in Cookstown.

Rugby

Quantity

There are three rugby clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	623	310	124	27	1,084

The 1,084 players represent 5% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports. As with gaelic games, rugby clubs typically train and play matches on club-owned pitches. Rugby is played through the autumn and winter months so careful maintenance regimes are required to ensure pitches hold up throughout the season.

Rugby Pitches used for Matches and Training			
Ownership	Full Grass / 3G	Youth Grass	Training
Clubs	6	0	0
Education	8	2	1 x 3G
MUDC	3	0	0
Total	17	2	1

An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for rugby matches is as following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+1 pitch	Supply just meeting demand
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The assessment does not account for training demand which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches; for example, Dungannon RFC report that club growth is being constrained by the lack of training facilities. All three rugby clubs have two grass pitches based at the clubs' grounds; pitch 1 is used for 11.6 hours on average each week whilst pitch 2 is used 6 hours on average each week. This suggests that pitch 1 is over-used and pitch 2 is heavily used (although Rainey Old Boys RFC report they don't use pitch 2 for training).

Quality

The Council's grass rugby pitch at Dungannon Park was inspected for quality and pitches in club and school ownership were rated by their owners.

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	4	0	2	0	6
Education	8	0	0	0	8
Council	1	0	0	0	1
Total	13	0	2	0	15

The two pitches rated *poor* are at Stevenson Park, home ground to Dungannon RFC.

Conclusions

Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just three clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area; a total of 68 teams are fielded across the three clubs involving 1084 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 151 players are female. Dungannon RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under representation of female players presents an opportunity for future inclusive programmes. Both Dungannon RFC and Clogher Valley RFC have female youth teams.

Dungannon RFC report they are in '*desperate need*' of a third pitch to cater for a growing club. Clogher Valley RFC has purchased 9 acres of land adjoining their site; the club states they are keen to explore:-

"a joint venture to build a multi-sport facility on the adjoining land with Mid Ulster District Council and CVRFC."

Ulster Rugby has approached the Council with regard to identifying a suitable regional hub for development squad training for the south region in order to reduce travelling time and costs for squad members. Aghnacloy College is viewed by Ulster Rugby as the optimum location, requiring only an indoor gym (pre-fabricated steel structure suggested) to complement the school's existing 3G floodlit pitch and changing accommodation. This presents the Council with an opportunity to consider enhancing the current partnership working with Aghnacloy College to deliver, along with Ulster Rugby, further community sporting facilities at the school.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

Quantity

There are 14 Council-owned MUGAs across the district. There is no ‘one size fits all’ in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council’s MUGAs are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities. The Council does not presently define a MUGAs primary identity and purpose. The opportunity here is to define what a MUGA is so that future developments have a clear purpose. Here’s a summary of the key features for the Council’s MUGAs.

MUGA	Dimension (metres)	Area m ²	L x W Ratio	Does MUGA meet Sport England m ² guidance for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA
Blackhill	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Brocagh	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Caledon	37 x 20	740	1.8 : 1	No
Clogher	30 x 20	600	1.5 : 1	No
Donaghmore	38 x 20	760	1.9 : 1	No
Gortnalowry	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Gortnasoar	30 x 14	420	2.1 : 1	No
Killymeron	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Loup	15 x 12	180	1.3 : 1	No
Meadow View Park	22 x 15	330	1.5 : 1	No
Milltown	28 x 15	420	1.9 : 1	No
Moygashel	40 x 24	960	1.7 : 1	Yes
Ratheen	44 x 25	1,100	1.8 : 1	Yes
Upperlands	28 x 14	392	2.0 : 1	No

Quality

In keeping with the Sport England non-technical assessment system for conventional pitches, the consultants have assessed each MUGA and classified condition, summarised as follows:-

Good	4 MUGA’s
Satisfactory	7 MUGA’s
Poor	3 MUGA’s

The three MUGAs rated as *poor* are Caledon, Clogher, Gortnasoar.

Conclusions

The design of the Council's MUGA's varies considerably. If it's necessary to identify each MUGA's key purpose (play or sport) then in accordance with Sport England guidance half belong to play, half to sport. For future developments it will be helpful to be clear about a MUGA's purpose and to design it accordingly. This would also assist with how a MUGA is marketed.

Fields in Trust promotes a benchmark guideline of 0.3 hectares of MUGA provision (alongside skateparks) per one thousand population. For the district's population of 146,427, the Fields in Trust's benchmark suggests there should be 44 hectares of MUGA provision, however, the measured actual provision, based on the consultant's inspections, is 0.7 hectares, clearly a significant shortfall.

Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

Introduction

These strategic recommendations and actions are informed by analysis of the research and consultation carried out in the audit of facilities and clubs. They cover the sports of association football, gaelic games, hockey, lawn bowls, rugby – as well as multi use games areas. Their focus is on potential developments at Council-owned sites that provide for the five sports, however, they also recognise and consider the significant contribution by the community and education sectors in the provision and operation of sports facilities; the Council owns 22% of all pitches in all ownerships in the district across the five sports. Table 1.9 summarises the costed 5 year plan:-

Table 1.9: Costed 5 Year Plan Summarised

	Year 1 23/24	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Comments
CA1 Capital Works	£645,000	£740,000	£850,000	£620,000	£315,000	£3,170,000	Pitch enhancement programme - capital improvement works
CA2 Capital Development (Feasibility & Funding)	£5,000	£205,000	£205,000	£205,000	£205,000	£825,000	Costs to support Capital scheme development or external delivery (funding programme will be for capital delivery or to support capital schemes to become investment ready).
CA3 Capital Development (Staffing)	£51,000	£54,000	£56,227	£57,914	£59,651	£278,792	Costs associated with the employment of a temporary Programme Coordinator (5 years) to oversee and project manage the delivery of the strategy.
RA1	£30,000	£76,000	£76,000	£76,000	£76,000	£334,000	Recurring revenue costs for Grounds

Recurrent Revenue Costs							Maintenance and Sports Participation/ SLAs.
EA1 External Funding Investment (if available and subject to eligibility criteria)	£1,480,000	£1,500,000	£0	£1,100,000	£900,000	£4,980,000	
	£2,211,000	£2,575,000	£1,187,227	£2,058,914	£1,555,651	£9,587,792	

The proposed value of the draft strategy totals £9.58m of which 51.9% is to be secured from external sources (if available and subject to eligibility criteria) and the remaining 48.1% to be financed through the Council.

Whilst costs are set against the actions it is emphasised that they are intended as a high level indication of cost based on industry knowledge and experience. In taking forward any of the actions a comprehensive analysis should be carried out, not only to estimate costs but also to assess affordability and sustainability as well as the community benefit that will be achieved.

Strategic Recommendations

Each strategic recommendation has partnership potential. The strategy should be thought of as an opportunity to promote and develop partnership working in order to deliver pitches and ancillary accommodation as efficiently and cost-effective as possible. At times the Council will be the lead organisation in project development whilst at other times it will have an enabling role. The key understanding for partnership working is that each project has its own dynamic, therefore, the nature of partnership will be project-specific. Local authorities increasingly have to consider how best to meet the needs and expectations of residents and partnership working gives this pitches strategy the best chance of successful delivery and sustainability. In this regard the increasing interest in the shared use of education sites makes a great deal of sense and should be explored and exploited to its fullest extent. The strategic recommendations are presented in four categories as follows:-

1. Facility Maintenance (Council-owned assets)

Pitches and ancillary accommodation must be maintained to ensure they are fit for purpose, able to be used to their full potential and support the development of greater levels of participation.

2. Development (including non-Council assets)

This category looks at how the Council can work in partnership with clubs and other stakeholder organisations, effectively supporting the delivery of community-based opportunities for participation in sport and physical recreation.

3. Facility Development (Council-owned assets)

Recommendations in this category look to ensure the Council's pitches are high quality and achieve best use of resources to maximise community benefit.

4. Staffing Resource

Pro-active management and programming will help to ensure efficient use of the pitches and deliver higher levels of participation.

Table 1.10 presents the strategic recommendations with accompanying commentary:-

Table 1.10: Strategic Recommendations by Category

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
1. FACILITY MAINTENANCE (Council-owned assets)					
1.	Consider remedial work to pitches that have playability issues. The 17 pitches that are either <i>poor</i> or <i>standard</i> should be linked to a 5 year priority investment list based on historical usage and analysis of bookings information.	The Council operates 26 (full size and youth size) grass association football pitches of which 4 are assessed as <i>poor</i> , 13 <i>standard</i> and 9 <i>good</i> in accordance with Sport England's Non-Technical Assessment methodology. All pitches should be brought up to <i>good</i> quality. Sub-standard pitches risk becoming under-used and eventually, unused, putting more pressure on the stock of good pitches.	None	The objective is to ensure all grass association football pitches are able to be played to their full potential according to demand, so reducing cancellations and the need to rearrange fixtures.	A budget cost per pitch is £40k although this will vary according to the extent of remedial works. Assume 10 of the 17 pitches presently rated <i>poor</i> or <i>standard</i> will be upgraded suggests an indicative cost of £400k.
2.	Council pitches used for gaelic games training and matches to be properly specified with gaelic games goal posts and ball stop nets to meet the needs of all gaelic games codes.	Gaelic games activity is compromised when played on pitches that are not properly specified for all codes. This may involve consideration of change of use, where gaelic games activity takes place on Council-owned association football pitches which are under-used or not used; examples are of Moneymore and Ballygawley.	Limited multi-sport potential. Potential for partnership working with local clubs.	Enhanced experience for players.	A set of gaelic games goal posts and ball stop nets is estimated at £60k.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
3.	Consult with sporting codes regarding the indoor AstroTurf pitch at Meadowbank Sports Arena. It's recognised that the AstroTurf indoor carpet is nearing the end of its life.	The carpet is in <i>poor</i> condition; consultation will identify options for a replacement carpet/pitch that will support the further development of sport in the district. The Meadowbank AstroTurf is the Council's only pitch that prioritises hockey. It's recognised that the AstroTurf indoor carpet is nearing the end of its life, not to be confused with the newly laid (September 2020) indoor 3G carpet section.	Good potential for multi-sport use and partnership working.	Continued development of Meadowbank as a multi-sports hub.	A new carpet is estimated to cost £200k.
4.	Provide enhanced accommodation at Fairhill Bowling Green and consider the need for development at Magherafelt Bowling Green pavilion.	Cookstown Bowling Club is set to hold the offices of NI Provincial Bowling Association President and Irish Bowling Association President in 2022. The facilities at Fairhill need upgraded to enable the club to host ' <i>major events and championships</i> '.	Partnership opportunity with the Irish Bowling Association and NI Provisional Bowling Association should be explored.	Higher profile for lawn bowls in the district and, potentially, new players attracted.	Temporary enhancements are estimated to cost in the region of £30k to £50k depending on scale and scope. A new pavilion is estimated to cost in the region of £300k to £400k.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
5.	Consider developing Dungannon Park grass pitch/pitches to better suit the needs of rugby. This should include floodlighting and line markings suitable for adult matches.	Rugby in Dungannon is presently constrained by limited and poor quality pitches (2 no.) at the local club.	The grass pitch at Dungannon Park is already used by other sports (eg, cricket) and this should continue. Partnership working with local clubs should be explored.	Better support for growing female participation and rugby generally.	Installing floodlighting is estimated to cost £100k.
6.	Consider upgrading MUGAs that fall short of an agreed minimum specification. All but two of the Council's 16 MUGAs have a tarmac/shale surface whilst eight are either not fenced or not fully fenced, pending outcome of study.	Whilst Sport England recognises open textured porous macadam as an acceptable surface for some types of MUGA, it is unforgiving when falls occur.	Larger MUGAs can be multi-sport.	Improved design is likely to result in increased use for formal and informal sport and recreation.	A cost estimate is wholly dependent on the scale and scope of the work. Assume a budget of £100k annually.
2. DEVELOPMENT (includes non-Council assets)					
7.	Definition of 'sports clubs'. Sports clubs come in all shapes and sizes. The recommendation is to establish a classification system for sports clubs which would recognise clubs' size, facilities, activity programmes, community impact, aspirations, etc regardless of sport. (This should greatly assist the Council when	With clubs in Mid Ulster ranging in size from around 20 players to around 500 players it would seem reasonable to classify them. The challenge in establishing and applying criteria is not under-estimated as some sports naturally have bigger clubs than other sports; a weighting system for criteria may help. Clubs achieving the highest classification are likely to be those clubs that deliver	All sports clubs would be classified, not just the five sports under consideration here. A level of partnership between the Council and the classified clubs would be specified, encouraging the clubs to recognise and assist in achieving the Council's corporate and community strategic objectives with Council support.	Strong and resilient clubs with realistic expectations of each partners' responsibilities.	There is no indicative cost association with this recommendation. However, a classification system could be linked to the Sports Capital Grant programme.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
	considering applications for support.)	the greatest community benefit and are well run.			
8.	Support the development of full size gaelic games grass pitches for recently established hurling/camogie clubs, underpinned by robust criteria that includes clear evidence of need and sustainability.	An Bhinn Bhorb GAC and Cuchulainn an Ghleanna GAC both use Council-owned association football pitches for matches and training; in order to develop senior teams, full size grass pitches are needed. Another two gaelic games clubs do not have their own facilities.	Some multi-sport potential although gaelic games grass pitches tend to be over-used.	Sustainable development of emerging clubs.	Potential to be considered under Council Discretionary Grant Scheme subject to eligibility and robust criteria that includes clear evidence of need and sustainability.
9.	Consider the facility and developmental aspirations of the district's three hockey clubs.	All three clubs aspire to considerable growth; Rainey HC highlights its success at representative levels; Cookstown HC has an idea to construct an air dome over its sand-dressed AstroTurf pitch; Dungannon HC aspires to become a hockey 'centre of excellence' for the Mid Ulster area.	Hockey can only be played on AstroTurf pitches, however, the sand filled/dressed versions of AstroTurf have come to be regarded as multi-sport. Therefore, there is multi-sport and partnership potential in hockey.	Higher profile for hockey in the district. Hockey clubs strengthened and more sustainable.	Potential to be considered under Council Discretionary Grant Scheme subject to eligibility and robust criteria that includes clear evidence of need and sustainability.
10.	Explore potential to support Clogher Valley RFCs proposal to develop a multi-sport facility, including working in partnership with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.	Clogher Valley's two pitches have restricted use during periods of inclement weather. The club reports 65% of its membership lives within Mid Ulster district. Collaboration is already underway with	Significant multi-sport and partnership potential.	The club can engage with other sports.	Potential to be considered under Council Discretionary Grant Scheme subject to eligibility and robust criteria that includes clear evidence of need and sustainability.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
		Fermanagh Omagh District Council in relation to Clogher Valley RFCs development proposals.			
11.	Liaise with the Education Authority regards possibilities for school-community links in the development and operation of sports facilities. Council to consider increasing the overall grant allocation and supporting future shared campus developments.	Sport NIs 'Your School Your Club' has influenced thinking on shared use of school sports facilities. The EAs 'Community in Schools' team reports that <i>'the days of school sports facilities not being shared facilities are gone.'</i> The Council has an established annual grants scheme for Schools Sports Facilities Access. In the main, this is to increase access to underutilised school sports synthetic pitch facilities for community use by minority sports that do not have their own provision in areas. The grant award is up to a maximum of £5,000 per club or school. Currently the overall funding attributed to this grant scheme is £10,000 and applications have been increasing year on year resulting in a recommendation approved in	Schools offer excellent multi-sport and partnership possibilities; there are many examples of community use of school sports facilities works well, however, it must be set up with great care.	The benefits to schools regarding community outreach are considerable as are benefits to the curriculum.	To enable community use of artificial turf pitches on school sites floodlighting is needed. Generally speaking the EA does not install floodlighting, however, they will work in partnership with local authorities on floodlighting to facilitate community use outside curriculum time. Installing floodlighting on a 90m x 60m ATP is estimated at £80k. Additional £10k per year added to annual grant scheme and review in Year 3 should further partnerships be developed with possible additional £10k per year for Year 4, 5 onwards.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
		the 2021 year for an overspend due to number of successful applications. The recommendation is for Council to consider increasing the overall grant allocation and to focus the criteria/eligibility further on schools which are making available their synthetic pitches for community sports club use. Consideration should be given to supporting future shared campus developments also.			
12.	Other Providers – whilst the Council is a major provider of sports pitches and facilities, sports clubs and others also provide and operate pitches and ancillary accommodation. The Council-led pitches strategy will not address all of the need arising from the audit either now or in the future; there remains a residual need which other providers can assist in addressing. The recommendation is to support clubs in their aspirations for	In consultation many clubs noted the need for facility developments and equipment improvements at club sites. Given the rural nature of parts of the district, many clubs serve communities where Council-supported opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity can be limited. A strategically focused grants programme can encourage partnership working and enhance VFM for the Council.	Multi-sport outcomes may be possible dependent on the nature of improvements, however the focus here is to achieve better facilities for club-based activity to encourage participation and growth.	The audit reveals there are nearly 21,000 people participating in the five sports audited. This represents around 14% of the district's population. In this regard, sports clubs can be viewed as physical activity delivery agents, achieving significant community benefit, not only amongst participants but also amongst the volunteers who coach players, maintain facilities and provide administrative support.	The Council's Sports Capital grant programme can award a maximum of £5,000 to sports clubs, to be matched 50% by the club. In the past three years 70 awards were made, an average of £3,400 for each award. The annual budget is presently £120k. Recommend to increase overall funding pot to £200k for sports capital applications and consider introduction of an increased tiered match funding allocation of up to £10k to support clubs' facility

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
	improved club-based facilities that result in enhanced community outcomes.				development aspirations. Also to include additional annual capital budget of £150k to support larger scale club development; robust eligibility and selection criteria to be developed.
3. FACILITY DEVELOPMENT (Council-owned assets)					
13.	Develop additional floodlit 3G training provision where need is evidenced, ie, Benburb, Fivemiletown, Moy subject to budget and/or funding from other sources.	The 232 association football teams in the district, a combination of male and female at all ages, require 281 one hour training slots each week during the playing season. Currently there are 247 one hour slots available on all surface types, an under-supply of 34 slots, or 12% of the total requirement. If AstroTurf facilities are removed from the calculation the under-supply increases to 56 slots, or 20% of the total requirement. Sport NIs COVID-19 capital intervention programme 'Building Back Better – Sports Facilities' attracted 700 applications of which around a quarter were for floodlighting to existing	The recommendation purposely identifies 3G surfaces as these have significantly greater multi-sport – mostly association football and gaelic games – carrying capacity for mid-week evening training than other ATP surfaces or natural grass. As a result of their multi-sport potential they also have partnership potential at some level. Based on survey work and analysis of need, priority areas include Benburb, Moy and Fivemiletown. Plans are presently being progressed for additional floodlit 3G at MUSA, Gortgonis and Railway Park (Dungannon) whilst a 3G pitch at Maghera Leisure Centre was completed recently. Where	Additional 3G training provision in areas of need will reduce the shortfall and better facilitate demand.	The development of a 100m x 60m floodlit and fenced 3G pitch is estimated at £550k, depending on site conditions. A 70m x 40m floodlit and fenced 3G pitch is estimated at £300k, again depending on site conditions.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
		pitches. Natural grass pitches are generally not suited to training and match use. The clubs' survey revealed 96% of association football clubs have either a favourable (65%) or neutral (31%) attitude to the use of 3G surfaces for training.	there is a need for competitive play for association football on 3G pitches (Intermediate standard and/or regional use by the IFA) line markings should only be for association football.		
14.	Ensure existing Council facilities for association football are able to be used to their full potential, supported by suitable and sufficient ancillary accommodation.	Changing accommodation should fully support matches. For example, (i) the new 3G pitch at Maghera Leisure Centre is not supported by pitch-specific changing accommodation; (ii) there are only two team changing rooms at King George V Playing Fields to support two grass pitches – four are needed. Similar examples are found at the changing accommodation at Castlecaulfield and Benburb. The development of an additional 3G pitch and 8 lane athletics track at MUSA will necessitate consideration of additional changing and ancillary accommodation.	Depending on the type of pitch supported by changing accommodation, there is potential for use by more than a single sport.	Pitches used to their full potential according to demand.	A 4 room changing and ancillary accommodation (bricks and mortar construction) is estimated at £500k.
15.	Consider the potential to improve grass pitches in line	A sand fibre natural grass pitch reportedly has a weekly	'Hybrid' grass pitches, with floodlighting, can be used for	Maximises the use of grass pitches and assists in	Converting a standard grass pitch to a hybrid/sand fibre

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
	with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .	capacity of between 10 and 20 hours of use, depending on maintenance regimes and weather conditions; examples are at Ulster University's Coleraine and Jordanstown campuses.	mid-week training as well as weekend matches. Good potential for multi-sport.	addressing the shortfall in provision for training use.	pitch requires floodlighting to realise its playing capacity.
16.	Consider the potential for a covered 3G full size gaelic games facility suitable for club training and matches, eg, at established sites such as MUSA and Meadowbank. Subject to detailed research on feasibility and the availability of funding.	Covered 3G gaelic games pitches are an emerging development that is now being promoted by the Ulster Council GAA; Connacht GAA opened a covered facility (air dome) at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in 2021.	A covered 3G full size pitch has considerable multi-sport and partnership potential.	Enhanced community profile for gaelic games; outreach to other sports and activities.	The total project cost is unknown. The cost to the Council will be dependent on partners' contributions and grants.
17.	Classify the Council's MUGAs' primary purpose – sport, recreation, play – based on size, design, etc.	There is no classification system presently. As future developments are considered there is a need to consult at a local level to determine the proposed MUGAs purpose and the type/design best suited to the agreed purpose, not least the surface specification.	MUGAs can be multi-sport depending on size and design and have the potential to complement nearby pitches.	A classification system will help to give a rationale to the future development of MUGAs.	Carry out a study in order to classify MUGAs with regard to their primary purpose and future development - £15k.
18.	A number of the Council's grass pitches are not in use or used only very occasionally. The recommendation is to	Several association football and gaelic games clubs have expressed interest in leasing	Some possibility of multi-sport working depending on local circumstances.	This would help the Council to fully utilise its pitches' estate and maximise community benefit. Council pitches no	Typical costs to maintain a grass pitch are in the range £6k to £8k annually. This recommendation would

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
	consider the future for these sites, including the option of offering them to local clubs on a lease arrangement where there is interest and/or downgrading their current maintenance arrangements to reflect informal kickabout areas – Aughnacloy, Beechway, Bellaghy, Boyne Row, Clady, Glenone, Knockloughrim, Mill Park, Moneymore Recreation Centre, Riverside.	Council pitches that appear to be surplus to requirements. Some association football pitches are either no longer on the booking system or are only used on a very occasional basis. It is assumed that these pitches served a need and demand for association football in past years but that this need and demand has diminished for a variety of reasons.		longer required for their original purpose can assist in addressing the present and future needs of sports clubs.	achieve a saving on revenue costs and/or allow budget to be re-prioritised for other service pressures/demands.
19.	Identify Council pitches sites regarding suitability for additional community use enhancements to include, for example, floodlit perimeter trim/exercise/walking/jogging paths and to support any potential active travel projects and linkages. Consider in line, for example, with MUDCs Outdoor Recreation 5 Year Strategy, MUDCs Play Park 5 Year Strategy, MUDCs Village Plans.	Increasingly, Councils look to offer recreational opportunities and activities to complement sport at their pitch sites. Given the considerable size of many of the Council's sites, the inclusion of meaningful fitness trails helps to involve people who otherwise may not be involved in structured sport.	This develops sports pitch sites as sporting and recreational hubs, offering a range of physical activities that are accessible to everyone.	More people engaged in physical activity more often; the potential of the Council's sites is fully realised.	Recommend to allocate annual budget of £75k in Year 2 and £75k in Year 4 for specified works.

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20.	Consider development options for pitches that are under-used. Consider in line, for example, with MUDC Outdoor Recreation Strategy, MUDC Playpark 5 Year Strategy and MUDC Village Plans. Under-used pitches include Aughnacloy, Boyne Row, Drumcoo Grass 2, Fairhill, Mill Park Tobermore, Meadowbank Grass.	Analysis of the Council's pitches booking records suggests six pitches are currently under-used. Options for their future use/development should be identified and assessed. Consideration of change of use options should take into account the Council's objectives within its Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Play Strategy and Village Plans. Options should also consider community asset transfer and/or leasing.	Depending on the options, there is good potential for multi-sport and recreational use and partnership working.	Under-used pitches are wasteful of the Council's resources and have the potential to better serve the community.	By way of example the development of a standard play facility and multi-use games area has a cost estimate in the range £300k - £500k.
21.	Consider a new approach to supporting lawn bowls including the provision of synthetic greens.	High maintenance costs (at least £10k per year per green) and low club membership numbers at the Council's greens point to the need to review how the Council continues to support participation whilst achieving best value from its assets. Synthetic greens greatly reduce the maintenance costs and may be seen as encouraging greater participation through increased playability.	With synthetic greens there is good potential for partnership arrangements between the Council and clubs operating on Council greens, including lease arrangements. A range of options for Council greens includes:- ▪ Hand over maintenance responsibility along with a small equipment grant to the resident club.	The intended impact is to increase membership within lawn bowls clubs across the district, so making them more sustainable in the long term. The bowling green at King George V Playing Fields in Fivemiletown, 'home' to Clogher Valley Bowling Federation is a synthetic green, laid in 2000.	The cost of converting an existing 6 rink natural grass bowling green to a synthetic surface is in the region of £120k to £130k. Maintenance of a synthetic green involves a weekly vacuum with a wet/dry machine and occasional spray to prevent moss; maintenance can be carried out by club members. A replacement synthetic carpet will cost around £35k - £40k. Maintenance of a natural grass

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion from grass to synthetic green(s). Transfer the asset to the resident club (with non-disposal conditions) along with a small equipment grant; the club manages and maintains the facility. <p>A separate business case should consider the cost effectiveness of these and other options.</p>		bowling green is in the region of £10k - £15k.
4. STAFFING RESOURCE					
22.	Implement a Pitches Management Programme	The audit process gives the Council a complete and detailed inventory of Council pitches and ancillary accommodation with associated booking records. How pitches 'perform' (no of bookings, cancellations, issues, etc) should be reviewed on a period basis. A Pitches Management Programme needs to be appropriately resourced with officer responsibility and administrative support.	A Pitches Management Programme has the potential to designate pitches according to need and, potentially where partnership opportunities arise.	Community benefit arising from the Council's stock of pitches will be maximised by pro-active management; under-used or unused pitches will not persist. Efficiency will be achieved.	Assume 20% of an administrator's time will be required to manage the programme, say, £6k annually.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
23.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for association football clubs which pro-actively work to involve more girls and women. Only 12% of association football clubs' players are female currently.	The district's association football clubs recognise that more girls are coming into the sport, however, with only 12% female players the gender balance is heavily weighted towards males. Clubs are a key stakeholder in involving girls and creating pathways for girls and women to play to their full potential.	Getting more girls and women involved in sport is the objective here. The Council will already have activity programming targeting girls and women; this recommendation looks to involve clubs as the Council's 'agents' in this work.	The gender balance in association football begins to be corrected.	Assume 10% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £4k annually.
24.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for lawn bowls clubs which pro-actively work to increase membership, especially targeting younger people and females.	Lawn bowls offers an important recreational and social activity, however, the age profile in the district's five lawn bowls clubs reflects the older generation; this is not sustainable. The Council's four bowling greens have spare capacity.	None.	More options for physical recreation for people of all ages.	Assume 5% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £2k annually.
25.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for gaelic games clubs to grow their community outreach activities.	Many gaelic games clubs aspire to engage the community in physical activity and recreation that is not necessarily sport-focussed.	There is a good potential to involve statutory agencies, eg, Health Promotion Agency and community sector organisations in helping to plan and deliver health and wellbeing activities in partnership with gaelic games clubs.	More people engaged in accessible physical activity programmes, so contributing to improved community wellbeing; stronger and more resilient clubs.	Assume 10% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £4k annually.

Item No	Description	Comment/Link to Audit	Multi-Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Costs Implications
26.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for rugby clubs as they look to involve more female and disabled players.	The IRFU Ulster Branch is proactive in encouraging clubs to promote the game beyond male players; presently the district's rugby clubs have a gender imbalance with only 14% female players.	There is potential for the Council to work closely with the governing body to help implement its several programmes for females and those with a disability in the district's rugby clubs.	This will offer more choice and opportunities to target groups that are presently under-represented in the sport of rugby.	Assume 10% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £4k annually.
27.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for hockey clubs to attract more male players.	Coaching resources are needed to enable the district's hockey clubs to offer hockey training to boys; local schools tend to focus on girl's hockey with the result just over a third of club players are male.	Stick skills are common to hockey and hurling/camogie, therefore, there is some potential for hockey and gaelic games to experience each other's sport. Good potential for hockey clubs to work in partnership with local schools.	A more balanced gender mix will strengthen the district's hockey clubs and provide opportunities for sports participation to boys who may not be interested in other team sports.	Assume 10% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £4k annually.
28.	Council's physical activity programming to consider support for lawn bowls clubs to improve their sustainability.	The district's lawn bowls clubs have only 20% female players, mostly in two of the five clubs, and only 3% junior players, these all in one club. Most of the district's bowlers are retirees, putting the sustainability of clubs at risk.	Lawn bowls historically is seen as an older person's activity and the multi-sport potential is limited. There could be partnership potential with boccia players – access permitting – and with organisations for retired people such as U3A.	Attracting new players to lawn bowls will breath new life into the sport, especially if younger players can be encouraged.	Assume 10% of an officer's time will be required at a cost of, say, £4k annually.

Costed 5 Year Action Plan

The following table presents a costed 5 year action plan. Whilst need has been evidenced, three projects are not considered in the costing as they are already covered within capital projects that are currently being progressed;

- (i) A 3G facility at Mid Ulster Sports Arena
- (ii) A 3G facility at Railway Park, Dungannon
- (iii) A 3G facility and changing accommodation at Gortgonis

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Overall Total Years 1 - 5: £334,000 £4,273,792 £4,980,000

Code/DEA Area	Totals:	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
		£30,000	£701,000	£1,480,000	£76,000	£999,000	£1,500,000	£76,000	£1,111,227	£0.00	£76,000	£882,914	£1,100,000	£76,000	£579,651	£900,000
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P1 Carntogher	Clady. Lease/disposal (fencing & site responsibilities) (Pitch Quality Score 11.4. Changing Facility Score: N/A)		£15,000													
P2 Moyola	Bellaghy. Facility maintenance/enhancements. Change of use (eg. small MUGA) Future option for lease (Pitch Quality Score 31.4. Changing Facility Score: N/A)		£50,000													
P3 Carntogher	Glenone. Lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 32.9. Changing Facility Score: N/A)															

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P4 Carntogher	Gulladuff - Change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement, small MUGA) (Pitch Quality Score 42.9. Changing Facility Score: N/A)					£50,000										
P5 Torrent	Henderson Park - Change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement, small MUGA) (Pitch Quality Score 42.9. Changing Facility Score: N/A)		£10,000													
P6 (a) Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy. (a) Change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement) Future option for lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 42.9. Changing Facility Score: N/A)															

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P6 (b) Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy (b) Consider enhancement to current partnership working/licence agreement to deliver further community sporting facilities/use. Partnership feasibility/options appraisal for future community sporting facility project		£50,000	£30,000					£10,000							
P7 Cookstown	Monrush - Change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement, boundary fencing, car park surfacing) (Pitch Quality Score 45.7. Changing Facility Score: N/A)		£50,000													
P8 (a) Dungannon	Drumcoo. (a) Pitch 3 enhancement: maintenance & equipment. (Pitch Quality Score 51.4. Changing Facility Score: 55.4)		£10,000													

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P8 (b) Dungannon	Drumcoo. (b) Feasibility/options appraisal for future community recreation/ sporting provision					£20,000										
P9 Moyola	Mill Park Tobermore. Lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 57.1. Changing Facility Score: 36.9)															
P10 (a) Clogher Valley	King George V Playing Fields. (a) Pitch 2 enhancement: maintenance & equipment. Changing pavilion works. (Pitch Quality Score 61.4. Changing Facility Score: 43.1)					£75,000										

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P10 (b) Clogher Valley	King George V Playing Fields. (b) Pitch 1 enhancement: maintenance & equipment (should opportunity for budget and/or funding from others not materialise for a conversion to a floodlit 3G). (Pitch Quality Score 77.1)														£40,000	
P11 Moyola	Boyne Row. Lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 67.1. Changing Facility Score: 40.0)															
P12 (a) Moyola	Cahore Road. (a) Remedial work to changing accommodation. Changing Facility Score: 70.8)		£15,000													
P12 (b) Moyola	Cahore Road. (b) Pitch 3 enhancement: maintenance & equipment.		£40,000													

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	(Pitch Quality Score 80.0)															
P13 (c) Moyola	Cahore Road. C) Pitch 2 enhancement: maintenance & equipment (should opportunity for budget and/or funding from others not materialise for a conversion to a floodlit 3G) (Pitch Quality Score 67.1)														£40,000	
P14 Moyola	Knockloughrim. Lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 68.6. Changing Facility Score: N/A)															

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P15 Moyola	Riverside, Castledawson. Change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement, pocket park, etc) (Pitch Quality Score 68.6. Changing Facility Score: N/A)		£50,000	£100,000												
P16 (a) Dungannon	Benburb. (a) Enhancement: maintenance & equipment (should opportunity for budget and/or funding from others not materialise for a conversion to a floodlit 3G) (Pitch Quality Score 71.4. Changing Facility Score: 55.4)														£40,000	
P16 (b) Dungannon	Benburb. (b) Land: Feasibility/options appraisal - explore possibility of further land acquisition to meet local multi use sporting demand (subject to funding)								£15,000							£400,000

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P17 Cookstown	Fairhill Recreation Grounds. Feasibility/options appraisal - Explore future change of use (eg. recreation & play enhancement, pocket park, etc) Future option for lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 72.9. Changing Facility Score: 40.0)					£20,000										£500,000
P18 (a) Clogher Valley	Ballygawley Playing Fields. (a) Pitch 1 enhancement: maintenance & equipment. Changing pavilion works. (Pitch Quality Score 78.6. Changing Facility Score: 50.8)					£40,000										

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P18 (b) Clogher Valley	Ballygawley Playing Fields. (b) Depending on further local consultation, installation of fencing, ball catchers and GAA goalposts					£60,000										
P19 Cookstown	Beechway. Enhancement: maintenance, equipment & fencing. Changing pavilion works. Future option for lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 78.6. Changing Facility Score: 43.1)								£60,000							
P20 Magherafelt	Moneymore Recreation Centre. Lease/disposal (Pitch Quality Score 80.0. Changing Facility Score: 81.5)															

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P21 Moyola	Tobermore Golf Centre. Enhancement: maintenance & equipment. Changing pavilion works. (Pitch Quality Score 82.9. Changing Facility Score: 35.4)								£75,000							
P22 Dungannon	Dungannon Park. Pitch 1. Enhancement to better suit the needs of rugby. This should include floodlighting and line markings suitable for adult matches.											£125,000				
P23 (a) Torrent	Newmills Playing Field - (a) Enhancement: maintenance & equipment. Changing pavilion works. (Pitch Quality Score 85.7. Changing Facility Score: 47.7)					£40,000										

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P23 (b) Torren	Newmills Playing Field (b) Future partnership working to deliver further community sporting facilities/use. Partnership feasibility/options appraisal for future community sporting facility project (eg. Floodlit ATP)								£15,000							
P24 Clogher Valley	Castlecaulfield. Upgrade: existing community building (address shared access to showers and accessible toilets for spectator use) Enhancement: (eg. pitch works, fencing, recreation & play enhancement, pocket park, car parking, trails, etc) (Pitch Quality Score 85.7. Changing Facility Score: 44.6).		£75,000	£600,000												

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P25 Cookstown	MUSA - recognition of current capital project re: 3G/running track - consider additional changing accommodation to support enhanced facilities/increased usage in addition to spectator seating								£15,000			£0	£600,000			
P26 Carntogher	Maghera Leisure Centre. Explore possibility of developing changing accommodation linked to new 3G pitch								£15,000				£500,000			
P27 (a) Magherafelt	Meadowbank Sports Arena. (a) Replacement: AstroTurf pitch (indoor) carpet		£200,000													
P27 (b) Magherafelt	Meadowbank Sports Arena. (b) Improvements/enhancements to the pavilion											£75,000				

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

		Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
		Totals:	£30,000	£701,000	£1,480,000	£76,000	£999,000	£1,500,000	£76,000	£1,111,227	£0.00	£76,000	£882,914	£1,100,000	£76,000	£579,651
Code/DEA Area	Area	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
		REVENUE Strategy Costs (council)	CAPITAL Strategy Costs (council)	Requires Budget/ Funding from others?	REVENUE Strategy Costs (council)	CAPITAL Strategy Costs (council)	Requires Budget/ Funding from others?	REVENUE Strategy Costs (council)	CAPITAL Strategy Costs (council)	Requires Budget/ Funding from others?	REVENUE Strategy Costs (council)	CAPITAL Strategy Costs (council)	Requires Budget/ Funding from others?	REVENUE Strategy Costs (council)	CAPITAL Strategy Costs (council)	Requires Budget/ Funding from others?
P28 (a) Cookstown	Bowls. Convert existing natural turf bowling greens to synthetic carpet (a) Fairhill					£130,000										
P28 (b) Magherafelt	Bowls. Convert existing natural turf bowling greens to synthetic carpet (b) Magherafelt								£130,000							
P28 (c) Dungannon	Bowls. Convert existing natural turf bowling greens to synthetic carpet (c) Drumcoo											£130,000				
P28 (d) Clogher Valley	Bowls. Replaced existing synthetic carpet (d) Fivemiletown														£40,000	
P29 Dungannon	Drumcoo Bowls. Install floodlighting and reinstate concrete edging											£60,000				
P30 Cookstown	Fairhill Bowls. Install/construct/ extend accommodation					£200,000										

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

		Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
		Totals:	£30,000	£701,000	£1,480,000	£76,000	£999,000	£1,500,000	£76,000	£1,111,227	£0.00	£76,000	£882,914	£1,100,000	£76,000	£579,651
Code/DEA Area	Area	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
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P31 Magherafelt	Magherafelt Bowls. Install floodlighting and upgrade the pavilion								£300,000							
P32 Cookstown	Hockey - Cookstown: explore SLA/partnership arrangement with education for continued community use provision				£5,000			£5,000			£5,000			£5,000		
P33 Dungannon	Hockey - Dungannon: explore SLA/partnership arrangement with education for continued community use provision				£5,000			£5,000			£5,000			£5,000		
P34 Various	Financial Assistance: School’s Sports Facilities Access fund £5k annually		£5,000			£5,000			£5,000			£5,000			£5,000	
P35 Various	Financial Assistance: Sports Capital fund at £50k annually to include assistance for					£50,000			£50,000			£50,000			£50,000	

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

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	feasibility studies/economic appraisals/equipment, etc (consider eligibility criteria)															
P36 Various	Financial Assistance: Capital Match Funding Scheme to be introduced to assist with groups larger projects/developments - £150,000 annually (consider eligibility criteria)					£150,000			£150,000			£150,000			£150,000	
P37 Various	Feasibility study for an existing multi use 3G at an established site (ie. MUSA and/or Meadowbank) to be converted into a covered 3G pitch											£15,000				
P38 Various	Establish a classification system for sports clubs No cost															

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

		Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
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P39 Various	Identify Council pitch sites suitable for additional community use enhancements for example, floodlit perimeter trim/exercise/ walking/jogging paths and to support any potential active travel projects and linkages															
P40 (a) Dungannon	Additional - Develop floodlit 3G community use training provision where need has been evidenced & subject to funding - (a) Benburb						£750,000									

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
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P40 (b) Clogher Valley	Additional - Develop floodlit 3G community use training provision where need has been evidenced & subject to funding - (b) Fivemiletown (explore existing partnership arrangements and King George Playing Fields)						£750,000									
P40 (c) Dungannon	Additional - Develop floodlit 3G community use training provision where need has been evidenced & subject to funding - C) Moy (subject to available site)			£750,000												
P41 Various	Devise and implement a Pitches Management Programme - subject to agreement as part of annual rates estimates process				£6,000			£6,000			£6,000			£6,000		

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

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P42 Various	Ensure Council pitches used for gaelic games are fully specified and supported with relevant equipment - ie. Gaelic games goals, ball stops, etc					£60,000			£60,000			£60,000				
P43 Various	Carry out a study in order to classify MUGAs with regard to their primary purpose and future development					£15,000										
P44 (a) Various	Development of MUGAs/small kickabout areas and as a minimum bring up to good rating (a) Caledon, Clogher, Millburn								£125,000							
P44 (b) Various	Development of MUGAs/small kickabout areas and as a minimum bring up to good rating (b) Gortnasoar, Blackhill, Broacagh, Donaghmore, Gortalowry											£125,000				

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

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P44 (c) Various	Development of MUGAs/small kickabout areas and as a minimum bring up to good rating (c) Killymerron, Meadowview, Moneymore Recreation Centre, Moygashel														£125,000	
P45 Clogher Valley	Explore potential to support development of multi-sport facility, working in partnership with local clubs, governing bodies and other key stakeholders		£50,000													
P46 Various	Resourcing - Additional Officer resource required for strategy delivery and programme management objectives as identified in the strategic recommendations		£51,000			£54,000			£56,227			£57,914			£59,651	

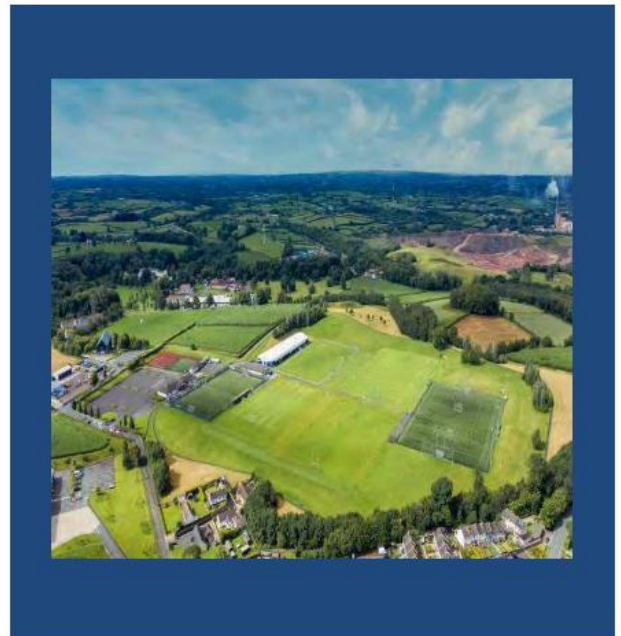
Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 1 of 2 – Executive Summary, Strategic Recommendations and Costed Actions

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P47 Various	Resourcing - Grounds Maintenance additional revenue budget required for strategy delivery and ongoing attainment of delivery objectives as identified in the strategic recommendations	£30,000			£60,000			£60,000			£60,000			£60,000		
P48 Various	Annual programme variations/ contingencies		£30,000			£30,000			£30,000			£30,000			£30,000	



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Final Draft
Development Committee
Consideration, February 2023



Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy

Part 2 of 2: Audit Report

April 2022



This project has been supported by The Executive Office funded through its District Council Good Relations Program in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council.



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Appendices

1. Focus Groups' Record
2. Facilities Inspections
3. Village Plans

1. Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1** Mid Ulster District Council has commissioned a Condition Survey of Council pitches and Council Pitches Strategy. The Council set out a two-part study to look at current pitch and associated changing provision; the first part is a condition survey and audit of all Council pitches and recreational spaces and the second part is to make recommendations for a Council pitches/spaces strategy. The objective of the study is to *‘create a Strategy that could be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the district in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision.’* The facilities under consideration are for the sports of association football, gaelic games, hockey, lawn bowls, rugby.
- 1.2** The methodology for the study is based on Sport England’s Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model. This model is used to look at facilities for association football, gaelic games, hockey and rugby; the principles of the model are also applied to lawn bowls and multi use games areas. GIS mapping is used to look at the distribution of facilities.
- 1.3** From the outset an emphasis was placed on getting an accurate picture of activity in each sport; this was achieved by obtaining a high response to a survey of the clubs in each sport across the district, as follows:-

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Survey Returns	% Returns
Association Football	31	29	94%
Gaelic Games	47	47	100%
Hockey	3	3	100%
Lawn Bowls	5	5	100%
Rugby	3	3	100%

- 1.4** Post-primary schools were also surveyed, with 18 returns received from the 20 schools in the district.

Pitches’ Profile and Quality

- 1.5** The quality of the Council-owned pitches and changing facilities was scored using a Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment produced by Sport England. The aim of the

assessment is to rate the pitches and changing facilities based on several factors. For the pitches, the assessment is based on:

- A visual inspection of the pitch including grass cover, slope of pitch (gradient and cross-fall); evenness of the ground, length of grass, problem areas: evidence of dog fouling/ litter/ glass/ vehicle tracks/ unofficial use/ damage to the surface and evidence of poor drainage.
- Maintenance of the pitch including grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilisation and weed killing.
- This information is collated, and a formula applied resulting in a percentage score and a rating.

Pitch Score %	Rating
80-100	Good
50-79	Standard
0-49	Poor

The changing facilities were also rated using the Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment. The assessment is based on:

- The existence of a changing facility, clubhouse and kitchen, exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, official's changing area, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- Are DDA compliant facilities provided?
- Boundary fence and parking

Changing Facilities Score %	Rating
65-100	Good
35-64	Standard
0-34	Poor

The results of the quality assessments are outlined below. The scores provide a starting point when considering the condition of each pitch and changing facility.

Table 1.1: Pitches' Profile Summary

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Aughnacloy	Grass	Association Football	91 x 60	Full	42.9	Poor	-	-
Ballygawley Playing Fields 1	Grass	Association Football	92 x 62	Full	78.6	Standard	50.8	Standard
Ballygawley Playing Fields 2	Grass	Gaelic Games	126 x 72	Training	LEASED	LEASED		
Ballygawley Playing Fields 3	Small 3G	Multi Sport	40 x 20	n/a	-	-		
Beechway 1	Grass	Association Football	95 x 56	Full	78.6	Standard	43.1	Standard
Beechway 2	Shale	Multi Sport	74 x 44	n/a	-	-		
Bellaghy	Grass	Association Football	90 x 45	Full	31.4	Poor	-	-
Benburb 1	Grass	Association Football	90 x 55	Full	71.4	Standard	55.4	Standard
Benburb 2	Small 3G	Multi Sport	40 x 20	n/a	-	-		
Boyne Row	Grass	Association Football	94 x 62	Full	67.1	Standard	40	Standard
Cahore Road 1	Grass	Gaelic Games	133 x 82	Full	91.4	Good	70.8	Good
Cahore Road 2	Grass	Association Football	96 x 64	Full	67.1	Standard		
Cahore Road 3	Grass	Association Football	100 x 61	Full	80	Good		
Castlecaulfield Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	100 x 63	Full	85.7	Good	44.6	Standard
Clady	Grass	Gaelic Games	94 x 66	Training	11.4	Poor	-	-
Drumcoo 1	3G	Multi Sport	90 x 54	n/a	-	-	52.3	Standard
Drumcoo 2	Grass	Association Football	83 x 58	Youth	85.7	Good		
Drumcoo 3	Grass	Association Football	75 x 60	Under 12s	51.4	Standard	55.4	Standard
Drumcoo 4	Grass	Association Football	100 x 44	Full	81.4	Good		

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Drumcoo Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Good	n/a	Good
Dungannon Park 1	Grass	Rugby	120 x 68	Full	84.3	Good	70.8	Good
Dungannon Park 2	Grass	Association Football	102 x 58	Full	87.1	Good		
Fairhill Recreation Grounds 1	Grass	Association Football	94 x 60	Full	72.9	Standard	40	Standard
Fairhill Recreation Grounds 2	Grass	Association Football	94 x 56	Full	72.9	Standard	55.4	Standard
Fairhill Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Satisfactory	n/a	Standard
Glenone, Portglenone	Grass	Association Football	90 x 60	Full	32.9	Poor	-	-
Gortgonis Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	105 x 59	Full	84.3	Good	58.5	Standard
Gulladuff	Grass	Association Football	28 x 21	Small Kick-about	42.9	Poor	-	-
Henderson Park	Grass	Association Football	31 x 23	Small Kick-about	42.9	Poor	-	-
King George V 1	Grass	Association Football	91 x 55	Full	77.1	Standard	43.1	Standard
King George V 2	Grass	Association Football	90 x 50	Full	61.4	Standard		
King George V Bowling Green	Synthetic	Lawn Bowls	25 x 37	5 rinks	n/a	Satisfactory	n/a	Standard
Knockloughrim	Grass	Association Football	110 x 52	Full	68.6	Standard	-	-
Maghera Leisure Centre 1	3G	Multi Sport	115 x 65	n/a	-	-	70.8	Good
Maghera Leisure Centre 2	Small 3G	Multi Sport	30 x 27	n/a	-	-		

Mid Ulster District Council
Pitches Condition Survey & Strategy
Part 2 of 2 – Audit Report



Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Magherafelt Bowling Green	Grass	Lawn Bowls	37 x 37	6 rinks	n/a	Good	n/a	Good
Meadowbank 1	Indoor Astro	Hockey/ Multi Sport	100 x 65	n/a	-	-	76.9	Good
Meadowbank 2	Grass	Association Football	98 x 56	Full	94.3	Good	52.3	Standard
Meadowbank 3	3G	Multi Sport	145 x 88 (Gaelic) 100 x 68 (Rugby) 90 x 66 (A. Football 1) 90 x 60.5 (A. Football 2)	Full Full Full Full	-	-		
Meadowbank 4	Small Astro	Multi Sport	34 x 37	n/a	-	-		
Meadowbank 5-8	Small indoor 3G	Multi Sport	30 x 16	n/a	-	-		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 1	Grass	Association Football	100 x 55	Full	88.6	Good	76.9	Good
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 2	Grass	Gaelic Games	138 x 86	Full	88.6	Good	76.9	Good
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 3	3G	Multi Sport	130 x 80 (Gaelic) 120 x 70 (Rugby)	Full Full	-	-		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 4	Grass	Gaelic Games	120 x 76	Training	91.4	Good		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 5	Grass	Association Football	101 X 64	Full	82.9	Good		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 6	3G	Association Football	93 x 55	Full	-	-	-	-

Site	Surface	Sport	Length x width metres	Pitch Size	Pitch Quality Score %	Pitch Rating	Changing Facility Quality Score %	Changing Facility Rating
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 7	Small 3G	Multi Sport	34 x 29	n/a	-	-	-	-
Mid Ulster Sports Arena 8	Indoor 3G	Multi Sport	57 x 22	n/a	-	-	-	-
Mill Park, Tobermore	Grass	Association Football	97 x 68	Full	57.1	Standard	36.9	Standard
Millburn, Cookstown	Small Shale	Association Football	25 x 18	Small Kick-about	-	-	-	-
Moneymore Recreation Centre	Grass	Association Football	95 x 47	Full	80	Good	81.5	Good
Monrush 1	Small Grass	Association Football	38 x 20	Small Kick-about	45.7	Poor	-	-
Monrush 2	Shale	Multi Sport	42 x 30	n/a	-	-	-	-
New Mills Playing Field	Grass	Association Football	91 x 53	Full	85.7	Good	47.7	Standard
Riverside, Castledawson	Grass	Association Football	91 x 60	Full	68.6	Standard	-	-
Tobermore Golf Centre	Grass	Association Football	99 x 52	Full	82.9	Good	35.4	Standard

Multi Use Games Areas

- 1.6** Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are developed by local authorities to supplement play areas and complement training facilities for outdoor team sports such as association football and hockey. Depending on markings and equipment they may also facilitate basketball. There is no 'one size fits all' in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council's MUGA's are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are also capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities. MUGAs tend to fall between two stools; on the one hand they are viewed primarily as play facilities, on the other hand they are viewed primarily as sports facilities. There are 16 MUGAs in the Mid Ulster District.

Table 1.2: MUGAs Profile Summary

Site	Size	Surface	Fixed Equipment	Surface Condition
Blackhill Play Area, Cookstown	20 x12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Boyne Row, Castledawson	-	-	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	New
Brocagh	18 x 10m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Caledon	37 x20m	Tarmac with light shale covering	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Clogher	30 x 20m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Donaghmore	38 x 20m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Gortgonis	40 x 20m	Astro	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Gortalowry, Cookstown	20 x 12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Gortnasoar, Dungannon	30 x 14m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Poor
Killymerron, Dungannon	18 x 10m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Meadowview Park, Dungannon	22 x 15m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Milltown, Dungannon	28 x 15m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good
Moneymore Recreation Centre	60 x 30m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 2 sets basketball hoops	Satisfactory
Monrush, Cookstown	20 x 12m	Tarmac	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good
Moygashel, Dungannon	40 x 24m	Tarmac	Small fixed association football goals	Satisfactory
Upperlands	28 x 14m	Astro	Inbuilt association football goals 1 set basketball hoops	Good

Clubs, Teams, Participants, Pitches

- 1.7** The survey of sports clubs presented an opportunity to obtain a profile of participation across the five sports in terms of numbers of clubs, teams and players, as follows:-

Table 1.3: Clubs and Teams

Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Totals	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	% of Total Teams
Association Football	31	201	25	31	6	232	18
Gaelic games	47	514	64	393	80	907	70
Hockey ¹	4	21	2	60	12	81	6
Lawn Bowls ²	5	5	1	2	1	7	1
Rugby	3	63	8	5	1	68	5
Totals	90	804	100%	491	100%	1,295	100%

- 1.8** A summary of players reveals there are 13,555 male players and 7,278 female players across the five sports, giving a total of 20,833 players in these sports within the club environment. The breakdown is as follows:-

Table 1.4: Players by Sport

Sport	Male		Female		Totals	
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Players	% of Total Players
Association Football	2,464	1,142	414	71	4,091	20
Gaelic games	5,841	2,732	4,312	1,463	14,348	69
Hockey	158	150	610	190	1,108	5
Lawn Bowls	3	132	2	35	172	1
Rugby	623	310	124	27	1,084	5
Totals	9,089	4,466	5,462	1,786	20,803	100%

- 1.9** It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all pitches for the five sports under consideration – multi use games areas are addressed separately. The following summary shows there are 212 ‘pitches’ across the five sports.

¹ Rainey Endowed School is included here as a hockey ‘club’ as it plays most of its hockey at Meadowbank Arena in Magherafelt.

² Magherafelt Bowling Club and Dungannon Bowling Club each have Men’s and Ladies sections but are viewed as single clubs.

Table 1.5: Summary of All Pitches

Sport	Grass		ATP		Shale		Totals
	Full	Small	Full	Small	Full	Small	
Association Football	41	4	9	3	-	-	57
Gaelic Games	74	37	3	8	-	-	122
Hockey	-	-	6	-	2	4	12
Lawn Bowls	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Rugby	15	2	-	-	-	-	17
Totals	133	43	19	11	2	4	212

1.10 Table 1.6 presents a breakdown of the ownership of pitches by sport, type and ownership.

Table 1.6: Ownership of Pitches – All Sizes

Ownership	Grass				ATPs							Totals
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Lawn Bowls	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Lawn Bowls	Rugby	Hockey			
									Water-Based	Astro	Shale	
Club/Community	9	88	0	6	3	9	1	0	1	0	0	117
Education	7	15	0	10	4	0	0	0	0	4	6	46
Mid Ulster DC	27	5	3	1	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	43
Leased from Mid Ulster DC	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	45	111	3	17	12	11	1	0	1	5	6	212

Further breakdown of the supply of pitches is presented in each sport-specific section. In presenting the above summary tables it's useful to note:-

- ❖ Pitches are counted within the sport that best suits their size. So, for example, the Council's full-size multi sports pitches at Meadowbank and Mid Ulster Sports Arena are counted in gaelic games.
- ❖ AstroTurf pitches are all allocated to hockey as hockey is their primary purpose, however, it's recognised they are also used by other sports for training and recreational play.

Adequacy of Provision

1.11 So how is adequacy of provision assessed? There are two assessment models relevant to this project.

- ❖ ‘Playing Pitch Model’ – Sport England
- ❖ ‘Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard’ – Fields in Trust

Sport NI’s *‘Bridging the Gap: Active Places Research Report’* (2009 with 2014 update) uses Fields in Trust guidance to assess the provision of grass and artificial turf pitches in each local authority. Field in Trust’s guidance resonates with national planning policy, in particular *‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the promotion of its economic, social and environmental roles and the seeking of positive improvements in the quality of the environment and people’s quality of life.’* It further states that *‘quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision; rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances.’* The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) effectively examines local circumstances by assessing actual demand through consultation and survey work with local sports clubs, schools and local community groups. The result is an accurate assessment of adequacy of provision that is locally specific, enabling development of the most beneficial investment strategy.

Sport England

1.12 Sport England’s *Playing Pitch Model* (PPM) has been applied to the assessment of provision relating to association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey; PPM principles been applied in the assessment of adequacy of provision for lawn bowls. The assessment process matches the number of pitches available (supply) against the demand for competitive play. Three scenarios of supply are considered in accordance with the PPM as follows:-

Reference	Description
Scenario 1	All pitches
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).
Scenario 3	Council pitches only

1.13 Provision across the district for each of association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey is summarised for each scenario, where a *positive* result indicates supply exceeds demand and a *negative* result indicates supply fails to meet demand. It is

suggested that in each case Scenario 2 is the most realistic picture of provision across these sports given that it includes all pitches that are available for matches, regardless of ownership. For lawn bowls the PPM principles have been applied in an assessment of provision.

- 1.14** A summary of adequacy of provision using the Sport England PPM model looks like this:-

Table 1.7: Playing Pitch Model – Adequacy of Provision (Scenario 2)	
Sport	Adequacy of Provision
Association Football	+ 9 pitches
Gaelic Games	- 10 pitches
Hockey	+ 1 pitch
Lawn Bowls	Surplus hours across all sites
Rugby	+ 1 pitch

Fields in Trust

- 1.15** Fields in Trust's³ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' is used to highlight adequacy of provision for formal space for association football, rugby, hockey, lawn bowls and multi use games areas. The following table compares Fields in Trust's guidance for level of provision of open space based on the district's population of 146,427 against the current stock of facilities that are available for community use for matches. For the purposes of this comparison the stock of gaelic games pitches is included in the calculations given that gaelic games is integral to the district's sporting culture

Table 1.8: Comparison of Fields in Trust with Current Stock

Type of Open Space (FiT categories)	FiT Guidance (ha per 1,000 population)	Level of provision required to meet FiT Guidance (ha)	Current Stock (ha)	Difference (ha)	Number of Pitches ⁴
Playing pitches (association football, gaelic games, hockey, rugby)	1.20	175.71	115.33	-60.38	-60 pitches
All outdoor sports	1.60	234.28	120.33	-113.95	n/a

³ The National Playing Fields Association is re-named Fields in Trust.

⁴ Sport NI estimates an average pitch size to be 2.5 acres (association football, gaelic games, rugby); 1 acre = 0.40468 hectares. In reality a full size gaelic games pitch (145mx90m) is 3.22 acres, or 1.30 hectares.

(all above plus lawn bowls, athletics, tennis)					
Other outdoor provision (MUGA's, skateboard parks)	0.30	43.93	0.67	-43.26	n/a

- 1.16** Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap' (2014 update) report assessed adequacy of provision (grass and artificial turf pitches combined) for the Mid Ulster district to be an over-supply of 6 pitches when artificial turf pitches in the education sector are included but education's grass pitches are excluded.

Association Football

Quantity

- 1.17** There are 31 association football clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	2,464	1,142	414	71	4,091

The 4,091 players represent 20% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

- 1.18** There is a total of 47 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and small sided games matches and 10 full size 3G pitches. In addition there are a number of pitches of various sizes used for training.

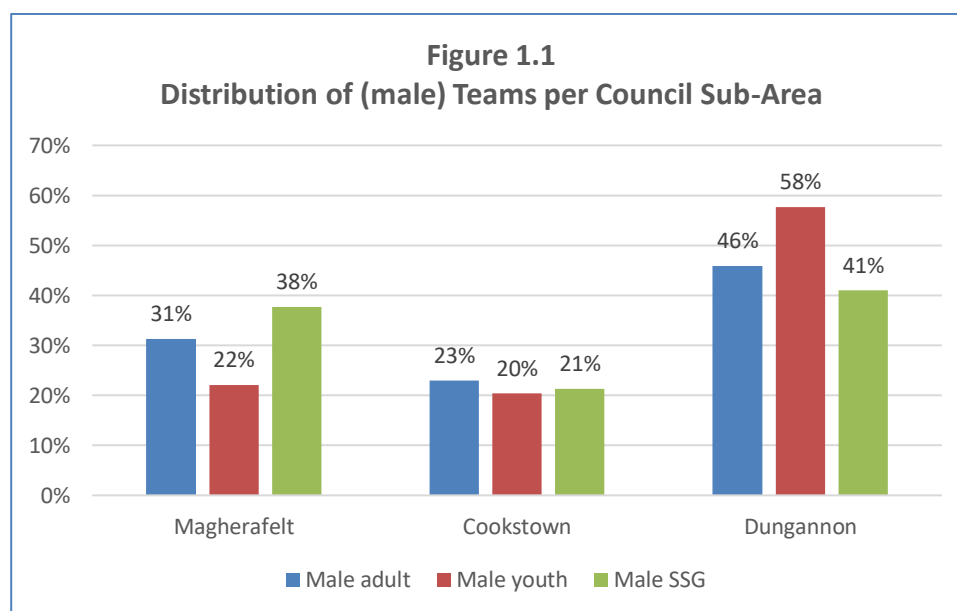
Ownership	Full & SSG Match Pitches			Pitches used for training – varying sizes		
	Grass Full	3G Full	SSG Grass + 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G
Clubs/Community	9	1	2 x 3G	3	0	4
Education	5	4	3 x grass	3	1	5
MUDC	25	4	1 x grass	16	1	4
Leased from MUDC	2	1	0	2	0	1
Total	41	10	6	26	2	14

- 1.19** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for association football matches reveals the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+9 pitches	Supply Surplus
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The assessment suggests that, for adult matches on a Saturday afternoon there is a surplus of pitches. This picture is of course impacted by a number of variables including pitch condition, cancellations and changing accommodation being available. A 'buffer' of pitches is needed to cover maintenance closures, resting pitches, events/competitions and increased demand in the future.

- 1.20** It was deemed of interest to assess *adequacy of provision* in each of three sub-areas in the district; Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon. Figure 1.1 shows the Dungannon sub-area as having the greater percentage of teams across each of three male age categories.



Adequacy of provision for adult and youth football at peak demand time – Saturday afternoons – across these three sub-areas is:-

Magherafelt	+5 pitches
Cookstown	+3 pitches
Dungannon	+2 pitches

- 1.21** Looking at *adequacy of provision* of facilities for training for association football, it has been calculated (see Section 6) that the 232 association football teams in the district (a combination of male and female at all ages) require 247 one hour training slots each week; currently there are 247 slots available, an under-supply of 36 slots or 12% of the total requirement. If AstroTurf facilities are removed from the calculation the under-supply increases to 56 slots. AstroTurf is rapidly becoming less

desirable as a training surface for any ‘large ball’ sport due to the growth in availability of 3G facilities; in the survey of clubs just 15% of clubs responded ‘favourable’ when asked about AstroTurf surfaces for training. It’s also noted that this analysis of training requirements does not take into account any training needs required for elite pathway development squads, social football programmes or five-a-side recreational activity.

Quality

- 1.22** For association football all Council pitches and ancillary accommodation were inspected and given a quality rating in accordance with Sport England’s non-technical inspection system; facilities in other ownerships were assessed through the club and schools survey.

Pitches

Summary of Quality Rating for Full Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total No of Pitches
Clubs/Community	7	2	0	3	12
Education	6	2	2	2	12
MUDC	11	13	2	4	30
Leased from MUDC	2	0	0	1	3
Total	26	17	4	10	57

The four Council pitches rated *poor* are at Bellaghy, Clady, Portglenone, Monrush1. The clubs were asked their opinion on the overall quality of their ‘home’ pitch.

Overall Quality of your Home Pitch		
Answer Option	No of Responses	% of clubs
Good	15	48
Standard	9	29
Poor	7	23
Total	31	100%

Built Facilities

- 1.23** The Council’s changing facilities and other on-site accommodation were also rated. The ratings are based on:-

- ❖ The existence of a changing facility, clubhouse and kitchen, exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, official's changing accommodation, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- ❖ Are DDA-compliant facilities provided?
- ❖ Boundary fence and parking.

Here's the results:-

Good	7 sites
Standard	13 sites
Poor	None

Conclusions

1.24 Association football relies on the Councils' provision of pitches and changing accommodation to a much greater extent than the other 'large ball' sports. Summary points are made:-

- ❖ Thinking about membership in the future, the clubs mostly aspire to membership growth with some clubs citing more girls coming into the sport and one club placing a '*greater emphasis on girl's football*'. At 88% of club players the gender balance is heavily weighted towards males. This points to the continuing need for sports development programmes, both Council and club based, to target girls and for facility developments to consider the needs of females, especially in relation to changing accommodation.
- ❖ Two thirds of association football clubs in the district have a positive attitude to 3G surfaces for training with a further 31% adopting a neutral position. Thinking about matches, 54% of clubs are favourably inclined to the use of 3G with 31% taking a neutral stance. These results are slightly more positive than the results coming from the same survey in a neighbouring Council area carried out in late 2017. This could suggest that association football clubs in Mid Ulster are catching up with governing body thinking on the use of 3G, perhaps encouraged also by the increasing number of professional clubs turning to 3G or a hybrid surface.
- ❖ Whilst 'club' is widely used as a group identifier within association football at a local level, it begs the question – what constitutes a club? Of the 18 clubs fielding *only* adult teams, only 8 have two teams and none have more than two teams. This question becomes important when the Council is considering applications for funding support. It's suggested that the Council establishes criteria for recognising a 'club' across all sports.

Gaelic Games

Quantity

- 1.25** There are 47 gaelic games clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	5,841	2,732	4,312	1,463	14,348

The 14,348 players represent 69% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

- 1.26** Gaelic games clubs generally train and play matches at their club base, mostly on one or two grass pitches. With a playing season that spans the spring and summer months and given that clubs in Mid Ulster average 300 players, clubs' pitches are often used most weekday evenings and weekends. This can and does put pressure on pitch maintenance.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches (full) and training					
Ownership	Full Grass	Full 3G	Training Grass	Training 3G	AstroTurf
Clubs/County Board	65	1 ⁵	23	6	0
Education	5	0	10	4	1
MUDC	2	2	3	8 ⁶	1
Leased from MUDC	2	0	1	1	0
Total	74	3	37	19	2

- 1.27** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for gaelic games matches and training reveals the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	-10 pitches	Supply Shortfall
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⁵ Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre.

⁶ Includes the majority of MUDC's 3G pitches excludes full size GAA 3G pitches, so for example includes Maghera LC 3G, Drumcoo 3G, Benburb 3G etc and Backrow 3G – details of these pitches are included in the Association Football section of this report.

The assessment accounts for training and matches as both take place on the same pitch. The assessment here presented suggests that demand outstrips supply, further evidenced in the survey and consultation responses wherein some clubs note the need for additional facilities.

- 1.28** Looking at *adequacy of provision* in each of three sub-areas, Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon, whilst the 47 clubs are spread evenly across the three sub-areas, clubs in the Magherafelt area have the greater percentage of teams:-

Distribution of Gaelic Games Teams by Sub-Area			
Sub Area	% Adult Teams	% Youth Teams	% Go Games Teams
Magherafelt	43	42	45
Cookstown	31	28	28
Dungannon	26	30	27
Totals	100	100	100

Adequacy of provision for adult and youth gaelic games for matches and training on grass pitches across these three sub-areas is:-

Magherafelt	-6.5 pitches
Cookstown	+2.5 pitches
Dungannon	-6.5 pitches

- 1.29** The online survey asked gaelic games clubs to record the number of hours their pitches are used for training and matches each week. The average weekly pitch use across all clubs is 24 hours per week for a first pitch, and for those clubs with two pitches, 18 hours per week for the second pitch. Given the carrying capacity of a grass pitch is two matches per week for 30 weeks annually (as recommended by Sport England), most gaelic games pitches are heavily over-used. Whilst this is mitigated to some degree by the gaelic games season and careful in-club pitch maintenance, over-use of club-based grass pitches continues to be a challenge for gaelic games clubs.

Quality

- 1.30** The Council's gaelic games pitches were inspected and given a quality rating; pitches in other ownerships were rated for quality by the pitch owners, clubs and schools.

Summary of Quality Rating for Gaelic Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	46	11	3	8	68
Education	3	1	0	1	5
MUDC	2	0	0	2	4
Total	51	12	3	11	77

The three pitches rated *poor* are at Dungannon GAC, Errigal Ciaran GAC, Desertmartin GAC. Two thirds of the pitches are rated as *good*, that is, 51 of the total of 77 pitches. Of the 11 pitches where quality is unknown, 6 are located at Tyrone's Garvaghy GAA complex.

Conclusions

- 1.31** Gaelic games clubs are in the same way as rugby clubs, generally self-contained, having a pitch/pitches and indoor accommodation at their club grounds. As gaelic games clubs have grown in recent decades, with more players including significantly more participation by females, club-based facilities have been put under pressure, especially pitches, which tend to be used for training activity and matches, but also indoor accommodation. Like many sports, gaelic games is constantly evolving, with strategic direction from its governing body, and covered synthetic surfaces for training and youth matches are beginning to appear on clubs' wish lists. The tendency is for gaelic games clubs to focus on developing facilities at club grounds, however, in the Mid Ulster district the Council's provision of multi-sport ATPs, full size for gaelic games, complements club-based facilities in those parts of the district where they can be readily accessed. It's also noted that some gaelic games clubs are based in parts of the district where they act as the main community resource.
- 1.32** Gaelic games clubs in the Mid Ulster area are clearly a major provider of sports facilities and opportunities to play sport, both for males and females. Within the 47 clubs in the district there are at least 12 teams for every gaelic games full size grass pitch, pointing to the need to 'spread the load' of pitch use by accessing other facilities for training activity. The Ulster Council GAA recognises and supports the use of 3G surfaces for training and for some youth matches, however, clubs do not always have the same acceptance, particularly when it comes to matches. The challenge is to provide suitable facilities in suitable locations that will serve community needs and support clubs in their development aspirations. Future provision could be developed in centralised multi-sport hubs or as community-based facilities.

Hockey

Quantity

- 1.33** There are three hockey clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	158	150	610	190	1,108

The 1,108 players represent 5% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

- 1.34** Whilst shale hockey pitches still persist in some school sites, Ulster Hockey requires that matches are played on AstroTurf pitches, either sand (dressed or filled) or water. Shale pitches are included in this inventory for sake of completeness and recognising that they may be considered for conversion to an accepted sports surface at some point in the future.

Hockey Pitches used for Matches and Training			
Ownership	AstroTurf	Shale	Totals
Education	5	6	11
MUDC	1	0	1
Totals	6	6	12

- 1.35** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for hockey matches is as following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+1 pitch	Supply just meeting demand
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This picture of *adequacy of provision* is based on four of the six AstroTurf pitches as two AstroTurf pitches, located in post-primary schools, are generally not available for competitive matches; all six shale pitches are excluded from the assessment given their unsuitability for the modern game.

Quality

- 1.36** A summary of the quality of the district's AstroTurf pitches is as follows; again, shale pitches are included here for completeness although they are used by schools with reluctance and only in the absence of an accessible AstroTurf pitch.

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (Astro Turf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total Number of Pitches
MUDC	0	0	1	0	1
Education	6	2	3	0	0
Total	6	2	4	0	12

- ❖ The Council's AstroTurf pitch (indoor) at Meadowbank Arena is rated as *poor*, as reported in the pitches inspection document which notes:-

'It has been used as a factory during the Covid-19 pandemic and as such needs repair. There are bumps on the surface, the carpet has separated in places and the overall condition of the Astro Turf is worn. The main strengths of this pitch are its size and the fact that it is indoor and therefore allows teams to train and compete all year round.'

- ❖ It's of interest to note that whilst Dungannon Hockey Club report that the quality of their home base pitch at Royal School Dungannon is *poor*, the school itself rates the pitch as *good*.

- 1.37** Generally speaking, the issue with sand-filled/dressed AstroTurf pitches is that they have traditionally been used by a range of sports as they were the only synthetic surfaces pre-3G and were seen as being multi-sport. Different sports put different pressures and stresses on AstroTurf carpets, especially when used for a mix of training and matches. This can lead to unevenness and separation of carpet sections. Maintenance regimes can help avoid these issues.

Conclusions

- 1.38** Adequacy of provision of pitches for hockey, given the Council operates only one AstroTurf pitch, relies on school facilities, both at Cookstown High School and Royal School Dungannon. Hockey is a minority sport within the District, however, the clubs aspire to considerable growth; Rainey Hockey Club (closely linked to Rainey Endowed School) emphasises its success at team and individual level, producing numerous Ulster and Ireland players over the years.
- 1.39** It's known that Rainey Endowed School is at an advanced stage in its application to Sport NIs Multi Facilities funding programme to develop sports facilities at the school, including an AstroTurf pitch. The local club make the point that two AstroTurf pitches are needed in Magherafelt in order to support current and projected levels of activity.

- 1.40** Cookstown Hockey Club put forward an idea to construct an air dome cover over its sand-dressed pitch at Cookstown High School. Dungannon Hockey Club aspire to grow player numbers and become a hockey ‘centre of excellence’ for the Mid Ulster area, however, consultation with the club reveals issues with their use of the AstroTurf pitch at Royal School Dungannon.

Lawn Bowls

Quantity and Quality

- 1.41** The Mid Ulster District has five lawn bowls clubs, two of which have men’s and ladies’ sections. The breakdown of players is as follows:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	3	132	2	35	172

The 172 players represent 1% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports.

- 1.42** There are four bowling greens in the district, three operated by the Council and the fourth green, a synthetic surface, operated by Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation. Here’s a summary of the quality of the greens.

Bowling Greens - Quality				
Ownership	No of Greens	Good	Standard	Poor
Clubs	1	0	1	0
MUDC	3	1	2	0
Totals	4	1	3	0

One of the Council’s greens – Magherafelt Bowling Green – is rated as *good*, the remaining greens are rated as *standard*. Natural turf bowling greens require a good deal of regular maintenance throughout the bowling season and restorative work out of season. In past decades Councils usually engaged a green keeper to look after a single green, however, most Councils now contract-out bowling green maintenance. Clubs feel this has resulted in a lesser standard of playing surface.

- 1.43** For lawn bowls, adequacy of provision is assessed by looking at training and competition time compared to the total hours available for club activities. The assessment for each of the district’s four greens is as follows:-

	Supply against Demand (hrs)
Fairhill Bowling Green	+ 26
Magherafelt Bowling Green	+ 36
Drumcoo Bowling Green	+ 37
Fivemiletown Bowling Green	+ 52

From the quantitative analysis of *demand* for training and match green-time at each facility compared to *supply* as measured in available green-hours it is clear that supply comfortably meets demand. Most greens appear to be well used by members.

Conclusions

- 1.44** Lawn bowls, whilst involving a relatively small number of players across the five clubs, offers an important recreational and social activity for the older generation. The clubs and the governing body aspire to grow membership, not least amongst the younger generation. It isn't clear how this will be achieved, however, actions may result from the Irish Bowls Federation current survey of its membership that will assist clubs to re-group post-COVID-19.
- 1.45** There is an issue with the standard of greens maintenance. One option is to convert natural turf greens to synthetic greens; this would appear to be a growing trend in Ireland with an estimated half of all bowling greens now synthetic.
- 1.46** In 2022 Cookstown Bowling Club is set to take on presidency of NI Provincial Bowling Association and the Irish Bowling Association which will see the club hosting regional and national events. With this in mind the club see the need for improved facilities at their home ground, Fairhill Bowling Green in Cookstown.

Rugby

Quantity

- 1.47** There are three rugby clubs in the district with the following breakdown of players.

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Players	623	310	124	27	1,084

The 1,084 players represent 5% of the total number of players registered with clubs across the five sports. As with gaelic games, rugby clubs typically train and play matches on club-owned pitches. Rugby is played through the autumn and winter months so careful maintenance regimes are required to ensure pitches hold up throughout the season.

Rugby Pitches used for Matches and Training			
Ownership	Full Grass / 3G	Youth Grass	Training
Clubs	6	0	0
Education	8	2	1 x 3G
MUDC	3	0	0
Total	17	2	1

1.48 An assessment of *adequacy of provision* for rugby matches is as following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+1 pitch	Supply just meeting demand
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The assessment does not account for training demand which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches; for example, Dungannon RFC report that club growth is being constrained by the lack of training facilities. All three rugby clubs have two grass pitches based at the clubs' grounds; pitch 1 is used for 11.6 hours on average each week whilst pitch 2 is used 6 hours on average each week. This suggests that pitch 1 is over-used and pitch 2 is heavily used (although Rainey Old Boys RFC report they don't use pitch 2 for training).

Quality

1.49 The Council's grass rugby pitch at Dungannon Park was inspected for quality and pitches in club and school ownership were rated by their owners.

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	4	0	2	0	6
Education	8	0	0	0	8
Council	1	0	0	0	1
Total	13	0	2	0	15

The two pitches rated *poor* are at Stevenson Park, home ground to Dungannon RFC.

Conclusions

- 1.50** Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just three clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area; a total of 68 teams are fielded across the three clubs involving 1084 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 151 players are female. Dungannon RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes. Both Dungannon RFC and Clogher Valley RFC have female youth teams.
- 1.51** Dungannon RFC report they are in ‘desperate need’ of a third pitch to cater for a growing club. Clogher Valley RFC has purchased 9 acres of land adjoining their site; the club states they are keen to explore:-

“a joint venture to build a multi-sport facility on the adjoining land with Mid Ulster District Council and CVRFC.”

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

Quantity

- 1.52** There are 14 Council-owned MUGAs across the district. There is no ‘one size fits all’ in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council’s MUGAs are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities. The Council does not presently define a MUGAs primary identity and purpose. The opportunity here is to define what a MUGA is so that future developments have a clear purpose. Here’s a summary of the key features for the Council’s MUGAs.

MUGA	Dimension (metres)	Area m ²	L x W Ratio	Does MUGA meet Sport England m ² guidance for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA
Blackhill	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Brocagh	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Caledon	37 x 20	740	1.8 : 1	No
Clogher	30 x 20	600	1.5 : 1	No
Donaghmore	38 x 20	760	1.9 : 1	No
Gortnalowry	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Gortnasoar	30 x 14	420	2.1 : 1	No

Killymeron	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Loup	15 x 12	180	1.3 : 1	No
Meadow View Park	22 x 15	330	1.5 : 1	No
Milltown	28 x 15	420	1.9 : 1	No
Moygashel	40 x 24	960	1.7 : 1	Yes
Ratheen	44 x 25	1,100	1.8 : 1	Yes
Upperlands	28 x 14	392	2.0 : 1	No

Quality

- 1.53** In keeping with the Sport England non-technical assessment system for conventional pitches, the consultants have assessed each MUGA and classified condition, summarised as follows:-

Good	4 MUGA's
Satisfactory	7 MUGA's
Poor	3 MUGA's

The three MUGAs rated as *poor* are Caledon, Clogher, Gortnasoor.

Conclusions

- 1.54** The design of the Council's MUGA's varies considerably. If it's necessary to identify each MUGA's key purpose (play or sport) then in accordance with Sport England guidance half belong to play, half to sport. For future developments it will be helpful to be clear about a MUGA's purpose and to design it accordingly. This would also assist with how a MUGA is marketed.
- 1.55** Fields in Trust promotes a benchmark guideline of 0.3 hectares of MUGA provision (alongside skateparks) per one thousand population. For the district's population of 146,427, the Fields in Trust's benchmark suggests there should be 44 hectares of MUGA provision, however, the measured actual provision, based on the consultant's inspections, is 0.7 hectares, clearly a significant shortfall.

2. Introduction

Introduction

- 2.1** Mid Ulster District Council has commissioned a *Condition Survey of Council Pitches* and *Council Pitches Strategy*. The Council set out a two part study to look at current pitch and associated changing provision; the first part is a condition survey and audit of all Council pitches and recreational spaces and the second part is to make recommendations for a Council pitches/spaces strategy. The objective of the study is to *‘create a Strategy that could be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the district in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision.’* The facilities under consideration are for the sports of association football, gaelic games, hockey, lawn bowls, rugby.
- 2.2** The methodology for the study is based on Sport England’s Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model. This model is used to look at facilities for association football, gaelic games, hockey and rugby; the principles of the model are also applied to lawn bowls and multi use games areas. GIS mapping is used to look at the distribution of facilities.

Commission

- 2.3** The Council’s brief for this commission is as follows:-

Part 1 – Audit of Existing Provision

- ❖ Audit the design, distribution, demand/supply information and condition of each Mid Ulster District Council site that hosts Council-owned and leased outdoor ‘pitches’ and associated changing facilities in the district. This audit is to include all natural turf, synthetic pitches and multi-use games areas/small-sided games/kick about areas for association football, gaelic games, hockey, rugby.⁷
- ❖ Make recommendations and provide indicative capital and ongoing revenue cost estimates to any identified remedial/improvement works or further technical investigations necessary on the Council owned and leased pitches, multi-use games areas, small-sided games/kick about areas and associated changing facilities.

⁷ Lawn bowls was added during the study period.

Part 2 – Pitch Strategy

- ❖ Review and provide an update report on the current provision data and previous strategy work available (Mid Ulster District Council Sports Facility Strategy 2018) and evaluate against:-
 - Current best practice guidance on the scale and distribution of pitch provision from Fields in Trust, Edinburgh University, and elsewhere (as appropriate)
 - Condition assessments (from Part 1) based on visual inspections and/or maintenance records/observations
 - The changing needs/expectations of many outdoor sports
 - Demand/supply/poor condition closure information,
 - Existing information for relevant non-Council facilities,
 - An assessment of current changing provision at each venue; and
 - Local consultation responses
- ❖ To make recommendations for a prioritised 'pitch' (and associated changing provision) investment strategy for the District and provide indicative capital and ongoing annual revenue cost estimates. Research should also be carried out on potential current and future known funding bids/mechanisms that may be available to support the investment strategy.
- ❖ The Pitches / recreational space (and associated changing provision) Strategy should set out a 5 year plan on a priority basis (with outline recommendations to 10 years) and make area specific recommendations and provide indicative capital and ongoing annual revenue cost estimates in relation to a range of options including:-
 - Refurbishments to assets
 - New provision based on need
 - Obsolete pitch provision and new identified shared space community need
 - Extensions to facilities
 - Rationalisation into outdoor sports hubs
 - Partnership provision/shared
 - Opportunities for long term leases
 - Facility types, sporting codes, scale and playing surface
 - High level specifications to accommodate the likely use pattern, sporting code and standard of competition

- Opportunities for multi-use of facilities including formalised sports and informal recreational use to support community engagement and health and wellbeing
- ❖ The strategy should consider the best mix and distribution of natural turf, synthetic 'pitches' (ATP) and multi-use games areas/small-sided games/kick about areas on current and future need (including unmet need) and provide analysis on the projected demand pattern, participation levels, data on current booking levels and the distribution and scale of sports clubs and sporting codes in the area.
- ❖ Consideration should be given to how effective partnerships with the private, education, public or third sector organisations could bring benefits to the pitch provision in the District in a way that is open and accessible while at the same time maximises sustainability, efficiency and community benefit. This may include developing it further as a pitch or it becoming open informal play space for general use.
- ❖ The strategy should give consideration to areas where there is under supply of pitches, taking account of Council and community provision and make recommendations of how to provide for demand.
- ❖ The strategy should give consideration to areas where there is oversupply of pitches and how these could be developed as usable assets for the wider benefit of the community as shared space provision.
- ❖ The Strategy recommendations should take account of levels of deprivation and barriers to access such as disability or rurality, shared space in our towns and villages etc. This should include some areas of recommendation with regard to levels of pitch provision usage across the District and then more localised usage; and flexible models to accommodate more formalised sport and more targeting of groups that are not in sports including young people not playing recognised sports and older people engagement

Background and Context

Sport and Physical Activity in Society

- 2.4** The economic benefits of a physically active lifestyle are well documented. Against an estimated total cost of physical inactivity of £1.89 billion annually it's reckoned

that a 10% increase in physical activity amongst adults in England would benefit the economy by £500 million annually or 26%⁸. The positive impacts of regular exercise on health include:-

- ❖ Decrease in the risk of cardiovascular mortality
- ❖ Delays in the development of high blood pressure
- ❖ Assist in weight control
- ❖ Reduces the risk of certain cancers
- ❖ Reduces the risk of depression
- ❖ Helps prevent non-specific lower back pain

Current thinking suggests a minimum of thirty minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on at least five occasions per week is needed as part of a healthy lifestyle⁹.

2.5 Sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland makes an important contribution to the economy¹⁰. Over £932 million was spent on sport-related goods and services in 2013, accounting for 3.2% of total consumer expenditure in the region, an increase of 35% compared to 2008. It's also of interest to note that sport-related employment in Northern Ireland grew considerably between 2008 and 2013, from 17,900 to 25,700 or 43%. Growth on this scale is undoubtedly linked in part to the growing awareness of the health benefits of exercise and increased participation in certain sports. Facilities that are suitable and sufficient clearly have an important part to play in encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyle choices that contribute to the economy.

2.6 The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on levels of physical activity. Whilst more informal activities such as walking and cycling, which were possible during the pandemic, increased during the pandemic, structured sports activities closed down for lengthy periods. There is a concern amongst sporting bodies that participation in structured sport may not return to pre-pandemic levels without a good deal of intervention.

Playing Pitches

2.7 The provision of playing pitches is an emotive subject, often making national headlines when pitches/playing fields are sold off to make way for development. Across the UK the number of planning applications to carry out developments on existing playing fields doubled between 1999 and 2009, from 625 to 1,322 applications. The playing fields 'watchdog' is Fields in Trust¹¹. Recommendations made by Fields in Trust have been incorporated in the recently published 'National

⁸ 'Sport, Health & Economic Benefit'; Sports Industry Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University 2002.

⁹ British Cardiac Society.

¹⁰ Sports Industry Research Centre.

¹¹ Fields in Trust was formerly the National Playing Fields Association, rebranded in 2007.

Planning Policy Framework’; specific reference is made in the policy framework to the need to assess provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities when considering planning applications. It is also recommended that in applications where open space, sports and recreational facilities are due to be lost, the developer should replace them to at least an equivalent standard in the vicinity.

2.8 In Northern Ireland, the Department of Environment recognises the need for provision of outdoor recreation space in Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. Section 5.15 states. *“In large developments there may be a need to provide more formal outdoor recreation facilities such as playing pitches to meet the needs generated by the development. In such cases the Department will consult closely with the recreation department of local district Councils.”* It is therefore appropriate for local authorities to audit the provision of pitches to inform discussion in relation to planning applications and in the strategic development of opportunities for participation in sport.

2.9 Four of Northern Ireland’s eleven local authorities are known to have carried out similar pitch audits to inform playing pitch strategies¹²; a fifth local authority, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, has commenced a pitches audit. Whilst the pressure of urban development is a key factor in looking at pitches there are other important factors, including:-

- ❖ The need to ensure equality of opportunity in relation to age, ability, gender and rurality.
- ❖ The increasing interest in team sports, especially amongst children, largely the result of successful sports development initiatives by local authorities, sports clubs, Sport NI and sports governing bodies.
- ❖ The availability of artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology. For example, Third Generation, or ‘3G’ surfaces provide an alternative to natural grass that have the potential to totally transform how local authorities and sports clubs look at playing pitches.
- ❖ The limited capacity of natural grass surfaces, especially for winter season competition, accommodating two or at most three games each week with a three to four month rest period in the summer. The match capacity of any natural grass pitch is determined by a range of technical issues as well as the maintenance regime and the operator’s policy.
- ❖ Sports’ clubs constraints when it comes to developing facilities to accommodate and encourage growing demand.
- ❖ Schools’ attitudes and constraints in terms of facilitating community access to school-based pitches, both grass and ATP.

¹² Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council; All completed by Otium Leisure Consultancy.

- ❖ The potential to develop shared public spaces especially on education sites.
- ❖ Governing body influences, most notably through sports development programmes.

2.10 The overarching rationale for reviewing pitches' adequacy of provision is better quality and adequate facilities for a better quality experience so encouraging more participation. The particular challenge for local authorities as providers is to make best use of resources to maximise the value of the pitches' estate in terms of its contribution to citizens' lifestyles.

3. The Approach

Part 1 – Audit of Existing Provision

- 3.1** The audit of existing provision presents an opportunity to develop a complete picture of the situation pertaining to all pitches in the Council area regarding condition/quality, location, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities; it is also an opportunity to develop a picture of club membership, facilities used, challenges, aspirations and unmet demand. Phase 1 of the audit was approached as follows:-

Part 1: Audit Phase 1 (Research and Consultation)

- ❖ **Consultation events.** Three open events were held across the district; (i) Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt on Monday 7 June; (ii) Cookstown Leisure Centre on Tuesday 8 June; and (iii) Dungannon Leisure Centre on Wednesday 9 June. Sports clubs, schools and community groups were invited. Total attendance was 58 individuals representing 28 sports clubs, 1 community group and 2 schools (see Appendix 1 for a full record of attendees and worksheets completed at the Focus Groups). A fourth event, targeting the district's lawn bowls clubs was held on Monday 27 September in Cookstown Leisure Centre; 19 participants attended and all five lawn bowls clubs were represented.
- ❖ **Site visits.** Each of the Council's sites providing facilities for the five sports was visited and inspected. Sport England's Non-Technical Visual Assessment within its Playing Pitch Model (PPM) system was used to assess the Council's facilities for gaelic games, association football, rugby and hockey whilst the principles of the PPM system were also applied to lawn bowls. The PPM system, intended primarily for grass surfaces, considers slope, drainage, grass cover, wear and tear, floodlighting, litter, dog fouling, vandalism, changing accommodation, parking and access. This assists in identifying pitches that are over-used, reveals why some pitches might be under-used and helps prioritise investment decisions. Also visited and inspected were the Council's multi-use games areas. The inspection report is presented as Appendix 2: Facilities Inspection.
- ❖ **Survey.** The purpose of survey work was to gather information on supply/demand *and* on the condition of pitches and related facilities not in Council ownership. Additionally, the surveys returns enabled the consultant to present detailed information on the membership profile across the five sports. The main target groups for the survey were:-

- Clubs who own a pitch/pitches
- Teams/clubs who don't own a pitch
- Education sector
- Community sector

Given that survey returns informed facility inventories and participation profiles it was deemed important to maximise the returns, especially for sports clubs; returns obtained were as follows:-

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Returns	% Returns
Association Football	31	29	94%
Gaelic Games	47	47	100%
Hockey	3	3	100%
Lawn Bowls	5	5	100%
Rugby	3	3	100%

A total of 18 returns (90%) were obtained from post primary schools.

- ❖ **Consultation Interviews.** A series of interviews was conducted with key organisations having an interest in the Council's provision for the sports in question in order to enable commentary on the strategic context of future provision. On Monday 25 October 2021 a workshop (online) updated elected members on progress to date and offered an opportunity for discussion on how future need for pitches and ancillary accommodation might be prioritised and funded. Furthermore, workshops involving elected members within each of the seven district electoral areas – seven workshops – were held during late August/early September 2022.

Part 1: Audit Phase 2 (Analysis and Audit Report)

Phase 2 of the audit was approached as follows:-

- ❖ **Playing Pitch Model (PPM).** This is where information gathered through the audit is applied to Sport England's numerical model to assess 'adequacy of provision' for each of the pitches to which the PPM can be applied directly; gaelic games, association football, rugby, hockey. For the lawn bowls and MUGAs the principles of the PPM were applied where appropriate. The stages in the PPM are as follows:-

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Stage 1 | Identifying teams |
| Stage 2 | Calculating home games |

Stage 3	Assessing total home games per week
Stage 4	Establish demand for games throughout the week
Stage 5	Defining pitches used/required
Stage 6	Establishing pitches available
Stage 7	Adequacy of provision

- ❖ **Audit Report.** The audit report records research and consultation undertaken for the commission, leading to analysis and recommendations. The audit report can be thought of as ‘*what*’ and ‘*so what*’:-

WHAT

- quantity of current supply
- quality of current supply
- geographic location

SO WHAT

- impact on the community
- impact on the Council’s aspiration to promote participation

The audit report deals with each sport/facility in turn.

Part 2 – A Pitches Strategy

- 3.2** Following on from the audit this is effectively ‘*what next*’? The approach has the following elements:-

- ❖ Strategy Consultation Workshop, leading to a;
- ❖ Draft Pitches Investment Strategy, inviting;
- ❖ Stakeholder views on emerging recommendations, resulting in a;
- ❖ Final Pitches Strategy

Consultation on and preparation of the strategy takes into account a number of key considerations, including:-

- ❖ Local government reform and the challenges facing the Council in relation to pitches provision.
- ❖ Relevant regional and local strategies and planning policies.
- ❖ The growth in artificial turf surfaces.
- ❖ The advent of multi-sport pitches.
- ❖ The potential to develop shared public spaces.
- ❖ The IFA’s Small Sided Games initiative and the impact of this on local youth leagues and provision of facilities.
- ❖ The potential for partnerships and partnership funding in the development and operation of facilities.
- ❖ The potential to create sports ‘hubs’.

3.3 The final Pitches Strategy identifies policy options and solutions. It addresses each sport/facility in turn, looking at a range of considerations, including:-

- ❖ Rationalisation
- ❖ Repairs/enhancements
- ❖ Re-location
- ❖ Sports facility hubs and location options
- ❖ The potential of partnerships
- ❖ High-level costings
- ❖ Community access
- ❖ Equality screening

3.4 This report is ***Part 2: Audit of Existing Provision***. It is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Executive Summary
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ The Approach
- ❖ Strategic Context
- ❖ Stakeholder Engagement
- ❖ Audit (by sport)

4. Strategic Context

Introduction

4.1 Preparation of the Council's pitches strategy is set within the context of and informed by a range of regional and local approaches to the development of public services. It's important to understand this context as the strategy takes shape. There are four strategies that are key to this work; they are:-

- ❖ *A New Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for NI – Consultation Document; Department for Communities; February 2021*
- ❖ *Corporate Plan 2020-2025 (draft); Sport NI*
- ❖ *Local Development Plan 2030; Mid Ulster District Council*
- ❖ *Corporate Plan 2020-2024; Mid Ulster District Council*
- ❖ *Our Community Plan; Mid Ulster District Council*
- ❖ *Sport Facility Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council; April 2018*
- ❖ *Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan; Mid Ulster District Council*

4.2 Taken together these strategies and their outcomes have been influenced by and reflect other strategies and policies which, whilst they assist in informing preparation of the strategy are not reviewed here in detail. Not least of these is the draft 'Programme for Government' whose strategic outcomes address, amongst other things, the attainment of good health and confident and peaceful communities, targeting '*those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen*'.

4.3 Other literature having relevance to the Pitches Strategy includes:-

Planning

- ❖ Regional Development Strategy 2035
- ❖ Planning Policy Statements, especially PPS8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation
- ❖ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard'. Fields in Trust 2015

Government

- ❖ 'Active Places Research Report 'Bridging the Gap' 2014 Update'; Sport NI
- ❖ Community Use of Schools Guidance Document; Department of Education 2014

‘A New Sport and Physical Strategy for NI – Consultation Document; Department for Communities; February 2021

- 4.4** The draft strategy is being developed on behalf of all the departments of the NI Executive to *‘provide a flexible strategic framework for a cross-departmental, ambitious and comprehensive approach to promoting participation and excellence in sport and physical activity.’* The strategy presents a sports and physical activity continuum that spans all ages, from fundamental movement skills in children to physical activity and social sport in middle and older age for all abilities.
- 4.5** The strategy was researched during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic is reflected in the six key themes that are proposed:-
- ❖ Recovery from the impact of the pandemic on sport and physical activity;
 - ❖ Promoting participation, inclusion and community engagement;
 - ❖ Promoting excellence in sport;
 - ❖ The importance of partnership and integration;
 - ❖ Providing inclusive and shared spaces and place; and
 - ❖ Promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity.
- 4.6** These themes and the language of the strategy point to a change in mindset regarding the importance of sport and physical activity to individuals and to society as a whole. For example, the *‘providing inclusive and shared spaces and places’* theme suggests that making sports and physical activity infrastructure inclusive and attractive and where possible, integrating it with active travel plans, will encourage people to be less reliant on the car, so contributing to government’s net zero carbon targets.
- 4.7** Looking at the *‘importance of partnership and integration’* theme the strategy concludes that *‘the principles of partnership and integration should be at the centre of all future investment decisions in new and refurbished sports and physical activity facilities and programmes.’* Specific mention is made of better integration delivering more shared facilities across clubs, schools and communities.
- 4.8** The strategy presents *‘recovery from the impact of the pandemic on sport and physical activity’* as the platform for the strategy’s successful implementation. Research for the new strategy identified the sector as being weakened and demoralised by the pandemic and the subsequent need to make the sector more resilient to potential future shocks. The strategy recognises the need to have a recovery process that will give the sector a strong foundation as it seeks to rebuild.
- 4.9** This new strategy is an important step forward for sport and physical activity, fundamentally changing how government and its agencies think about the sector and

how best to provide support. Collaboration across government departments and the statutory, voluntary and community sector with the aim of achieving maximum effect is emphasised throughout.

Corporate Plan 2020-2025 (draft); Sport NI

4.10 Sport NIs Corporate Plan effectively underpins Programme for Government and the Department for Communities Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Many of the challenges identified in earlier strategies still remain, however, the sporting landscape is changing; community planning, COVID-19, rising levels of obesity amongst children and participation in sport and recreation outside the sports club structure present new challenges and new opportunities for organised sport. The draft plan presents learning points resulting from consultation, each worthy of being highlighted here:-

- ❑ The provision of accessible sport and physical recreation opportunities needs to transition effectively into connected pathways within the sporting system, in order to sustain participation generally and for underrepresented groups;
- ❑ A warm, welcoming, inclusive environment and quality coaching is key to sustaining participation, along with a diverse product offering to meet people's changing needs;
- ❑ Physical literacy in young people and others needs to be improved;
- ❑ People development is central to an effective sporting system;
- ❑ Equality and inclusion needs to be mainstreamed throughout the sporting system;
- ❑ The administrative burden on volunteers needs to be alleviated, to allow an increased focus on culture and practice;
- ❑ A holistic view is needed to achieve the best outcomes for all who participate in sport and physical recreation, so that we can celebrate all of the sporting achievements.
- ❑ There needs to be business planning, modernisation and improved utilisation of digital technologies to adapt to a dynamic and challenging environment.

4.11 It's also useful to understand the *sporting system* that Sport NI identifies as the landscape within which it works, leading to two outcomes and a view of the value of sport.

The Sporting System



- 4.12** Alongside government in general, Sport NI is moving towards an evaluation of *outcomes* rather than outputs in their capital and programme interventions; in other words, *what did we do, how well did we do it, what difference did it make*. Social outcomes through increased participation are more important than ever before as explained by Sport England¹³:-

'Right now the opportunities to get involved in sport and activity – and reap the rewards of being active – depend too much on your background, your gender, your bank balance and your postcode. For too long, people with the most to gain from being active have been the least able to take part. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important. Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all.'

- 4.13** It's clear that sports' social conscience has been awakened and that local authorities as facility providers and delivery agents have an important role to play in making a difference. Mid Ulster District Council's strategy for the future development of pitches and ancillary accommodation will, through the provision of accessible, high quality facilities, greatly assist in making the difference put forward by Sport NI.

¹³ *Uniting the Movement 2021-2031; Sport England.*

Local Development Plan 2030; Mid Ulster District Council

4.14 The Council's Local Development Plan has three objectives that inform development and the use of land in Mid Ulster; they are:-

- ❑ Accommodating people and creating places.
- ❑ Creating jobs and promoting prosperity.
- ❑ Enhancing the environment and improving infrastructure.

Whilst the strategy to develop pitches resonates with each of these objectives, it has the greatest relevance to '*Accommodating People and Creating Places*' which is underpinned by a set of social policies, including '*Open Space, Recreation and Leisure*'. It's important that the four sub-policies relating to this strategy are fully understood as strategic recommendations are considered, ie:-



4.15 Policy OS1 – Protection of Open Space, has a particular relevance when considering options for pitches that are either under-used or unused. Where the term *change of use* appears within the strategic recommendations; the primary intention is that an under-used or unused Council pitch/pitches may be considered either for re-development as in alternative recreational facility or for re-designation to an alternative sport; neither of these development options would imply the loss of open space.

Corporate Plan 2020-2024; Mid Ulster District Council

4.16 The overarching context for the strategic development of pitches is quite simply to provide better quality facilities for a better quality experience, so encouraging more people to be more active more often, both in structured sport and informal recreation. The particular challenge is to make best use of resources and to do this through partnerships that can achieve a good deal more by working together than

working independently of one another – *the whole is greater than the sum of its parts*. The Council's vision, articulated in its Corporate Plan, reflects partnership working

To be at the heart of our community

4.17 The pitches strategy will help to develop people by encouraging active lifestyles through the provision of facilities. The audit carried out in 2018 for the Council's sports facilities strategy evidences the Council's role in the provision of leisure and recreation facilities that create opportunities for active lifestyles. The pitches strategy comes at a time when recognition of the role that active lifestyles have in efforts to reduce the incidence of a range of life-limiting conditions is at an all-time high. It also makes significant contributions to at least two strategic themes in the Corporate Plan.

- ❑ Theme 2: Service Delivery
- ❑ Theme 5: Communities

Additionally, whilst each theme has a clear focus and purpose, there is also a number of corporate commitments not tethered to one area of work, but common to all themes, which the pitches strategy will contribute to:-

Addressing Rurality

- *'Close to 70% of Mid Ulster's population live in a rural setting, a fact which has strongly influenced the Council's approach to service delivery, investment and long-term planning. The importance of addressing the needs of a rural region, whether socially or economically, is undiminished and remains one of the Council's corporate commitment.'*

Promoting Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

- *'Beyond a duty of compliance with our equality scheme, we aim to mainstream the promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations throughout the organisation, actively seeking out ways in which to enhance those opportunities and to build positive relations between and among the diverse communities across Mid Ulster.'*

Continuously Improving Our Services

- *'Whether through our formal Corporate Improvement Objectives and service-specific Performance Improvement Plans or the small, regular, routine changes which we make to services through feedback, we are committed to continuously improving what we do and how we do it.'*

Designing and Delivering Our Services Sustainably

- *'From large-scale investment projects to new or changing service models, we place a value on ensuring that what we do not only meets current needs, but is designed and delivered to be sustainable in the longer-term, ensuring the needs of future generations are uncompromised.'*

Working Collaboratively across the Public, Private, Community and Voluntary Sectors to Achieve Shared Objectives

- *'Collaborative working is key to delivering successful outcomes for local people. The Council is committed to embracing the opportunities to work with a range of other organisations on issues, projects and plans as they relate to every theme, priority and aspect of our work.'*

- 4.18** Of the 45 villages in the district that have Village Community Plans in place, 38 have identified future opportunities for outdoor recreation, including off-road cycle tracks, walkways, playparks, angling infrastructure, activity programmes and much more. Appendix 3 presents an overview of these opportunities as described in the village plans.

Our Community Plan 2017-2027; Mid Ulster District Council

- 4.19** The Council's vision for community planning reflects the plan's five themes, two of which have a particular resonance with the proposed project.

Health and Wellbeing

- *Help people live longer, healthier and more active lives.* This theme speaks of having plans to help people being healthy in all areas of life, help with mental health and wellbeing and helping people age well.

Vibrant and Safe Communities

- *Make our community feel safer and stronger.* This theme speaks of helping organisations in the community and voluntary sector - this includes sports clubs - to do more and get more people volunteering.

4.20 The sports community in Mid Ulster has been fully engaged in consultation and research for the audit and strategy. Community engagement and partnership is an essential feature of the Council's business model, not least within the sports sector and the provision of pitches which are used by the 90 sports clubs across the five sports that are the subject of this strategy. Taken together, these clubs involve nearly 21,000 individuals currently, all benefiting from having access to modern, fit for purpose facilities. The vision is that better sports pitches and ancillary accommodation will result in more participation and stronger sports clubs with skilled volunteers that can reach out to communities that have, in the eyes of Sport England, been 'traditionally left behind.'

Sports Facility Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council

4.21 Sport NI commissioned the preparation of sports facility strategies in each of the new Council areas. The outcomes for the Mid Ulster strategy are stated as:-

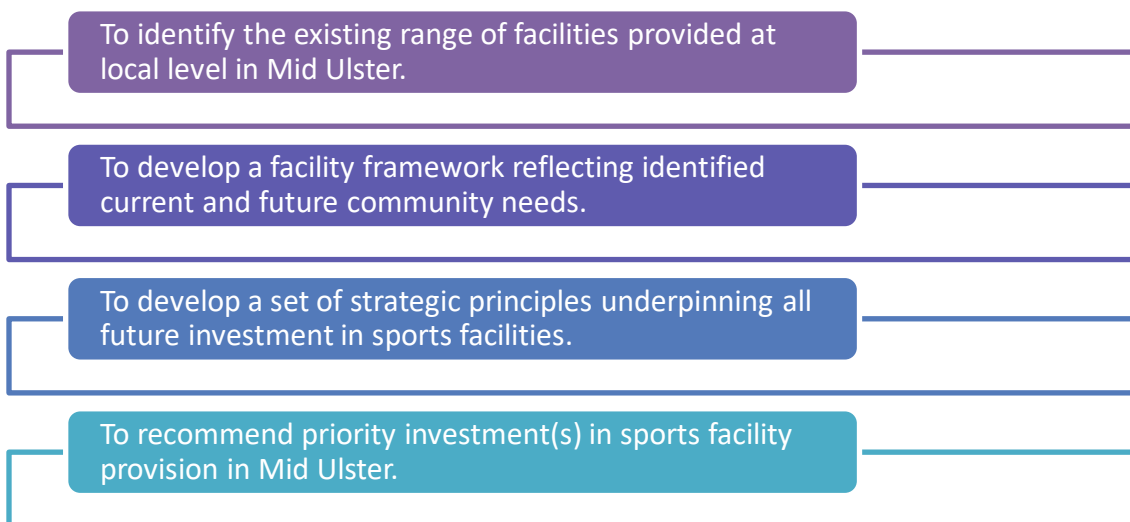
- ❑ *Identification of the future approach required to plan strategically in Mid Ulster for the provision of sports facilities at local level, setting out the principles behind the future approach to provision, working collaboratively on investment and delivery as well as identifying priorities for new development and refurbishment.*
- ❑ *Identification of clear priorities for investment.*

This strategy's importance for the local area is heightened by the fact that the approach to its preparation is consistent with the approach taken in preparing each of the eleven local authorities sports facility strategies *and* that the approach was

specified by Sport NI. For example, the strategy reflects Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap – Active Places Research 2009' and its subsequent update in 2014. The strategy's rationale is to:-

'develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sports facilities, based on identified need, increasing participation, addressing health inequalities and other local specific factors.'

4.22 The strategy's objectives are:-



Consultation for the Mid Ulster Sports Facility Strategy was extensive, involving survey work and focus groups. Now, consultation undertaken for this pitches audit and strategy builds on the earlier sports facility strategy consultation whilst providing a focus on five sports rather than all sports. The sports facility strategy recognises that participation in sport and physical activity produces 'soft' outcomes that include:-

- ❑ Improved confidence and self-esteem;
- ❑ Improved physical health and mental wellbeing;
- ❑ Positive impact on the local community (clubs/groups)

4.23 The 2018 Sports Facility Strategy presented Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap' analysis of adequacy of provision for pitches estimating that, even with the inclusion of artificial turf pitches in the education sector in the total stock of pitches available for community use, the district has a substantial shortfall in the supply of pitches for the 2037 projected population. However, the strategy points to a number of difficulties in accurately assessing adequacy of provision, recommending that '..... the

assessment of future playing pitch need should be evidenced through the development of a playing pitch strategy.'

Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan; Mid Ulster District Council

- 4.24** This strategy addresses the opportunities for outdoor recreation¹⁴ across the district, which, given the district's extensive natural resource base, are considerable. The strategy's overall aim is to *'provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programmes, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2020-2025.'*
- 4.25** Participation in outdoor recreation activities produce many of the same benefits as participation in the five structured sports being considered in the pitches strategy; that is, getting people more active and the attendant benefits to health, education, the economy and social capital. In this regard there is a good deal of synergy between the two strategies; for example, walking is an outdoor recreation activity which is already facilitated at sports pitches sites and is now included as a development option by many sports clubs. This and other synergies should be kept in mind in the outworking of the strategic recommendations.
- 4.26** The Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan reviews the district's Village Community Plans in relation to future opportunities for outdoor recreation. Again, there is a synergy between the opportunities identified in the strategic plan and the pitches strategy given the emphasis on walking trails and off-road cycle tracks, both of which can be developed at sports pitches sites.

¹⁴ *Outdoor recreation is defined in the strategy as 'all land, water and air activities normally found in a rural or urban fringe location that depend upon sustainable access to the natural environment and are predominantly reliant on the natural environment.'*

5. Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

- 5.1** Sport NI, the Education Authority and governing bodies for each sport were contacted to discuss and comment on provision of sports pitches generally throughout Northern Ireland and within the district. Sports clubs and schools were also engaged in discussion through in-person focus groups. This section reflects on Sport NI, the Education Authority, the Council, governing bodies and schools.
- 5.2** An understanding of stakeholders and their interest in the pitches strategy lies in the fact that many of the strategic recommendations and subsequent actions cannot be achieved solely by the Council; the Council will at times simply be an *enabler*, advising and assisting other stakeholders, whilst at other times the Council will work alongside stakeholders, sharing responsibility for capital investment and project delivery. In this way the pitches strategy is best thought of as a *partnership* strategy for the Council with ‘partnership’ covering a variety of roles, from advisory to lead organisation. The strategy does not benefit the Council, rather it benefits those whom the Council serves, therefore, it is entirely appropriate and indeed necessary that working with others underpins the strategy’s delivery.

Sport NI

- 5.3** Key data sets on the provision of a range of sports facilities is presented for each local authority in Northern Ireland in Sport NI’s *Active Places Research Report ‘Bridging the Gap’ 2009*. The facilities considered in Bridging the Gap include grass and artificial turf pitches, used for association football, gaelic games, rugby and hockey. The objective of Bridging the Gap is to assess whether the supply of pitches is sufficient to meet demand; analysis is presented for each legacy Council and for each of the eleven Council areas created in 2015 as a result of local government reform. Updated in 2014, here’s the key information on the provision of pitches in each legacy Council area and in Mid Ulster District Council area.

Legacy Councils	2011 Population Projection	Acres Recommended by SAS	Exiting Provision				Shortfalls	
			Grass	Synthetic		Total Acres of Pitches	SNI Standard	
			Grass Acres	Synthetic Acres	SNI Standard x 4		Perceived Acres Shortfall	Pitches Required
Cookstown	35,238	106	84.08	6.48	25.92	110	-4	-2
Dungannon	50,995	153	121.36	6.39	25.56	146.92	6	2
Magherafelt	43,682	131	111.49	9.1	36.4	147.89	-17	-7
Mid Ulster District Council	129,915	389	316.93	21.97	87.88	404.81	-15.07	-6

5.4 This 2014 update of ‘Bridging the Gap’ presents a scenario where ATPs located on education sites are included in the supply side of the analysis as ‘*in the light of recent community use of schools guidance¹⁵ published by Sport NI and the Department for Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing the facility shortfalls throughout Northern Ireland.*’ The scenario in the 2014 update proposes an oversupply of 6 pitches (grass or ATP) for the district as a whole, excluding grass pitches within schools but including ATPs. The 2014 update also presents a scenario in which school pitches, both grass and synthetic are included in the assessment, resulting in an estimated oversupply of 62 pitches. The reality is that community use of school pitches, especially natural grass pitches but also ATPs, whilst increasing, is still quite limited.

5.5 It’s also important to note that Sport NIs view in ‘Bridging the Gap’ regarding carrying capacity of natural grass pitches versus ATPs is that an ATP can accommodate up to 4 times the bookings of a natural grass pitch. Sport NI recognises there are conflicting views on this figure; on the one hand, Fields in Trust’s ‘Six Acre Standard’ reckons the value of an ATP to be twice that of a grass surface whilst other agencies use a factor of 6. It’s also noted that not all natural grass pitches are the same; a sand mattress pitch or a sand fibre pitch will have a greater carrying capacity than a standard soil based pitch. So, Sport NIs view that an ATP has 4 times the value of a grass surface can be looked on as having a degree of flexibility.

5.6 Sport NIs views on the provision of pitches are further reflected in the following points:-

- ❖ A key challenge for clubs is being able to access floodlit pitches for midweek evening training. Sport NIs COVID-19 capital intervention programme

¹⁵ Your School Your Club; Sport NI.

‘Building Back Better – Sports Facilities’ attracted 700 applications of which around a quarter were for floodlights to existing pitches. This evidences the ongoing need to address floodlit training facilities, either in access to existing floodlit facilities or upgrading existing pitches.

- ❖ The view is that with the development of ATP pitches in recent years – since 2014 – by local authorities, clubs and the education sector, the picture of pitches provision will have changed. It’s Sport NIs intention to repeat the Active Places research in 2022 to update data on the provision of all sports facilities across Northern Ireland.
- ❖ The education sector, most notably post-primary schools, is increasingly open to considering shared use of sports facilities. Sport NIs document *‘Your School Your Club’* has helped influence the shift towards shared use of school facilities, however, barriers remain for many schools, including; (i) the additional cost of having staff on site to open/close and supervise outside curriculum time; (ii) the cost of maintenance; (iii) logistical challenges around allowing community user groups access to school premises. There are many examples of schools having successfully embraced shared use of sports facilities and there are also examples of the Department of Education and local authorities working collaboratively in the development of new school facilities designed for shared use.
- ❖ In Sport NIs 2019 survey of sports clubs¹⁶ a question was put to clubs about *barriers to outdoor facilities*; in Mid Ulster *finding venues with a suitable training surface* was cited by 59% of respondents, *availability of floodlit venues* was cited by 56% of respondents and *can’t get a suitable booking slot* was cited by 47% of respondents. These results for Mid Ulster concur with Sport NIs view that whilst the supply of ATP surfaces has increased over the past couple of decades there remains a shortfall, perhaps exacerbated by increasing demand, the result of more people engaging in structured sport.

Education Authority

- 5.7** In recent years community use of facilities on education sites has been increasing, that is, outside curriculum time. Strategically, the Department of Education (DE) promotes use of schools by non-school groups to help build stronger links between schools and local communities. DE’s policy for school improvement, *‘Every School a Good School’*¹⁷ states, *‘School premises are a valuable facility for community use and*

¹⁶ *Sports Club Research Report 2019; Sport NI (by Otium Leisure Consultancy). Of the 88 clubs in Mid Ulster which responded to the survey, 49 were clubs in the five sports being considered in this audit.*

¹⁷ *‘Every School a Good School’ Department of Education; June 2011*

schools are actively encouraged to consider making their premises available as a community facility where possible.’ To encourage and assist schools in setting up community use, DE produced ‘Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools.’

5.8 The Education Authority (EA) is the operational arm of the Department of Education. In 2018 the EA’s newly formed Education Directorate was tasked with strategic oversight of community use of schools. This move fits with the ongoing Area Planning process within education and the community planning process being led by local authorities. Quality indicators in school inspections now recognise community engagement and use of school facilities by local communities; this will, through time, encourage schools to be pro-active in setting up community use of their premises.

5.9 The EA now has in place a Community in Schools team, providing practical support in the move to increase community use of schools. The team of three officers covers three geographical areas, each embracing a number of local authorities:-

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. South West | Omagh & Fermanagh; Mid Ulster; Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon |
| 2. North | Derry & Strabane; Causeway Coast & Glens; Mid & East Antrim; Antrim & Newtownabbey |
| 3. East | Belfast; North Down & Ards; Newry, Mourne & Down |

For the purposes of this strategy the officer for the South West area was interviewed on two occasions, here’s a summary of the discussion points:-

- ❖ Community use of schools has increased significantly in the last four years and there has been a noticeable upsurge in recent months in schools interested in community use, not least in the use of outdoor sports facilities. The link between schools and their local Council is critical in moving community use projects from concept to reality. In this regard some local authorities are more pro-active and supportive than others; it really depends where a local authority’s focus is in their corporate plan and strategy.
- ❖ Quite naturally every school looks to enhance their facilities, however, not all schools are well placed to open their doors to community use. A good deal of care by schools is needed from the outset in addressing a range of challenges. Due diligence in matters such as land ownership, insurances, maintenance, operational costs, pricing, administration and much more is critical in the early stages. For example, insurance is often a barrier to community use; DE makes clear that responsibility for on-site control and supervision of community activities rests with the user group so there is an expectation that user groups

will hold public liability insurance. However, this is not always the case; a group of people wanting to come together to play recreational five-a-side in a school hall or on a pitch is not likely to have insurance and is unlikely to want to take out insurance just for a kick-about amongst friends. Requiring insurance of user groups may actually create a barrier to the very people the Education Authority who want to see using school facilities.

- ❖ In the officer's opinion the days of school facilities **not** being shared facilities are gone. Now there is greater sense of agencies working together; for example, a synthetic pitch may be built on a school site by DE in accordance with the building handbook, ie, floodlights not included, however, ducting for floodlighting may be installed at time of construction to allow the school to install floodlighting in partnership with an external funder, so enabling community use.
- ❖ Community use of schools must be a coming together of the local authority, the EA and the school, each bringing their particular skill and resource to the project. Schools are not obliged to embrace community use and its often down to individuals, either staff or school governors, to champion community use.
- ❖ Area Planning in the education sector is ongoing, resulting in amalgamations, closures and new-builds. Larger enrolment numbers in schools may lead to the development of new or upgraded outdoor sports facilities (pitches) on school sites. This opens up opportunities for a conversation between the DE and local authorities regarding how community use can be facilitated at the design stage and how it can be successfully managed at the operational stage.

Schools

- 5.10** Following on from discussion with the Education Authority it's useful to look at what the schools are saying as stakeholders. A survey of post-primary schools attracted a good deal of interest with 18 of the 20 schools in the district submitting a response; total enrolment in the 18 schools is just over 13,600 split evenly between girls and boys. This is a sizeable audience representing nearly 10% of the district's population. The following tables reflect the information collected through the survey.

Survey Respondents

School	Enrolment Boys	Enrolment Girls
Aughnacloy College	87	86
Cookstown High School	425	406
Drumglass High School	220	180
Fivemiletown College	191	173
Holy Trinity College	435	550
Integrated College Dungannon	382	284
Magherafelt High School	250	250
Rainey Endowed School	750	750
Royal School Dungannon	305	370
Sperrin Integrated College	287	308
St Conor's College	350	350
St Joseph's College, Coalisland	259	192
St Patrick's College, Dungannon	348	393
St Patrick's Maghera	700	650
St Pius X College	478	543
St Ciaran's College	400	400
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	335	438
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	508	605
Totals	6,710	6,928

Facility Information

5.11 This table details the sports pitches at each school and information on community use.

Facility Information (note that blank cell indicates the question is not completed by the school)						
School	Facility Type		Floodlights	Size	Is it booked regularly by local sports clubs or community teams? No. of hours?	Used by
Aughnacloy College	3G Pitch		Yes	Full	3 hours per week	Caledon Rovers Fermanagh GAA
Cookstown High School	Astro-turf water based	pitch	Yes	Full	25 plus hours per week	Cookstown Hockey Club
	Astro-turf sand based	pitch	Yes	Full	25 plus hours per week	Cookstown Hockey Club

School	Facility Type	Floodlights	Size	Is it booked regularly by local sports clubs or community teams? No. of hours?	Used by
	Grass soccer	No	Full	10 hours per week	Royal British Legion Football Club
	Grass soccer	No	Full		
	Grass rugby	No	Full		
Drumglass High School	Grass rugby				
	Shale/gravel pitch				
	Grass soccer				
	Shale/gravel pitch				
Fivemiletown College	Astro-turf pitch sand based	Yes	Full	3 hours per week	Fivemiletown United, Enniskillen Hockey Club, Clogher Valley Junior Hockey, Brookeborough GAA, Tempo GAA, Clogher GAA, Core Kids NI, All our residential summer camps.
	Grass soccer	No	Full	No	
	Grass rugby	Yes	Full	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Juvenile	No	
Holy Trinity College	Grass gaelic	No	Full	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Full	No	
Integrated College Dungannon	3G Pitch	Yes	Not applicable	16 hours per week	Dungannon Rugby Club, Riverdale FC, IFA, Dungannon Rovers FC, Mid Ulster Youth League, Dungannon Swift
Magherafelt High School	Grass soccer	No	Juvenile	No	
	Grass rugby	No	Full	No	
	Astro-turf pitch sand based	No	Full	2 hours per week	Rainey Endowed School

School	Facility Type	Floodlights	Size	Is it booked regularly by local sports clubs or community teams? No. of hours?	Used by
Rainey Endowed School	Grass rugby				Maghera Cricket Club, Rainey RFHC for fitness training
	Grass rugby				
	Grass rugby				
	Shale/gravel pitch				
	Grass cricket pitch				
Royal School Dungannon	Grass rugby	No	Full	No	
	Grass rugby	No	Full	No	
	Grass rugby	No	Juvenile	No	
	Grass rugby	No	Full	1 hour per week	Dungannon Rugby Football Club (Occasional Use)
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Full	No	
	Astro-turf pitch sand based	Yes	Full	15 hours per week	Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club
Sperrin Integrated College	Multi-Use Grass Area	No	Not applicable	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Juvenile	No	
St Conor's College	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	No	
	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Juvenile	No	
St Joseph's College Coalisland	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	No	Na Fianna GAC Coalisland, Brackaville GAC, Derrytresk GAC, Derrylaughan GAC
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Juvenile	No	
St Patrick's College Dungannon	3G Pitch	Yes	Full	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Full	No	
St Patrick's Maghera	Grass gaelic	No	Full	6 hours per week	Watty Graham's Glen GFC, Robert
	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	4 hours per week	

School	Facility Type	Floodlights	Size	Is it booked regularly by local sports clubs or community teams? No. of hours?	Used by
	Grass gaelic	No	Not applicable		Emmets Slaughtneil GFC
St Pius X College	Grass gaelic	No	Full	2 hours per week	Local GAA clubs on an ad hoc basis
	Grass soccer	No	Juvenile	No	
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Not applicable	No	
St Ciaran's College	3G Pitch	Yes	Juvenile	10 hours per week	Soccer Clubs, Hurling Club, Gaelic Football Clubs
	Multi-Use Area	Grass No	Juvenile	No	
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	4 hours per week	Aodh Rua
	Shale/gravel pitch	No	Juvenile	No	Dungannon Ladies Gaelic, St Patrick's Donaghmore Ladies, St Patrick's Donaghmore Youth, Tyrone Towers Basketball, Donaghmore Celtic Soccer
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	Grass gaelic	No	Full	12 hours per week	Magherafelt
	Grass gaelic	Yes	Juvenile	8 hours per week	O'Donovan Rossa
	Grass gaelic	No	Juvenile	6 hours per week	GAC, Lavey GAC, Loup GAC, Ballinascreen Camogie, Moneyglass GAC, Slaughtneil GAC, Derry County, Moyola FC, Magherafelt Sky Blues FC

Community Use 'Agreements'

5.12 Of the 18 respondents 10 schools have a written policy/agreement, 6 schools have a casual use and/or non-written agreement, 2 schools did not supply information.

Facility User Agreement Type And Further Information

School	Does your school issue a Dual-Use Agreement/Terms and Conditions of Hire for use of your outdoor pitches? If Yes - which type of agreement?	If an agreement is in place, tell us a bit more about it
Aughnacloy College	Yes - A formal community agreement including information on charges, insurance arrangements, child protection procedures etc.	
Cookstown High School	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement.	Cookstown Hockey Club - Long Term Licence Agreement Royal British Legion - formal agreement.
Drumglass High School		
Fivemiletown College	Yes - A formal community agreement including information on charges, insurance arrangements, child protection procedures etc.	An application for usage must be made which details the group's name, address, period of use, days, times, cost and that they have relevant insurance and child protection policy in place.
Holy Trinity College	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement.	
Integrated College Dungannon	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises.	
Magherafelt High School	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises.	Booking form.
Rainey Endowed School	Yes - A formal community agreement including information on charges, insurance arrangements, child protection procedures etc.	School has an extensive Hire and conditions document for all bodies hiring pitches.
Royal School Dungannon	Yes - A formal community agreement including information on charges,	We had a commercial agreement with Dungannon local district Council for ten years from 2006-2016 for hire of the AstroTurf pitch to the local community

School	Does your school issue a Dual-Use Agreement/Terms and Conditions of Hire for use of your outdoor pitches? If Yes - which type of agreement?	If an agreement is in place, tell us a bit more about it
	insurance arrangements, child protection procedures etc.	which was very successful. This covered times, insurance, liability, etc. The new MUDC decided to terminate this agreement
Sperrin Integrated College	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement	N/A
St Conor's College	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement	
St Joseph's College Coalisland	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises	
St Patrick's College Dungannon		
St Patrick's Maghera	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement	
St Pius X College	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises	
St Ciaran's College	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises	
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	No - but we have casual use and/or non-written agreement	
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	Yes - A policy for Community Use of School Premises	We want to see insurance cover from the sports body eg, GAA for the club.

Barriers to Community Use

- 5.13** It's deemed important to understand why some schools might not have community use of their sports facilities. Seven response options were available in the survey questionnaire; the following table shows that insurance and extra staff costs are uppermost in school governor's minds.

If your school does not presently open its pitch/outdoor sports facilities for community use what are the main barriers to community use? Tick all that may apply.

Barrier	No of Schools
Insurance concerns	3
Drafting of user agreement	0
Pitches are already used extensively by school teams	2
Extra staffing costs to manage community pitch use (eg, cleaning, maintenance, caretaker, admin)	3
Not in the school development plans/strategy	0
Beyond the remit of school responsibility	0
Concerns regarding over-use and mis-use of pitches/outdoor facilities	1

Further Comments

- That is not in the school's remit but rests with H and J Martin facilities management and the owners of the school.
- Pitches are not suitable for any type of use. The College has to look elsewhere for support with Teams. Hopefully, with a new Capital Build, this will change in a few years.
- We have always been open to community use
- Pitches are not currently in a state of repair to have extensive use. The school would like to open the facilities to clubs and teams. The Sports Hall is used by the Scouts and they occasionally use the pitch during the summer for outdoor games
- No-one would want to use the pitches as they are in poor condition
- As this is a shared campus, I cannot make any arrangements without the other school
- We are very keen to explore this as an opportunity to enhance local facilities in a mutually agreeable way.

Schools' Use of Other Pitches

- 5.14** It's clear that many schools are not self-sufficient in terms of pitches, relying on Council and club pitches which they use on a regular and frequent basis.

Does your school use any other pitches/outdoor sports facilities that it does not 'own'? if so, please give details for all pitches if more than one.

School	Name and Location of all pitch/pitches	Owner of all pitch/pitches	Sports you play on all pitch/pitches	Frequency of use (approx.)	Distance travelled to all pitch/pitches
Drumglass High School	White City, Dungannon	Mid Ulster Council	Soccer	Before covid - weekly	a few hundred metres
Fivemiletown College	Castle Park Centre Lisnaskea,	Lakeland Forum	Football	5 times a year	150 miles
Holy Trinity College	Fr Rocks GAC Cookstown; MUSA	Fr Rocks; Mid Ulster Council	Gaelic Football	During football season only	1 mile return
Rainey Endowed School	Meadowbank AstroTurf hockey pitch	Mid Ulster Council	Hockey	15 hours per week	1 mile
St Conor's College	Greenough GAC	Greenlough GAC	Gaelic Games	Daily	Next door
St Patrick's Maghera	Watty Graham's Glen GFC training pitch	Watty Graham's Glen GFC	Gaelic Football, Camogie, Hurling	2-3 after school sessions per week in the period from November to March approx.	1 mile
St Pius X College	Meadowbank			Regular	2 miles
St Ciaran's College	MUSA, Tyrone GAA at Garvaghy, Sherry's Field Armagh, Local GAA Clubs	Local Council and Clubs	Mostly GAA	2/3 teams per week	varies depending upon where opposition are from
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	St Patrick Donaghmore, Galbally GAA, MUSA, DUY	GAA, Mid Ulster Council, Dungannon United Youth	Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Soccer, Rugby	Daily	Max 10miles- MUSA Dungannon 3miles, Galbally 3miles Donaghmore Quarter of a mile
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	Up to 20 main pitches for school teams to play opposition and	Meadowbank sports arena	Hurling, camogie gaelic football, ladies gaelic football, soccer	4 times per week for 32 weeks	on average 25 miles

Development Plans

- 5.15** Given the potential for the Council to partner with schools in the provision of shared sports pitches and facilities in general, it's important that the Council knows what schools' aspirations and/or plans are.

Does your school have any plans to develop or expand its sports facilities?	
Aughnacloy College	The Board of Governors would like to develop an indoor sports hall facility, as per a plan that was passed a number of years ago which was cancelled due to public objection.
Drumglass High School	Gravel pitch at the front of the school - legal issue regarding right of way to be sorted before plans to change to 3G surface can proceed.
Fivemiletown College	We currently have an AstroTurf pitch which it is nearing its life span. We are currently looking at the usage levels and if it is more visible to replace to a 3g pitch. This would take away from school and community hockey and at the moment the Enniskillen ladies hockey club use our pitch as there are no AstroTurf facilities in Fermanagh. The majority of the clubs using the astro are football and Gaelic and from a community point of view the upgrade would be of more benefit for a 3g pitch. In an ideal world we would love to have both to aid the community in their desire to offer all sports and initially we had plans for a pitch in the centre of our athletics track which we may revisit. We do also have space on at our tennis courts for the development of a pitch but as a school we would need to look at providing tennis elsewhere on the grounds.
Holy Trinity College	Capital Build due to commence. New School and new Sports facilities - 3G Pitch, MUGA, Tennis Courts, Handball Walls, Fitness Suite.
Integrated College Dungannon	The College is waiting for confirmation from the Department of Finance regarding the facilities to be included in our new buildings program. This could include two additional grass pitches. The College may approach the Council for additional funding to secure a walking track to be used by parents when the drop their children of to use the facilities as members of the clubs mentioned previously.
Rainey Endowed School	Currently trying to get both small gravel pitches converted to one sand dressed Astro Hockey pitch.
Royal School Dungannon	To continue to maintain the condition of existing rugby and hockey pitches for the benefit of school teams and community use.
Sperrin Integrated College	The school have a school development passed by DENI which had included enhanced sports facilities ,however at present the DENI are focussing on classroom accommodation.

St Joseph's College Coalisland	We have an ambition to expand the dimensions of the grass playing surface to allow the pitch to be used for inter-school competitions and allow the local clubs to use it as an official alternative to their own facilities when they are double/triple booked.
St Pius X College	We are always on the lookout for funding to enhance our provision!
St Ciaran's College	We would love to but can't source funding!
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore	Our school is in the initial stage of achieving a new build in stages, as part of this it is envisaged that an entitlement of pitches would be included to provide the required facilities for sport in our school. It is however a long drawn out process and does not meet the obvious immediate need which our school has in relation to pitch facilities.
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	We have plans passed for a 4G floodlit pitch but no funding.

Final Comments

- 5.16** These final comments supplement the schools' comments on development plans. They will be helpful as the Council looks to partner with schools in the future development of pitches.

Final Comments		
School	Further Development Plans Comment	Final Comment
Cookstown High School		There seems to be good Council provision of soccer, rugby and GAA pitches but no provision for hockey.
Drumglass High School	Approval and costs would need to be sorted with owners and H and J Martin Facilities management.	
Fivemiletown College	We aim to cater for the mental, physical and social wellbeing of the community and strive at having the facilities available for the Fivemiletown and surrounding areas to use in the evenings and at weekends.	Fivemiletown College is ideally located for the benefits of the development of pitches for sport. Local clubs and ourselves as a school have to travel to Lisnaskea, Enniskillen, Omagh or Dungannon for the nearest 3g pitch. We would support the need for the Council and local clubs in looking at a way to cater for this demand. Mid Ulster also lacks AstroTurf pitches to cater for Hockey. With no pitch in Fermanagh the nearest for Enniskillen ladies to travel to is ourselves Omagh or Dungannon.

School	Further Development Plans Comment	Final Comment
Holy Trinity College	Community partnership will be vital upon new school build.	As a maintained school in centre of Cookstown, overall provision is poor in comparison to another local controlled Post Primary School who have excellent outdoor provision.
Rainey Endowed School		Even if our school does get an AstroTurf hockey pitch on site we will still need to hire the AstroTurf hockey pitch at Meadowbank. The new pitch is planned to go on the current gravel and the current gravel at school gets up to 10 hours hockey use a week. This means if we are to maintain our participation levels of 150 girls playing hockey a week we will need Meadowbank to ensure we do not have to lose any of our current girls teams. One pitch cannot accommodate enough training slots for our ten girls teams. And this is without any allowance for boys use of AstroTurf and we constantly have boys asking us can we start hockey for them in school.
Royal School Dungannon		We regret the decision of MUDC to withdraw from a very successful commercial agreement for the hire of our AstroTurf pitch which was both cost beneficial to the Council and which supports hockey for a premier league team in an area where there is no alternative provision.
Sperrin Integrated College		Within Magherafelt the outdoor Sports facilities are very good. In the past we have used Meadowbank Pitch for match fixtures and Sports Day.
St Joseph's College Coalisland	The development of the pitch and in future a fitness suite would allow for the facilities to be used at more user-friendly times for the youth of the local clubs and the various teams they all run. It would also offer an additional venue for matches allowing the area to have another full sized pitch to accommodate games. If floodlights were to be installed it would allow the facility to be used later	While the local clubs provide the use of their facilities on a limited basis, there is no MUDC provision in Coalisland to cater for the main sports in the area. Few are floodlit to allow use later into the evening. Often the cost can put some groups off from participating and at a time when we want to encourage as many people to participate in a healthy lifestyle, our facilities fall short.

School	Further Development Plans Comment	Final Comment
	into the evening especially in the darker winter months.	
St Patrick's Maghera		The winter period is especially difficult for the school with pitches generally unplayable if weather is consistently poor. The small sized pitch on the main school site can become unplayable for 4-5 months,(Nov-March) if the weather is poor which puts a lot of pressure on pupils getting regular access to quality PE.
St Pius X College		The leadership of St Pius X College, through the current School Development Plan, is currently looking at ways to enhance the community use of the school, including our sports facilities, and are open to conversations to facilitate this ambition.
St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore		Mid Ulster Council has done much good work in developing pitch and outdoor sports facilities in its legislative area and are to be commended on this. I would however like to see increased provision in Donaghmore. The village has had considerable growth in its housing stock in recent years and accordingly the population is also increasing rapidly. Donaghmore is centrally located between South Derry and the west of the province with St Joseph's Grammar School which was founded 100 years ago occupying a magnificent site overlooking the village. The school has the necessary land to position a pitch on its site and has also developed strong links with local sporting groups which would ensure the facility would act as a tremendous hub for both the school and sporting groups in the local area.
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt		To meet the schools needs we could be doing with a Council provision in the Dungannon area which we can meet other schools for games the MUSA centre outside Cookstown is overused at times and booking are hard to secure we can usually get plenty of free Council soccer pitches.

School & Community Case Study

- 5.17** Dalriada School in Ballymoney developed a 60m x 30m 3G pitch, fully fenced and floodlit in 2009. This was only made possible with a grant of £250k from Sport NI. The intention was to share the facility with the local community as well as have access to an extra 'classroom' for PE and sports activities. Administrative responsibilities –

bookings, scheduling, invoicing – are contracted out whilst the school looks after maintenance. It is heavily used by local sports clubs and groups; achieving approximately 75% of capacity. Ballymoney United Youth Academy say, *‘We find the size of the pitch is ideal for our youth squads and being fully fenced on a school site it’s really safe too.’* After revenue costs, the pitch realises a considerable surplus which is set aside for a replacement carpet.

Mid Ulster District Council

- 5.18** The Council is the key local stakeholder given its commitment to developing and operating facilities that promote participation in sport and physical activity; in terms of pitches and ancillary accommodation the Council owns and operates nearly a quarter of the district’s entire stock. It also actively promotes and facilitates participation through its sports development activities. In addition, the Council supports local communities across the district, including sporting organisations, through its programme of grants. The sports-related grants available in 2020-2021 were as follows:-

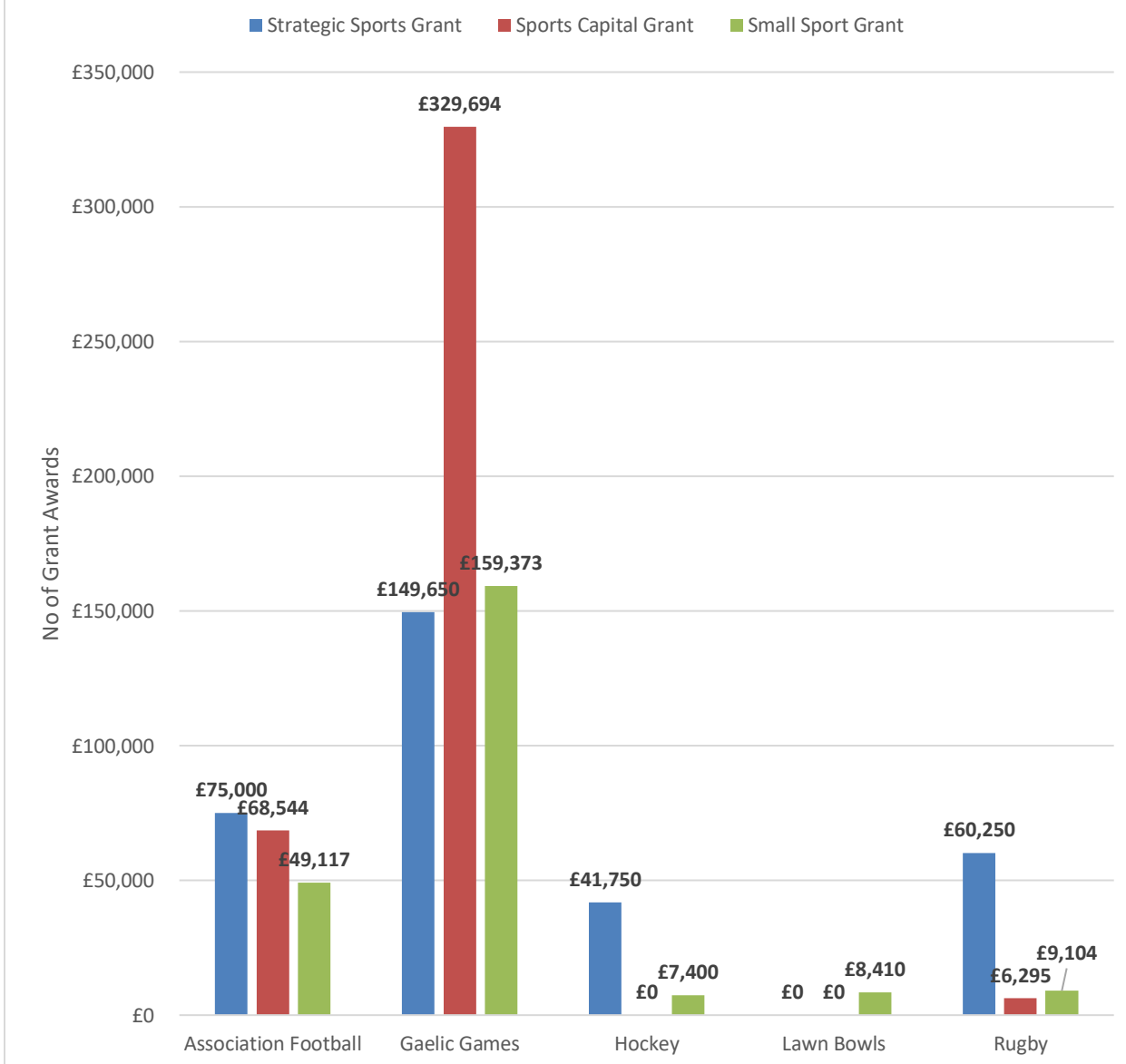
Grant Descriptor	Details
▪ Sports Development Grant	Maximum £1,500. Budget £30,000. Everybody Active funding not confirmed.
▪ Sports Capital Grant	Maximum £5,000. To be matched 50%. One call each year, can only apply every 2 years. Budget £120,000
▪ Strategic Sports Development Grant	Maximum £15,000. Budget £75,000. Governing bodies only – salary. Three year funding.
▪ Sports Representative Individual & Team Grant	Maximum £250-£500. Budget £15,000. Selected by governing body.
▪ Schools Access to Sports Facilities Grant	Maximum £5,000. Budget £10,000. Schools providing sports facilities to minority sports that do not have their own provision.

- 5.19** Analysis of the Council’s records for financial support given to sports clubs over the period 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 shows a total allocation of £1,176,161 across 25 sports, of which the five sports being considered in this strategy received £963,537, or 82% of the total allocation. Here’s the breakdown for the five sports.

Sport	Small Sports Grant			Strategic Sports Grant			Sports Capital Grant			Total All Three Grants		
	No of Awards	Total Spend £	Average Award £	No of Awards	Total Spend £	Average Award £	No of Awards	Total Spend £	Average Award £	No of Awards	Total Spend £	Average Award £
Association Football	50	49,117	982	5	75,000	15,000	24	68,544	2,856	79	192,661	2,439
Gaelic Games	134	159,373	1,189	10	149,650	14,965	97	329,694	3,399	241	638,717	2,650
Hockey	6	7,400	1,233	5	41,750	8,350	0	0	0	11	49,150	4,468
Lawn Bowls	14	8,410	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8,410	600
Rugby	7	9,104	1,300	5	60,250	12,050	3	6,295	2,098	15	75,649	5,043
Totals	211	233,404	1,061	25	326,650	12,591	124	404,533	2,784	360	964,587	3,043

5.20 The above information is also presented in graph format as follows:-

**Figure 5.1: Comparison of the value of grant awards across the five sports
2018/19 to 2022/23 inclusive**



Governing Bodies

Irish Football Association

- 5.21** The IFA acts in an advisory capacity for ‘senior football’ in Northern Ireland, setting criteria for grounds in the Premiership, the Championship and the Intermediate Leagues. In the Mid Ulster area there are 31 known football clubs with 4,091 playing members, an average of 132 playing members per club. As the sports governing body the IFA is heavily involved in development of the game amongst young players. It

does this through the Grassroots Development Programme, involving a team of Grassroots Development Officers working at a local level; one of these officers has responsibility for the Mid Ulster area.

5.22 The IFA's strategy 'Promoting, Fostering and Developing Football for All; 2017-2022' has several elements of relevance to the Council's provision:-

- ❖ **Stadia Improvements** – the strategy looks to deliver 'several major stadia improvements' at Premiership grounds to improve the experience for supporters and improve the chances of hosting further UEFA tournaments. In addition the strategy looks to complete 'up to 20 other smaller projects with clubs outside the Premiership' including intermediate and junior clubs, incorporating stadia and training facilities (timeline 2018-2020).
- ❖ **Regional Hubs** – the aim is to deliver a football hub in each Council area, serving as a host venue for small-sided games and becoming the focus for all local IFA activity (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Lending Strategy** – the IFA will act as a financial lender for clubs to ensure they can access the full range of government funds (timeline 2018-2020).
- ❖ **Pitch Strategy** – the IFA will provide subsidised training for club ground staff, hosting workshops and practical demonstrations (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Tweak the Season** – the aim is to have clubs playing in May and June so that Premiership clubs qualifying for Europe are in peak form and fitness (timeline 2019).

As the Council considers future investment in association football it's important to work alongside the IFA to maximise value for money and avoid duplication.

5.23 The IFA's youth football strategy 'Let Them Play' aims to increase the numbers of young people playing association football to 100,000 by 2025, a doubling of the estimated 50,000 participant when the strategy was launched in 2015. The obvious implication for local authorities and other facility providers is increased pressure on facilities for training and competition for youth participation and, as players mature, for adult participation.

5.24 The Grassroots Development Officer for the Mid Ulster area reports a significant increase in participation by girls, influenced by the growing profile of the women's international game globally and coverage of the Northern Ireland women's team. As

COVID-19 restrictions ease association football is experiencing more interest from young people, boys and girls, in taking up the game.

Small Sided Games

- 5.25** The IFAs Small Sided Games (SSG) programme, introduced in 2013, continues to grow in popularity; its success is attributed to the child-centred ethos, which parents and clubs have embraced. There are four age groups:-

Age	Team Size	Squad	Pitch Size	Goals Size
Under 8's	Five-a-side	8	35mx25m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 9's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 10's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.63mx1.83m
Under 11's	Nine-a-side	12	65mx45m	4.87mx2.13m

Matches are generally played on Saturday mornings or Friday evenings usually in three time slots; 9.00am – 10.00am, 10.00am – 11.00am, 11.00am – 12noon. The duration and structure of matches is specified as follows:-

Five-a-side	–	3 periods of play, each 12 minutes
Seven-a-side	–	3 periods of play, each 15 minutes
Nine-a-side	–	2 periods of play, each 25 minutes

There are no referees; instead team coaches 'referee' from the side-lines. Changing facilities are not essential, meaning youngsters can simply turn up, play and go. The Grassroots Development Officer reflects on the Mid Ulster SSG programme as follows:-

- ❖ As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, the interest from clubs in involving teams/squads in Mid Ulster's SSG programme has increased, resulting in pressure on facilities used by the programme. The Mid Ulster SSG programme operates on Friday evenings at Mid Ulster Sports Arena (MUSA), Castlecaulfield, Moyola Park. At MUSA the programme uses the association football 3G pitch and the multi-sports 3G pitch with a total of approximately 60 teams involved from 12 clubs of which nine are based in Mid Ulster:-

Augher Stars FC	Riverdale Youth FC	Castlecaulfield Youth FC
Mid Ulster Utd	Cookstown Youth FC	Magherafelt Sky Blues FC
Moyola Park FC	Draperstown Celtic FC	Dungannon United Youth

- ❖ At MUSA the SSG programme only accommodates the seven-a-side age groups in the 28 participating teams, however, the organisers are keen to

extend the programme to the younger age group, playing five-a-side. Presently the two 3G pitches at MUSA used by the programme are at capacity, therefore the organisers are interested in using 3G facility within the athletics track project proposed for MUSA.

- ❖ The SSG organisers may look to access the new 3G pitch at Maghera Leisure Centre to extend the programme. However, there is also a need for more resources to help organise and deliver the sessions, especially staff/volunteers and equipment. SSG can use grass surfaces in the summer months although the programme mostly takes place from September to mid-November and from the end of February to the start of May.

Futsal

- ❖ The game of Futsal, popular in Asia and South America, is growing in popularity here in Northern Ireland. Local authority leisure centres are starting to include Futsal markings in their sports halls – the Foyle Futsal Arena in Derry City & Strabane District Council and Newry Leisure Centre are examples alongside Ulster University in Coleraine. Futsal is a form of five-a-side generally played indoors, using court markings to define the area of play. A court typically measures anything from 25 metres to 42 metres in length and 16 metres to 25 metres in width. Futsal is set to take over from the ‘traditional’ five-a-side game in the coming years. From a starting point of around 150 players in 2015 the game has grown to an estimated 8,000–9,000 participants in Northern Ireland today. Other points to note are:-
 - Northern Ireland competes in a home nations Futsal championship with Ulster University used for residential training camps; its development is in accordance with a five year strategy, ‘Game Changer’. The Futsal World Cup qualifying games will be held in April 2022 with Northern Ireland entering women’s and men’s teams. Northern Ireland has a domestic league for Futsal, men’s and women’s teams and coach education courses for Futsal are now available. In Mid Ulster Futsal is played at five venues presently; Back Row Sports Centre, Draperstown, Cookstown Leisure Centre, Dungannon Leisure Centre, Dungannon Integrated College, Mid Ulster Sports Arena.
 - Unlike five-a-side, Futsal plays to the lines, therefore, it is a more skilful game. The heavier ball has a reduced bounce which adds to the technical skill required. Indeed, the skills are transferable into the eleven-a-side game.

- A Futsal squad has 14 players of which 5 are on court. The game is played in two 20 minute halves, however, the clock stops when the ball is out of play so games can last considerably longer than 40 minutes.
- The IFA advises that Futsal is one of several initiatives that will see more ‘small-sided’ alternatives to the competitive twenty two player game, with a view to encouraging more participation in the sport by people of all ages. It’s important to keep an eye to these developments and how they may affect the future provision of pitches by local authorities and others.

Ulster Council GAA

- 5.26** Gaelic games in Ulster has around 570 clubs of which around 411 are in Northern Ireland. In the Mid Ulster area there are 47 gaelic games clubs with 14,348 playing members, an average of 305 playing members per club. As with all sports the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on clubs and recovery is ongoing. In past years gaelic clubs have been self-contained, generally not needing access to pitches outside club grounds. As a result, local authorities mostly did not develop gaelic pitches. This situation has been changing over the last 20 to 30 years and the introduction of artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology has allowed local authorities to develop multi-sport ATPs; Mid Ulster has two such pitches, at Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown and Meadowbank Sports Arena in Magherafelt. The Council also provides grass gaelic pitches.
- 5.27** Acceptance of ATP pitches by gaelic games is growing; at youth levels ATP pitches have been key to facilitating games schedules in County competitions. The Ulster Council sees a need for indoor/covered ATPs to facilitate training in inclement weather, suggesting that an air dome could be considered as an alternative to a permanent structure.

Connacht GAA Sports Air Dome

Connacht GAA completed an air dome project in 2021. Located at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence it measures 150m x 100m with a height of 26metres. The facility accommodates a full size gaelic ATP, a 130m x 5 lane running straight, gym and fitness testing and permanent spectator seating for 600. The air dome can be transformed to operate as a conference centre or a concert venue.



- 5.28** The Ulster Council reports that girls and ladies participation in gaelic games continues to grow steadily. This mirrors the increasing participation of women in other team sports, especially association football and rugby, and points to the importance of sports facilities being welcoming to females, not least in the provision of changing accommodation.
- 5.29** The Ulster Council's strategic capacity promotes *participation, governance, community engagement, health & wellness*. The strategy recognises the increasing popularity of handball which is popular throughout Europe and particularly suits foreign nationals living and working here. It's being promoted as an option for the winter season when gaelic takes a break. The Ulster Council is keen to demonstrate that gaelic games clubs can and do share facilities with other sports; in Mid Ulster a good example is the facility-sharing arrangement between Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC and Coagh United FC.

Ulster Hockey Union

- 5.30** Hockey's world governing body, the Federation Internationale Hockey estimates hockey has 44,000 players throughout Ireland. Both the men's and women's national teams are in the top twenty in world rankings, maintaining a steady position over a

number of years. Ulster is well represented on national teams; in the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup Ireland won through to the final, led by captain Katie Mullan who played her club hockey with Ballymoney Ladies. This was a significant achievement which has boosted participation with around 16,000 players registered in Ulster.

- 5.31** There are three hockey clubs in Mid Ulster, Dungannon, Cookstown, Rainey. The main impediment to growing participation is access to pitches; having access to only a single pitch tends to constrain a club's development. Schools have a vital role to play in introducing pupils to hockey and in creating links with clubs. Ulster Hockey promotes the relationship between clubs and schools and its 'Active Clubs' initiative encourages clubs to develop under-age participation.
- 5.32** The artificial turf pitches (ATPs) which began to appear in the 1970's prioritised hockey activity – they are also known as 'AstroTurf'. They came to be regarded (incorrectly) as multi-sport in the absence of alternative ATP surfaces and were widely used by a range of sports. In the mid to late 1990's the introduction of the new 3G technology suited to large ball sports meant a gradual shift from AstroTurf (which was never designed to accommodate association football) to 3G by association football clubs/groups and an increasing demand for 3G, now popular with association football and gaelic games and increasingly, rugby. Today, 3G has taken over from AstroTurf as the surface of choice for all but hockey. Given that hockey has fewer participants than any one of the 'big three', in recent years AstroTurf carpets have been replaced by 3G carpets in several locations across Ulster. It is also the case that new ATP's currently being developed outside of hockey clubs and hockey playing schools are almost exclusively 3G as these provide the best potential for use and income.
- 5.33** Whilst some hockey clubs and most schools (that offer hockey) have their own AstroTurf facilities, many still rely on local authority facilities. However, with the loss of AstroTurf pitches in some areas, coupled with the fact that fewer AstroTurf pitches are being constructed, the Ulster Hockey Union clearly faces significant challenges as it seeks to continue to build grassroots participation.

Irish Bowls Federation

- 5.34** The sport of bowls in Northern Ireland is governed by the Irish Bowls Federation (IBF) which incorporates four member organisations, namely:-
- ❖ The Irish Bowling Association
 - ❖ The Association of Irish Indoor Bowling
 - ❖ The Irish Women's Bowling Association
 - ❖ The Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association

The IBF was set up in 2013 with the primary aim of developing all disciplines of the sport of bowls in Northern Ireland.

5.35 Participation in lawn bowls in Northern Ireland has fallen in recent years. Many clubs have an ageing membership and find it difficult to attract and retain new and younger players. Clubs tend to focus on the playing of bowls and most clubs are not pro-active in outreach programmes or membership development. However, the sport of bowls in Northern Ireland has achieved considerable success on the international scene and it is reckoned to ‘punch above its weight’ in competitions.

5.36 The IBF Strategy 2016-2022 (updated 2021) states its purpose as:-

‘ develop a plan for the advancement of the sport in Northern Ireland. The Strategy explores plans to attract players of all ages to the sport, raising our profile and looks at how funding of the sport can be advanced along with development of the coaching support and continued success in international and world events.’

The strategy includes addressing the public perception of bowls, ways of increasing income outside the ‘public purse’, the need to have development programmes for schools and young players, better partnerships with external bodies, club and coach development. The strategy recognises the challenges facing bowls at all levels and seeks to address them.

5.37 The sport of bowls has been badly affected by COVID-19 restrictions, not least because it tends to involve players who, due to their age, are more at risk from infections. The IBF is presently conducting a survey of its membership to determine what actions will assist clubs in re-grouping post-COVID-19, with a focus on more female players. Presently, lady bowlers mostly play in the afternoons and men in the evenings; the IBF is introducing mixed competitions in an effort to make bowling more inclusive.

5.38 There are two types of surfaces for lawn bowls, (i) natural turf; (ii) synthetic. The IBF makes the point that synthetic greens are increasingly used in Ireland with an estimated half of all greens now synthetic. This is something to be considered given the cost of maintaining natural turf greens compared to the cost of maintaining a synthetic green. In Mid Ulster the bowling green at King George V Playing Fields in Fivemiletown has a synthetic surface and there are other examples in Antrim (Allen Park) and Belfast (Cl Knock). Whilst it is beyond the requirements of this commission to comment on synthetic bowling greens it’s useful to summarise earlier research¹⁸.

¹⁸ Pitches Condition Survey and Strategy; Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council 2018 by Otium Leisure Consultancy.

- ❖ The maintenance regime for natural turf bowling greens is labour intensive with frequent grass cutting (even daily), weed control, fertilising, aerating and scarifying with specialist machinery and equipment used by qualified greenkeepers. Synthetic greens are less labour intensive yet still require maintenance inputs.

❖ Cutting – 12 hours per week x £21.00 x 24 weeks	£6,048
❖ Maintenance around the green @ 8 hours per week x £21.00 x 24 weeks	£4,032

Total £10,080

These costs only deal with labour/wages. Additional costs will be incurred for equipment, fuel and materials (chemicals, sand, etc).

- ❖ It's of interest to consider the cost of 'converting' a natural turf bowling green to a synthetic surface and on-going maintenance. Dales Sports (www.dalesports.co.uk) installs a range of sports surfaces including synthetic lawn bowls; in 2015/16 Dales Sports installed the synthetic bowls surface at CI Knock to World Bowls standard. A 'private' club, Knock Bowling Club moved to CIYMS's sports complex in Belfast in 2016 constructing a new synthetic green and re-naming as CI Knock Bowling Club. Richard White of Dales Sports advises as follows:-

- Converting an existing 6 rink natural grass bowling green to a synthetic surface costs in the region of £110,000 to £120,000. The work involves removing the existing surface and sub strata, installing a drainage system, build up sub strata with Tye 1 stone, prepare level surface and install bowls carpet to World Bowls tolerances.
- Dales Sports offers a needle punch synthetic carpet system for outdoor greens, either 'Master Green' or 'Pro Green Plus'. Both systems have a 12-14 second run time which is slightly faster than natural grass. Unlike other synthetic greens, such as Allen Park Bowling Green (Antrim) these carpets do not require sand infill, helping to reduce maintenance requirements and costs.
- Maintenance involves a weekly vacuum (2/3 hours) with a wet/dry machine and spray for moss prevention on one or two occasions annually. Maintenance does not require any particular skills and can be carried out by club members. Debris such as twigs and leaves should be swept away with a medium hard brush. A suitable vacuum will cost around £2,000 to purchase.

- A replacement carpet will be required after 10-12 years at a cost of around £30,000 - £35,000. As with other synthetic sports surfaces, regular maintenance will prolong the carpets lifespan.

Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch

- 5.39** The IRFU Ulster Branch focuses a good deal of its attention and efforts on domestic growth with a 3-5 year strategic plan in place to attract more players to the game in schools and clubs. Rugby is structured as mini (U12's), youth (U19's) and adult. Mini rugby is played across the Province in clubs and primary schools, mostly in the controlled education sector but also in the maintained sector. Mini rugby is often compromised when there is a demand for pitches from youth rugby so there is a need for more availability of pitches through improved or additional facilities. Facilities are a key element of Ulster Branch's strategy; in the Mid Ulster area Meadowbank and MUSA are used for regional development squads. The Ulster Branch recognises the needs of the district's three rugby clubs; (i) additional floodlighting and another pitch at Dungannon RFC; (ii) clubhouse redevelopment, including female changing accommodation at Rainey OB RFC; (iii) clubhouse redevelopment at Clogher Valley RFC.
- 5.40** It's generally recognised that societal changes have had an impact on rugby wherein the traditional Saturday afternoon club fixture is increasingly difficult to sustain. The Ulster Branch recognises the need for flexibility in match scheduling, looking to weekday evening fixtures which, given that rugby is played during the autumn and winter months, requires floodlights. Part of the issue with Saturday afternoon scheduling is the time and expense associated with travelling; the Ulster Branch is addressing this with more local fixtures. It's reported that players are opting to play less frequently so rather than having 20/25 players in a squad some years ago, a squad could now comprise 40/45 players. This results in fewer teams but not necessarily fewer players.
- 5.41** Participation in youth and mini rugby continues to grow especially amongst girls and women as a result of the Ulster Branch's women's development team. Targets set for women's participation for 2015 were easily achieved and pre-COVID-19 women's participation was set to double by 2023. However, club-based facilities for girls and women are an ongoing issue, especially changing accommodation. The point is made that facilities built in the 1970s/1980s no longer reflect where the game of rugby is now, with a much greater focus on females and families.
- 5.42** The Club Community Relations Officer (CCRO) initiative has had an impact on rugby reaching into non-traditional sectors. Originally set up with the Ulster Branch as the

employer, this responsibility has been handed to the clubs, with funding support from the Ulster Branch; in Mid Ulster the Council also contributes to the posts. The work of the CCRO recognises that not all players are looking for the same rugby experience and the non-contact game, 'touch and tag' is increasingly popular.

- 5.43** The Ulster Branch reports there is a good deal of pressure on pitches in some areas. Clubs have often looked to use schools' rugby pitches, however getting permission is often down to personalities – community use policies are rarely in place in schools. Location of 3G pitches is important to rugby. It's felt that clubs would travel to 3G pitches close to the club's ground. The point is made that rugby clubs are operated as a business and they really need to have matches at club grounds. Thinking to the use of MUSA and Meadowbank for regional development squads, the Ulster Branch comments that conditioning facilities need to be able to accommodate around 20 players at the one time.

Consultation Events

- 5.44** Four consultation events were held:-

- ❖ Greenvale Leisure Centre, Monday 7 June 2021
- ❖ Cookstown Leisure Centre, Tuesday 8 June 2021
- ❖ Dungannon Leisure Centre, Wednesday 9 June 2021
- ❖ Cookstown Leisure Centre, Monday 27 September 2021

The purpose of these events was to (i) provide an opportunity to introduce the audit and strategy project to the community; (ii) promote the survey; (iii) allow the consultants to hear first-hand about pitches provision and how it influences participation across the five sports; (iv) supplement survey work. Appendix 1 presents a record of attendance and comments at each consultation event. Four topics were introduced and attendees were asked to record their thoughts. A random selection of comments is highlighted here to give a flavour of the events.

Topic / Question	Comment
PRESENT NEED	
What is your need for Council facilities?	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If our club had more fixtures than we could cope with on any one day, we would appreciate the availability of Council pitches. Membership: 150 players, 200 non-playing members. (<i>Desertmartin GAC</i>) ▪ We are fully reliant on the multi-sport pitch inside Meadowbank, both for training and matches, for all

	<p>of our age groups – minors, youth and seniors. Minis – 7 years to 11 years old; Youths 12 years – 15 years; Seniors 15 years+. This includes 105 minis, 30 Juniors and 81 Seniors. Total 216. (<i>Rainey Hockey Club</i>)</p> <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For competitive play, for practice, for social play, for preparation of elite international play. (<i>Cookstown Bowling Club</i>) ▪ As we have no pitches or assets that the club owns the need is vital for our ongoing club requirements as are the facilities for training, competition and club development. 75% of our utilisation would be Council provision. (<i>Cookstown Youth FC</i>) ▪ Moneymore GAC is a growing club of over 300 members. Over half is underage teams at present our club only has one football pitch. This is not enough to cater for all teams with training and games, etc. (<i>Moneymore GAC</i>) <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need a surface on which to play our sport. We are asking again for equity of provision. We feel we have been overloaded on many occasions in terms of recent pitches as none have been suitable for either training or playing matches. (<i>Dungannon Hockey Club</i>) ▪ Club founded in 2016 and have had no base or regular venue to train or play. We went to establish a playing base for our current Under 5, Under 7, Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 hurling and same age groups for camogie. We currently use the ‘soccer pitch’ at Ballygawley Playing Fields but still have no venue for matches. (<i>Cúchulainn an Ghleanna</i>)
<p>How does the Council’s present provision meet your need?</p>	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just adequate only one surface for 3 teams and juniors (U15, U13 and U11). Still managed to produce Ulster and Irish players (thanks to Meadowbank) and training in all weathers essential for young skills and girls in a safe controlled environment. Meadowbank is the envy of all other schools and clubs due to its unique <i>inclusive</i> surface. (<i>Rainey Hockey Club</i>) ▪ Not currently with the number of teams + playing members. Also current location of Council pitches

	<p>pose issue with travel. Seasonal need + lighting has been an issue with use of Council pitches. (<i>Slaughtneil GAC</i>)</p> <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present it doesn't because the pitch is not catered for gaelic, goal posts etc. catch nets. No fencing, poorly maintained grass, lights also. (<i>Moneymore GAC</i>) Members have restricted access to the green. Midweek games are often played in a short version in order to complete games. (<i>Dungannon Men's Bowling Club</i>) <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The club currently feel that Council provision with the Moy village is inadequate. The only recreational area within the village is the GAA grounds. Other small villages or similar size have Council provided facilities. Our members are having to travel to Dungannon to avail of pitches. (<i>Moy GAC</i>) We have a lease on Council pitch in Ballygawley which is used extensively by club, however, surface needs upgrading, also lights and goal posts need upgrading. (<i>Errigal Ciaran GAC</i>)
<p>If the Council's present provision doesn't meet your need tell us why.</p>	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently 150 girls playing hockey – 1 pitch cannot fulfil all our training + match requirements. Meadowbank pitch needs replaced with a new hockey surface as it is 3 years past its lifespan. Even if the school gets an AstroTurf it would replace the gravel therefore we still need Meadowbank Sports Arena pitch. (<i>Rainey Endowed School</i>) 1 functional pitch, no floodlights for training or evening games. Policy 1 game per pitch per day. Pitch is unavailable for 90% of year. Poorly maintained pitch, surroundings, eg, fencing, grass cutting, Dugouts are H&S risk, wire fencing not suitable. Limited booking slots. Poor changing facilities. (<i>Draperstown Celtic</i>) <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because we have our own pitch and have planning permission for 2 more pitches on the same site. <i>(Clonoe O’Rahilly’s)</i> ▪ The gaelic 4G is booked regularly on a block booking by FAI and local soccer clubs leaving availability difficult. This seems strange given the amount of soccer pitches in the town that are not in use. <i>(Cookstown Fr Rocks GAA)</i> ▪ Green needs a lot of improvement, pavilion outdated – damp in ladies toilets. We need a proper greenkeeper to maintain the green and set it up for matches. <i>(Magherafelt Ladies Bowling Club)</i> <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We had an all-weather pitch in Drumcoo for many years. When hockey moved to AstroTurf we campaign for an AstroTurf pitch. The Council entered a 10 year SLA agreement with RDS in 2006. This ended in 2016 and no pitch has been provided by the Council since. <i>(Dungannon Hockey Club)</i> ▪ Newmills Playing Fields – no lights, changing rooms only available on match days. Have been informed that grass pitch used once per week in winter months (or twice in summer). We have 2 teams that train twice per week & 1 game per week. Drumcoo – not guaranteed a slot for training (Tues & Thurs). <i>(Newmills Football Club)</i>
QUALITY	
<p>What is your view of the Council’s pitches?</p>	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extremely limited for the sport of hockey as there is only 1 Council pitch available, Meadowbank Sports Arena in the whole of the Mid Ulster area. Although this facility is fantastic, the surface needs replaced with a sand dressed AstroTurf pitch to meet Ulster hockey standards and to cater for other activities and sports. <i>(Rainey Hockey Club)</i> ▪ Well serviced in main areas – rural areas neglected, eg, Draperstown have had to ‘fight’ on occasion to get them cut and lined. Dog fouling on pitches is a serious issue. Attendants not always there to solve

	<p>issues. Lack of provisions, eg, corner flags, pegs, etc from nets. (<i>Draperstown Celtic</i>)</p> <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are plenty in the Cookstown area and the quality depends on how often they are maintained, eg, Council pitches within a Council sports centre weekly are maintained better than an isolated pitch and are therefore better quality. (<i>Cookstown Fr Rocks</i>) Over the last number of years there has been a gradual deterioration in the green and associated facilities due to a lack of time invested in maintenance. Green not cut often enough or low enough for match play. (<i>Cookstown Bowling Club</i>) <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council pitch we use is of good surface quality. Issue is that pitch is not regulation size, is not lined, does not have perimeter fencing or ball stops and the posts are not usable for camogie & hurling. (<i>Cúchulainn an Ghleanna Camogie & Hurling Club</i>) Not enough GAA pitches in the Council. Large number of pitches for other sports, eg, soccer. Outside MUSA, we struggle to find a ground outside our own. (<i>Donaghmore GAA</i>)
Name the top 3 Council pitches and tell us why.	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Maghera? Meadowbank. MUSA. All well maintained facilities which meet the requirements of any user. (<i>Moyola Park</i>) <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4G gaelic pitch at MUSA – good floodlights, fencing around pitch, good surface. Gaelic pitch at MUSA – catch nets good quality, flagged and line marking for matches. (<i>Cookstown Fr Rocks</i>) Dungannon Swift FC pitch; Coagh Sports Centre – grass pitch very good; Moyola FC – 3G pitch very good. (<i>Cookstown Youth</i>) <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's only one in our area and we cannot play games due to the size. (<i>Duiche Neill</i>) Mid Ulster Sports Arena; Drumcoo 3G – 3G pitches in general are a huge step above grass; Purely down to maintenance. (<i>Newmills Football Club</i>)
Name the bottom 3 Council pitches and tell us why.	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clady – poor state, no facilities, nearly unusable is current state. (<i>Greenlough GAC</i>) Cahore 2 – waterlogged 90% of season/no floodlights. Boyne Row – needs developed – goal mouth poor. Tobermore – Mill Park – has potential but sloped. (<i>Draperstown Celtic</i>) <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3G MUSA – too small; Beechway – too small – wet ground bad; MUSA Pitch 1 in the winter too wet (<i>Cookstown Youth</i>) Moneymore's is hardly fit for purpose. MUSA is ok if you can get a booking. Very difficult to book. (<i>Moneymore GAC</i>) <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All AstroTurf; all 4G; most 3G – doesn't meet rugby (IRFU) regs. (<i>Dungannon RFC</i>) Dungannon Park – football pitch of poor standard. Benburb is very good March – September. Once poor weather sets in pitch drainage is not very good. (<i>Riverdale FC, Benburb</i>)
What about changing accommodation?	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing accommodation is of a great standard – very spacious and always clean (this is only in terms of Meadowbank). (<i>Rainey Hockey Club</i>) Meadowbank – the changing facilities are excellent. Also – we love the staff! Great people who look after us well. (<i>Rainey Endowed School</i>) <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any I have used have been very good and well maintained. (<i>Killyman & District Cultural Group</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MUSA changing is the best we have used home or away. Fairhill is the worst – needs knocked down. Beechway is old and worn out. <i>(Cookstown Youth)</i> ▪ Changing accommodation is good in Dungannon. <i>(Dungannon Men's Bowling Club)</i> <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small changing block on site at Ballygawley Playing Fields. Facility is small and has not been made available to our club. With two small changing rooms, would be an issue for matches where male & female can participate together (up to U11) but cannot share changing rooms. <i>(Cúchulainn an Ghleanna)</i> ▪ Ref Newmills Playing Fields – fairly new building so facilities are good; sizeable changing rooms, referee room, disabled access, etc. *side note* could be looked after/maintained/cleaned better between match days. <i>(Newmills Football Club)</i>
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ASPIRATIONS – SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

<p>What are the aspirations for your club / group / school thinking about sports development (eg, more people involved, targeting specific groups, coaching, etc)</p>	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Rainey Endowed School)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elite – continued team titles including Ulster & All-Ireland titles at Junior & Senior levels. Individual development – we hope to at least maintain our national & international representative levels, and ideally get more, over the next 10 years. Over the last 10 years we have had 23 Ulster representative players & 7 Ireland players (since Meadowbank opened). ▪ Participation – currently we have 150 girls playing and our 3rds team is oversubscribed – with more pitch time we'd like to start a 4ths/U15 team to accommodate this. We'd like to support more players to gain qualifications as coaches, officials & umpires. ▪ Personal Development – we'd like to give more kids opportunities to develop transferable
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	<p>interpersonal skills such as leadership, confidence & organisational skills through increased responsibilities in their own teams and in supporting younger teams through coaching and mentorship. They currently have opportunities through the school sports leader award, roles in the school hockey club and coaching but we'd like to expand much more to give more girls opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Links – we'd like to improve on creating links within the community – both primary schools (45 feeder primary schools) and the club. We'd like in particular that we get coaches out to primary schools to develop players earlier in hockey (currently very few of those schools are supported in playing hockey). ▪ All sides of the community participate in our school hockey. <p>(Slaughtneil GAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimise player drop off ▪ Maintain level of membership ▪ Advance training structures/coaching plans ▪ Reach out to the community as a whole outside of the playing members. ▪ Deal with + help to deal with issues such as obesity and mental health issues and awareness ▪ Attract other communities that are not typical to GAA ▪ Get senior players involved with underage coaching ▪ Keep + entice more females onto the club committee <p>(Draperstown Celtic FC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A club that is open to everyone – no matter age, race, ability/disability, gender. Demonstrated by recently being awarded IFA Grassroots Club of Year and IFA Inclusivity Award Winners 20/21 season. Recently expanded the female section with youth and adult teams. 10 female coaches obtained NCC certificates (along with 30+ other coaches from 14 – 45+ VAT). Close affiliation
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with TAMHI (selected as Game Changer Club) and partnership with STEPS Mental Health Charity. We have coaches & medic that are listed as disabled. Our coaches are currently waiting on the coaching disabled footballers course. We aspire to continue this work and expand on these foundations as per our sport development plan but are currently limited by facilities. To ensure a duty of care to all club members through acquiring sporting and personal skills from which they get lifelong benefits such as self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, integrity and respect for others.

Cookstown Leisure Centre

(Kildress GAA)

- Staying alive! Our club costs £75,000 pa to run. We have to raise all of that (including the Rates we are charged!)
- Paying off a £0.25 debt re our new building (cost £1.41m, 83% funded by us/our community).
- 'Sticking to the knitting' – fielding 16 different football teams, for men/women and boys/girls.
- Turning our 30m x 40m training area into 3G and roofing/covering it – autumn/winter/spring on a site 600' above sea level can be harsh!
- Maintaining the volunteer ethos – increasingly difficult, not least because of the burdens being placed on volunteers, eg, safeguarding, etc.
- Any I have used have been very good and well maintained. (*Killyman & District Cultural Group*)
- MUSA changing is the best we have used home or away. Fairhill is the worst – needs knocked down. Beechway is old and worn out. (*Cookstown Youth*)
- Changing accommodation is good in Dungannon. (*Dungannon Men's Bowling Club*)

(Clonoe O'Rahilly's)

- We have purchased land for 2 number pitches. We intend starting Phase 1 in the near future if we secure enough funding.

- At the moment we have only 1 pitch used for matches and training from youth to senior teams. We rent a field from a local farmer which is not very satisfactory and not safe for youth teams.
- In our planning DFI have insisted we supply a footpath from the housing development to the pitch, that would cost us approximately £180k, we will find it difficult enough to fund the pitches, never mind the footpath.
- We hope to get more people involved as there are lots of new developments in the area.

(Cookstown Youth Football Club)

- As a club to provide a suitable venue that meets the growing needs of our club and the members going forward.
- Whilst we aspire to develop a facility in the future that the members past, present and future can maintain with the available resources and finances.
- A joint venture with either private or a public body would be advantageous to the short to long term vision of the club.

(Dungannon Ladies Bowling Club)

- More members of all ages especially juniors as they are the future of any club. We are a strong ladies club and have brought home many Irish trophies in the past and we hope the Council will take this into consideration when any grants are available.

Dungannon Leisure Centre

(Dungannon Hockey Club)

- The Sports Facility Strategy in 2017 stated that 'priority should be given to the development/improvement of a range of synthetic turf pitches.' This unfortunately did not extend to a surface on which we can play hockey. Our aspirations are to have a surface on which we can continue to develop an already

thriving club – junior club and senior club, coaching opportunities for young players/volunteers. We would like to be able to link with local primary/post primary schools to develop hockey across the area. We already have close links with all hockey agencies and are restricted by our lack of pitch facilities and access to a hockey pitch on Sundays when many hockey tournaments are played.

(Dungannon RFC)

- Increase playing number by min 50% in next 10 years. Key groups include minis (6-12yrs) which could effectively double based on interest, however, we haven't got the pitch space to do so nor can we host blitz competitions as only 2 pitches.
- Increase female participation across all age levels, currently fastest growing section of the club with opportunities to play at elite level.
- To increase enjoyment within the local community including seniors by way of a walking route around both pitches and also the foreign born population given the ever changing demographics of the local Dungannon area including, but not limited to our neighbouring estate on Brookfield Road.

(St Joseph's College, Donaghmore; St Patrick's PS, Donaghmore; Blessed Patrick O'Loughran PS, Castlecaulfield; St Mary's PS, Lisboy, Carland)

- It's a fact that none of the four schools listed here enjoy the use or ownership of a competitive sized gaelic football pitch at any of the schools campus. Apart from the grammar school none of the primary schools have any changing facilities. Our aspirations are as follows:-
 - A new full size natural turf/4G pitch located close to St Joseph's & St Patrick's Donaghmore 'within the village limits', complete with adequate changing facilities.
 - A proper walking/running track

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic sports/field provision at St Mary's Lisboy ▪ Improved field provision at Castlecaulfield PS
FUTURE NEED – FACILITIES	
What facilities do you need to help deliver your sports development aspirations?	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Ballinascreen GAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At moment Ballinascreen GAC has new indoor 4G in the planning system. We hope to get full planning granted in the next 8 weeks – includes female & disabled changing facilities, 4 new changing room – refs changing room, community gym. ▪ Cahore facilities upgraded to meet our demand. <p>(Moyola Park)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We require further space. The club is at capacity. Teams need to find alternative venue or miss out, eg, max one training session per week for some teams. On occasion 4 teams training at once. ▪ As a club which operates all year, this new space needs lights and a playing surface for most weather – well drained. <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Cookstown Fr Rocks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need urgent upgrade to our club rooms/changing accommodation. ▪ As our club playing members are split between male and female approx. 60/40 currently our changing rooms cannot cater for running male and female matches and training on the same night due to privacy issues. Also as we own one pitch with our playing membership increasing year by year this is becoming unmanageable. <p>(Cookstown Youth FC)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A re-developed facility at one of the current district locations on a new green field site that meets the future needs with capacity to expand. ▪ Two full size grass pitches, one FA approved sized 3G or 4G pitch together with a suitable changing facility, parking and an indoor arena. <p>(Clogher Valley Bowling Club)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What about barbeque facilities for summer bowlers? We need additional shelters and new fence netting. Our green (synthetic) will need renewing in the future. <p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Riverdale FC, Benburb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We would require a full size 4G pitch so our members can train to play in the area they live. This could be in addition to the current grass pitch or replacing it. <p>(Donaghmore GAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need to upgrade our main pitch (soil based, 50 years old & lacking floodlighting) to a full size, floodlit sand carpet pitch. We need to extend & resurface our junior size training pitch. We have the land to do this. We would then need to upgrade the floodlighting. We need to develop a shared (between 2 schools and the GAA club) 4G pitch. This would be full size, floodlit and would have a running track. We have the required land available.
<p>How do you see these facilities being developed?</p>	<p><u>Greenvale Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Rainey Endowed School)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be developed by the school – government for use of community as well as school ▪ Be developed by the Council ▪ A sand dressed pitch would be inclusive of all other sports.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meadowbank sports arena has impacted on our girls education resulting in either full high performance student athlete scholarships or bursaries to universities in the UK & Ireland. <p>(Draperstown Celtic FC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Council proactively – secure funding through future potential mechanisms this will require a leasing agreement, one which is sustainable long term for club with arrangements similar to those in other Council areas, eg, Ballyvea and Valley Ranger both in NMD district, eg, peppercorn rent. Additional examples of club and Council working in partnership include Mid & East Antrim Council working with Greenisland to secure funding for stand (Council made significant contribution to cost 40%). <p><u>Cookstown Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Moneymore GAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moneymore has contacted MUDC about acquiring a long term lease of this Council pitch numerous times dating back to 2013. Every time Moneymore GAC have been knocked back. ▪ Wouldn't be positive given our recent history of requesting this pitch. <p>(Cookstown Fr Rocks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With HTC developing new school facilities we aim to enter into an agreement by contributing to the floodlights of their 4G pitch. This will give us after school use. ▪ We would also like to make use of a play area with the adjacent Ratheen Avenue, that currently is an area of anti-social behaviour and convert the tarmac area to 4G. <p>(Magherafelt Men's Bowling Club)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The club members are doing a good job of running the club. It's up to the Council to step up and help.
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	<p><u>Dungannon Leisure Centre</u></p> <p>(Dungannon Swifts FC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With the proper funding we have a plan already in place. A contribution from Mid Ulster Council to continue the work being done at Dungannon Swifts FC. <p>(Cúchulainn an Ghleanna)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plans can be developed and funding can be sourced from sponsorship, grant support, club fundraising and alongside Council to best develop the current area to a fit for purpose facility that will be utilised by Cúchulainn an Ghleanna camogie & Hurling Club as it continues to grow and be utilised by the entire community of the Clogher Valley Area.
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Section Summary

- 5.45** The stakeholder engagement work for this commission involved Sport NI and the Education Authority, alongside clubs in the five sports. Sport NI highlighted the need for floodlit pitches for midweek training as evidenced in responses to their COVID-19 capital intervention programme, around a quarter of which requested floodlighting to existing pitches. The Education Authority's Community in Schools initiative provides practical advice and support to schools in the move to address the upsurge in interest from schools to embrace community use. The sports clubs' consultation exercise revealed a good deal of positivity and forward thinking on the part of many clubs.

6. Association Football

Introduction

6.1 This section presents consultation with the Irish Football Association followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for association football pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 31 association football clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams; a smaller number of these (Mid Ulster Ladies FC, Caledon Rovers FC, Cookstown Youth FC, Draperstown Celtic FC, Moyola Park AFC and Riverdale FC) accommodate female teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

6.2 The majority of association football clubs don't own or operate premises, relying instead on Council provision. For Mid Ulster District Council ten of the 31 clubs identified for this study own or lease their grounds, as follows:-

Club	Grounds	Ownership
1. Desertmartin FC	Dromore Park	Leased from Desertmartin Parish Church
2. Dungannon Utd Youth FC	Junior Stadium, Mullaghana	Leased from MUDC
3. Magherafelt Sky Blues FC	Spires Park, Magherafelt	Leased from MUDC
4. Tobermore Utd FC	Fortwilliam Park, Tobermore	Leased from MUDC
5. Caledon Rovers FC	Tanyard Park	Leased from Caledon Estate
6. Dungannon Swifts FC	Stangmore Park	Club owned
7. Fivemiletown Utd FC	Valley Stadium	Not known
8. Moyola Park AFC	Mill Meadow	Leased from Moyola Estate
9. Coagh Utd FC	Hagan Park and Coagh Sports Centre	Leased from Coagh Sports Centre
10. Upperlands Cross Community FC	Festival Park	Leased from local developer

The remaining 21 clubs make use of Council facilities for matches and training needs booked on a weekly basis.

6.3 The following four pitch categories are considered:-

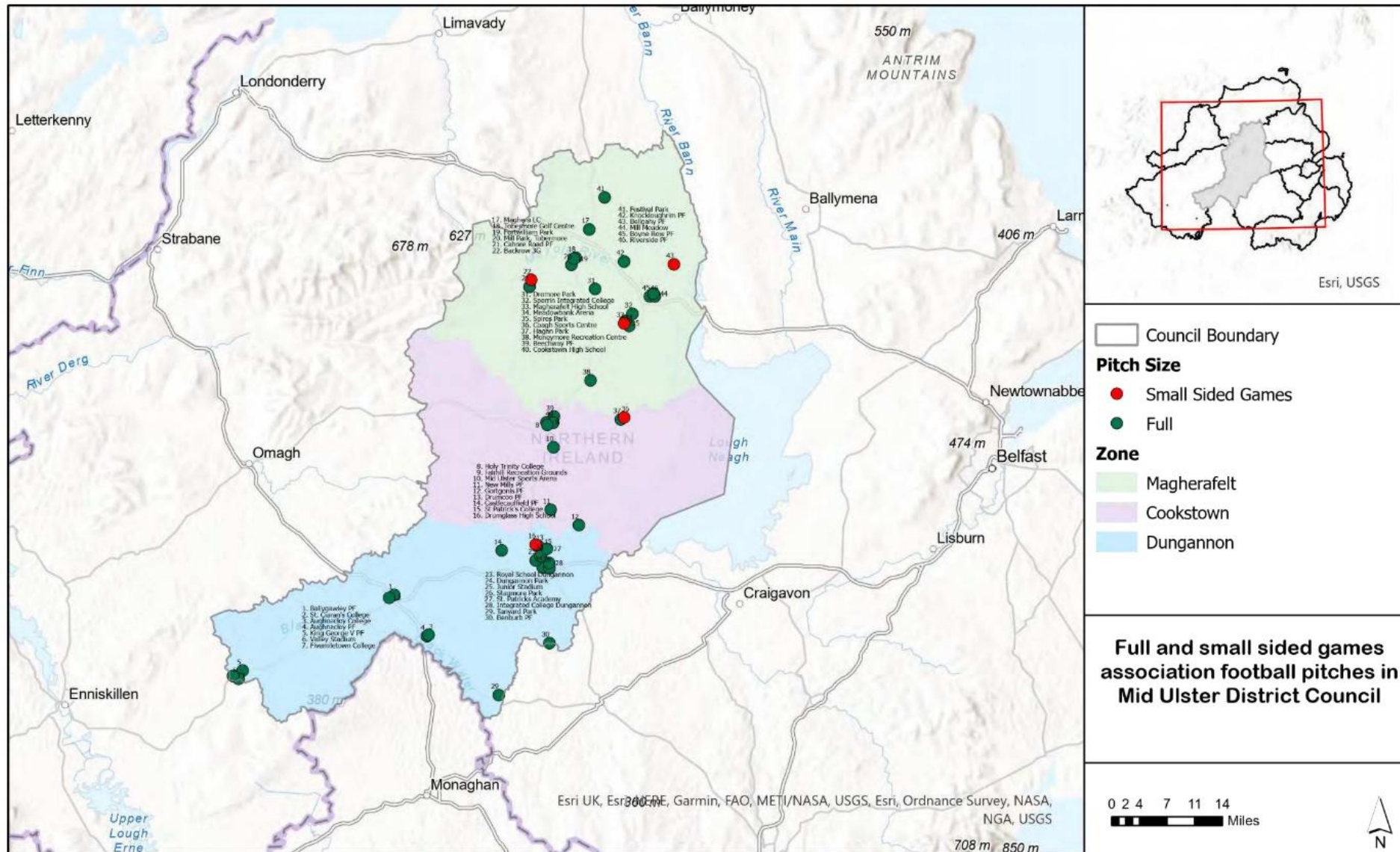
- ❖ **Full pitches** suitable for competitive adult, youth (U13 to U18) and small sided games (U8 to U12) matches – includes both 3G and grass surfaces.
- ❖ **SSG pitches** suitable only for small-sided games (U8 to U12) fixtures – includes both 3G and grass.
- ❖ **Training pitches** – pitches identified from the club survey that are used for training – includes a mix of surfaces (AstroTurf, 3G, grass and shale) and sizes.
- ❖ **Grass Kickabouts** – Council owned grass areas of varying sizes and quality.

6.4 Table 6.1 presents a detailed inventory of the full size association football pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, type, number, quality and additional remarks are presented. Maps 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, ownership, type, number and quality¹⁹ respectively. Four different types of pitch 'Ownership' are recorded: -

- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council leased** – pitches leased from the Council for dedicated use by one association football club.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club and community owned/leased** – pitches owned and maintained by an association football club or community group.

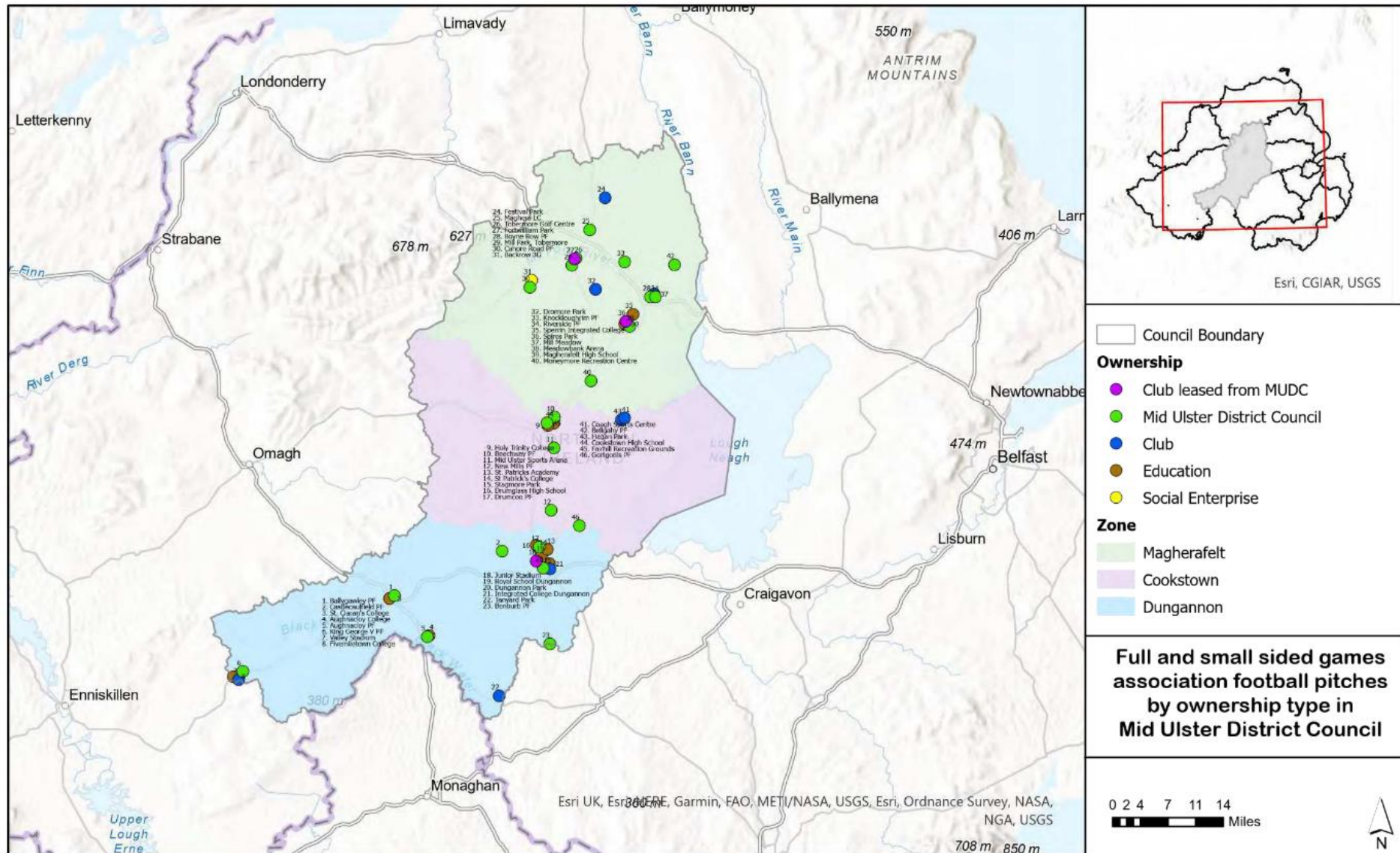
¹⁹ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



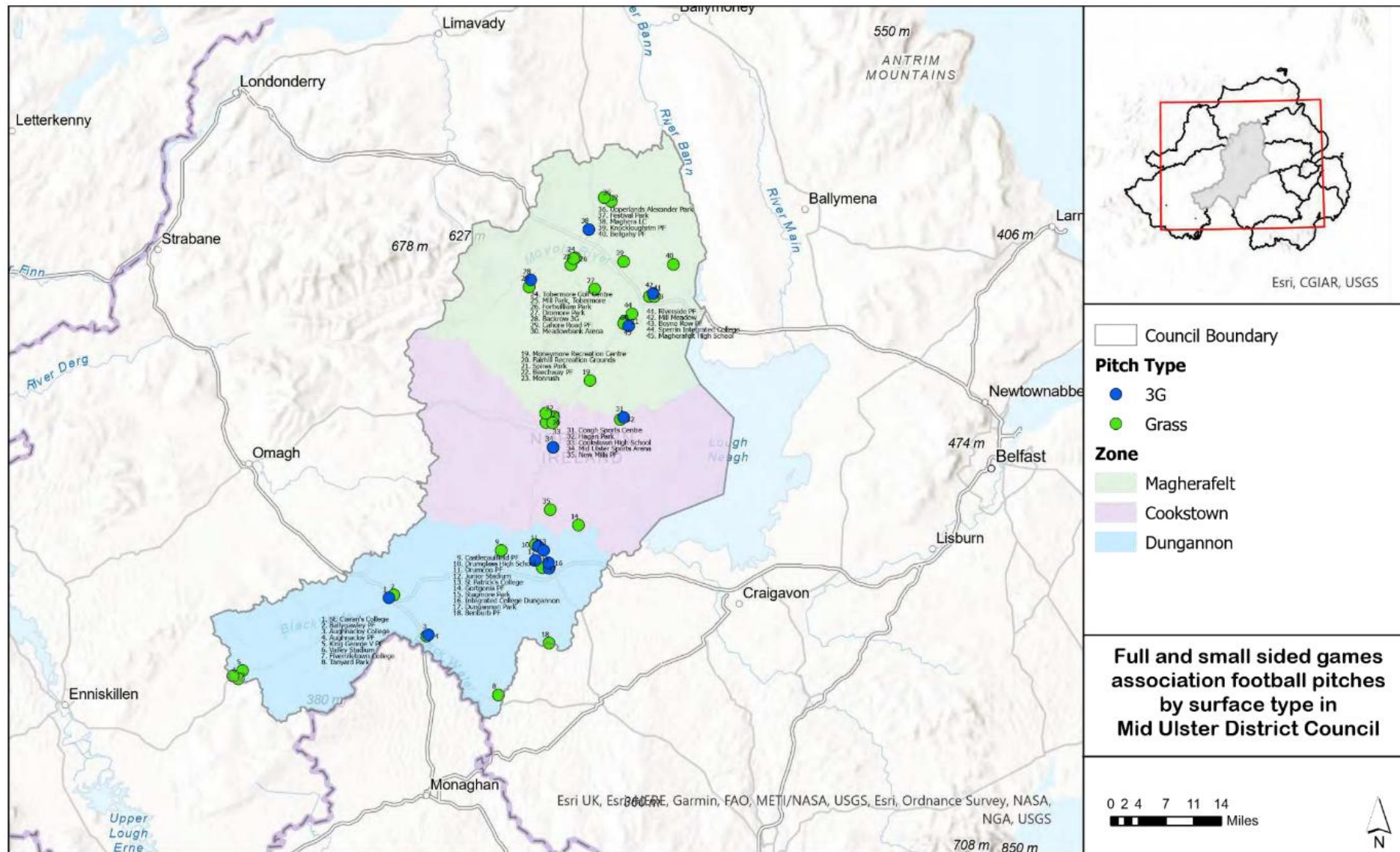
Map 6.1: Location – Full & Youth Association Football Pitch Sites

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



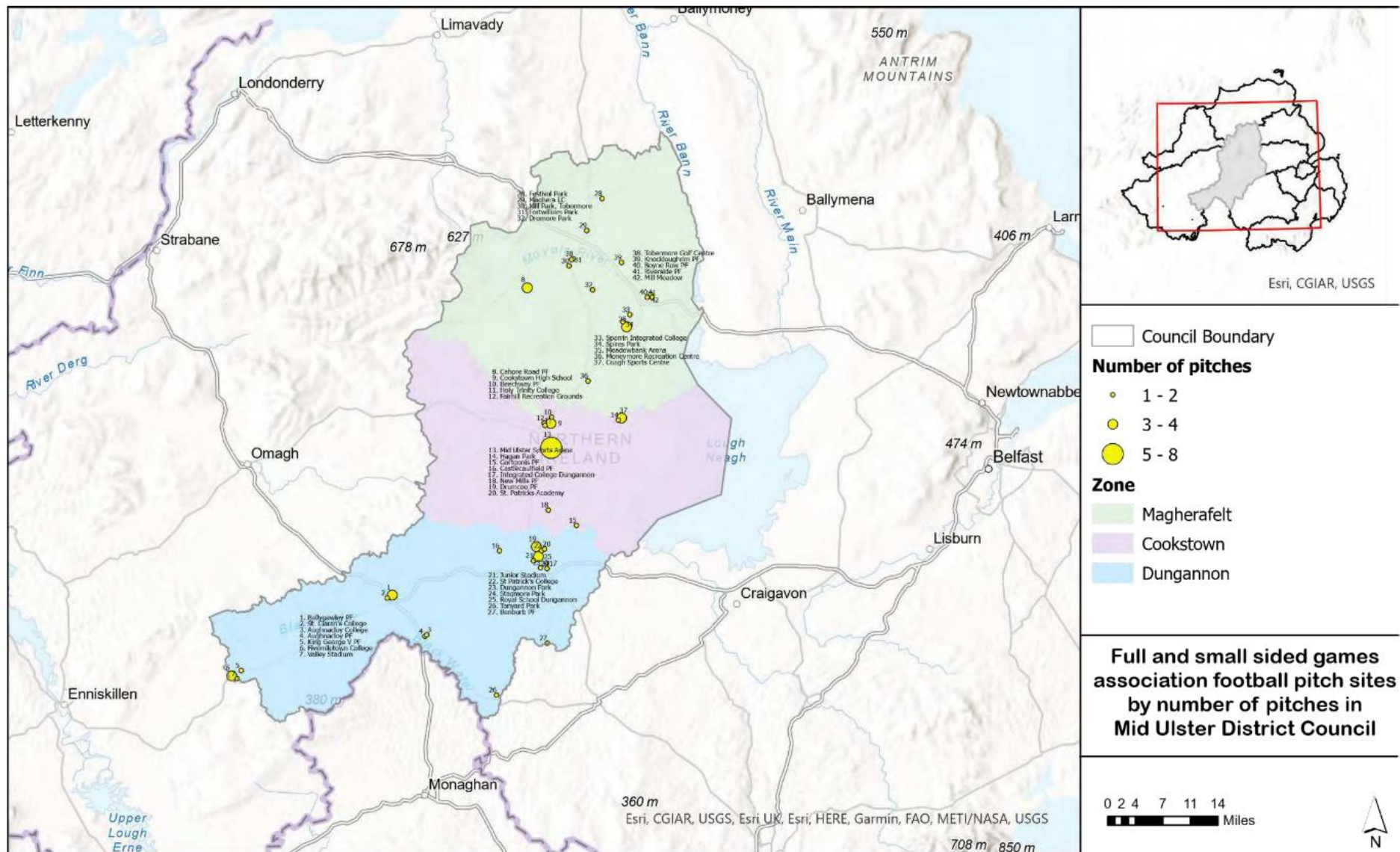
Map 6.2: Ownership – Full & Youth Association Football Pitch Sites

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



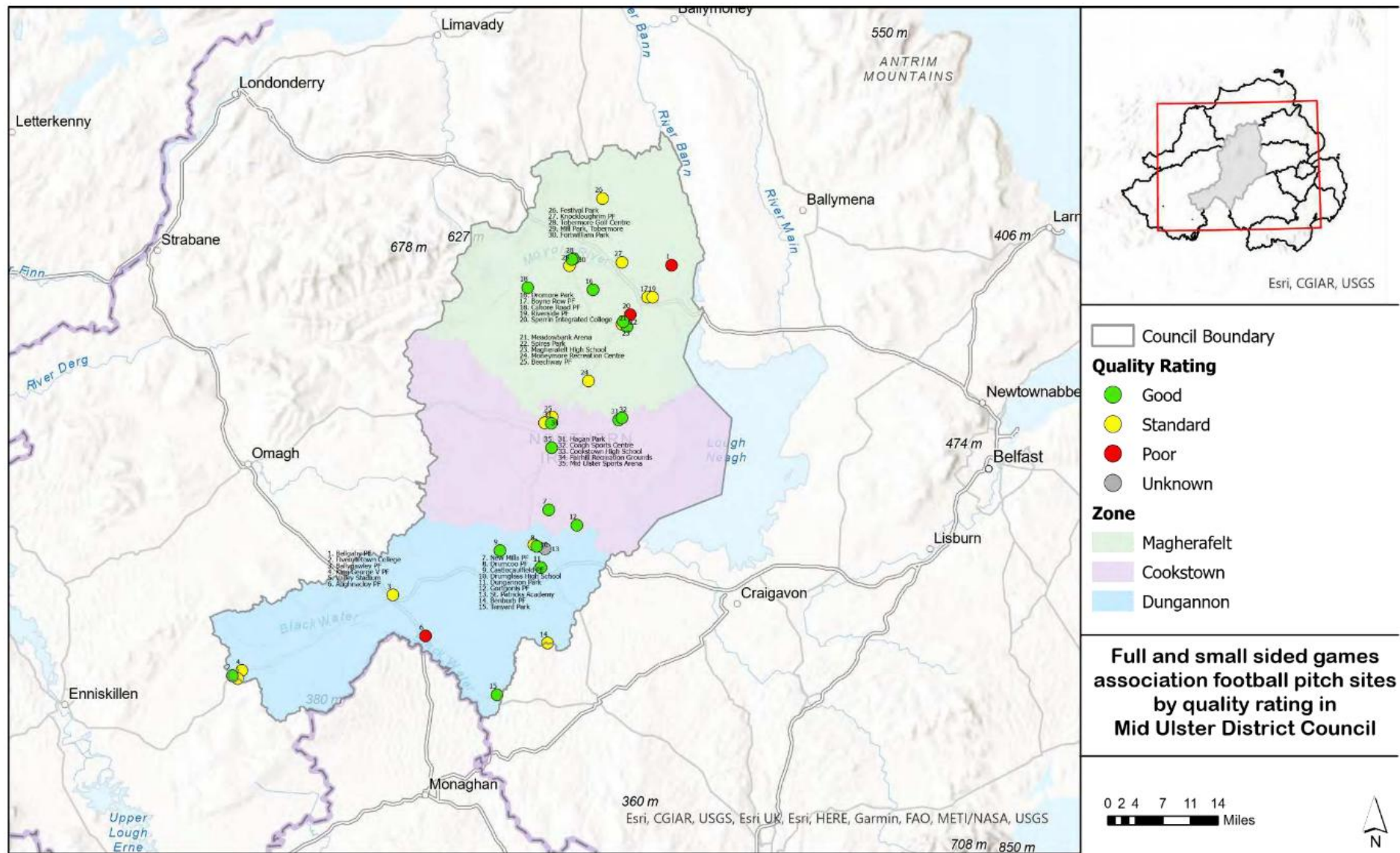
Map 6.3: Surface Type – Full & Youth Association Football Pitches

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



Map 6.4: Number – Full & Youth Association Football Pitches

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



Map 6.5: Quality – Full & Youth Association Football Pitches

Table 6.1: Association Football – Location, Quantity and Quality of Full and SSG Match Pitches by ownership

Mid Ulster District Council

Location		Quantity/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Aughnacloy Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	Poor	The pitch is known to have drainage problems following heavy rainfall. Changing accommodation removed in 2019.
Ballygawley Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Ballygawley Playing Fields consists of a full-size association football pitch, training-size Gaelic pitch and a small 3G. The complex also includes a play park, tennis courts and a community building currently used by Ballygawley Area Development Association. The training-size gaelic pitch is leased to Errigal Ciaran GAC.
Beechway Playing Fields	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Used for matches by Killymoon Rangers FC. Evidence of unauthorised community use of the pitch.
Bellaghy Playing Fields	Magherafelt	1 x SSG Grass	1 x Poor	The pitch is not currently on the Council's booking system as there appears to be little demand due to the dominance of Gaelic games in the local area.
Benburb Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Used by Riverdale FC for their senior and senior reserves men's matches. There is also a small 3G pitch at the site.
Boyne Row Playing Fields	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	The pitch is used occasionally for matches – Moyola Park FC has indicated an interest in leasing the pitch for club use. The development of a MUGA at the site is in progress.
Cahore Road Playing Fields	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Home match venue for Draperstown Celtic FC (large community clubs with 23 teams). There is also one full size grass gaelic games pitch at the site.
Castlecaulfield Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home match venue for Castlecaulfield Youth FC and

				Castlecaulfield FC. On the same site there is a small 3G which is leased by the local community and a children's play park.
Drumcoo Playing Fields	Dungannon	2 X Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	3 x Good	Drumcoo Playing Fields are situated in a busy urban area and consist of three grass association football pitches and a multi-use 3G pitch. Home match venue for a number of clubs (AFC Dungannon, Reclain Rovers FC and Dungannon Rovers FC). A third grass pitch at the site measuring 75m x 60m is not currently available for booking. There is also a bowling green at the entrance of the complex.
Dungannon Park	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The pitch appears to have limited bookings; however, it is reported that there have been enquires to book the pitch for youth training.
Fairhill Recreation Grounds	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass	2 x Standard	Fairhill Recreation Grounds is a complex with tennis courts, a bowling green, children's playpark and two full-size grass association football pitches. The changing facilities are across the road from the association football pitches.
Gortgonis Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue for Coalisland Athletic FC and Coalisland Bhoys FC. The pitch is in the centre of an athletics track. On site there is also a MUGA and changing facility which is part of a block shared by Coalisland Day Centre. Planning has been passed to completely re-develop the Gortgonis site and will include a 3G soccer pitch, running track, play area and woodland walks.
King George V Playing Fields	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	2 x Standard	Use for home matches by Orchard FC and Fivemiletown FC. There is also a bowling green at the site.
Knockloughrim Playing Fields	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Changing facilities moved to Pomeroy in January 2021 as part of a long-term lease agreement with Pomeroy District Sports and

				Cultural Association – no recent bookings.
Maghera Leisure Centre	Magherafelt	1 x Full 3G		Recently completed facility with fixed Gaelic games posts and moveable association football nets, lines marking for both association football and gaelic games.
Meadowbank Sports Arena	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 1 x 3G	1 x Good	Meadowbank Sports Arena is a multi-pitch site which includes a large indoor AstroTurf pitch, large 3G pitch comprising pitches marked for rugby, association football and Gaelic games; athletics track with a full-size grass association football pitch, a small AstroTurf and four small 3G pitches.
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass 1 x Full Grass 1 x 3G	1 x Good 1 x Good	Mid Ulster Sports Arena (MUSA) is a multi-facility complex used by a large range of clubs and sports from the Cookstown area and further afield. It is set on a large site and continues to develop with plans well progressed for a new 3G pitch and 8 lane athletics track. Both grass association football pitches have floodlights and used for training and matches.
Mill Park Playing Fields	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Tobermore Utd Youth and Draperstown Celtic use for Youth 11 v 11 matches.
Moneymore Recreation Centre	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	No bookings in recent years. Moneymore GAC has expressed an interest in the pitch for club training. A walkway is currently being developed is very close to the perimeter of the pitch.
New Mils Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Newmills FC. On site there is also a children's play park and a children's play group. It has a changing facility adjacent to the pitch and there is a small carpark. The carpark is small and is shared with the play park and play group and this is one of the major drawbacks of this site. There is no fencing around the pitch area.

Riverside Playing Fields	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	The pitch has not been officially booked for several years but occasionally it is used if Boyne Row is unplayable due to excess water on the pitch.
Tobermore Golf Centre	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The pitch is used by Tobermore Youth FC for matches.

Totals
25 x Full Grass Association Football Pitches
1 x SSG Grass Association Football Pitches
4 x Full 3G Pitches

Leased from Council

Junior Stadium, Mullaghana	Dungannon	1 x 3G	NA	Leased by Dungannon United Youth FC, a large youth club with 17 male youth teams.
Spires Park	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home base to Magherafelt Sky Blues, a large club with 21 male teams.
Fortwilliam Park, Tobermore	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home base to Intermediate club, Tobermore United FC.

Totals
2 x Full Grass Association Football Pitch
1 x Full 3G Pitch

Education

<i>Pitch Site</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Quantity/Type</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
St Ciaran's College	Dungannon	1 x Full 3G	NA	Pitch is used approximately 10 hours per week by association football clubs.
St Patrick's College, Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full 3G	NA	Currently not available for community bookings. Shares pitches with St Patrick's Academy.
Fivemiletown College	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	Good	Not booked for community use
Aughnacloy College	Dungannon	1 x Full 3G		Recently completed facility available for community use and used by Caledon Rovers FC and Fermanagh GAA. The Council has a service level agreement for after school community use.
Magherafelt High School	Magherafelt	1 x SSG Grass	Standard	Available for community use but not used

Drumglass High School	Dungannon	1 x Youth Grass	Standard	Not available for community use – School facilities managed by H and J Martin Facilities Management
Cookstown High School	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	One of the pitches is booked 10 hours per week by Royal British Legion Football FC.
St Conor's College - Clady	Magherafelt	1 x SSG Grass	1 x Poor	The club makes daily use of Greenlough GAC pitches for PE and after-schools sports.
Integrated College Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full 3G	NA	Pitch used for approximated 16 hours per week by sports clubs/groups (Dungannon RFC, Riverdale FC, IFA, Dungannon Rovers FC, Mid Ulster Youth League Dungannon Swifts FC). Used by Riverdale FC for matches.
Sperrin Integrated College	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	Pitches are not currently in a state of repair to have extensive use. The school would like to open the facilities to clubs and teams. The Sports Hall is used by the Scouts, and they occasionally use the pitch during the summer for outdoor games.
St Patricks Academy, Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	Unknown	School did not make a survey return; Google map images shows a grass pitch of dimensions 100m x 140m approx. The school shares pitches with St Patrick's College.

Totals
5 x Full Grass Association Football
3 x SSG Grass
4 x Full 3G

Club and Community (owned/leased)

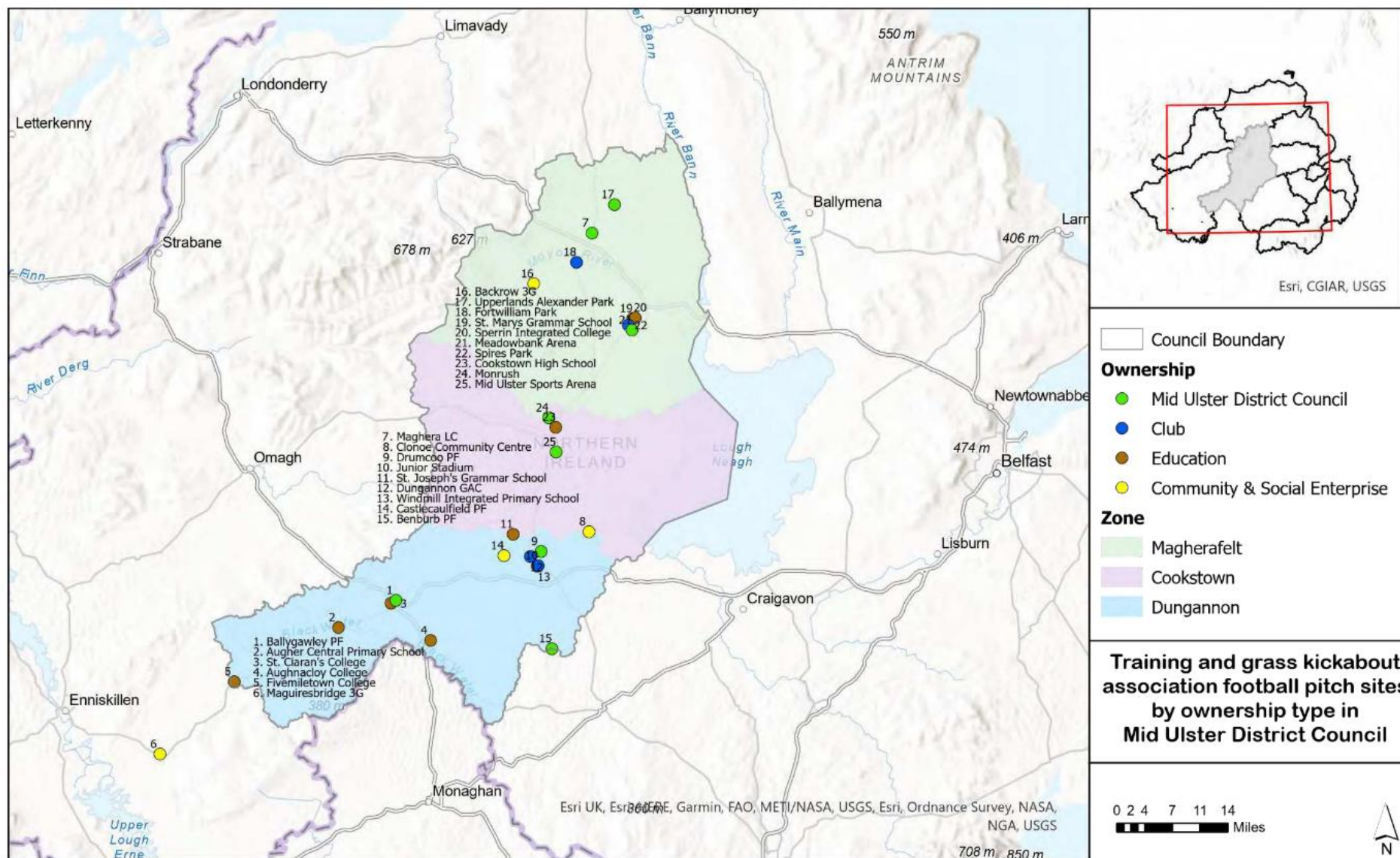
Pitch Site	Area	Quantity/Type	Quality	Remarks
Dromore Park	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Home grounds to Desertmartin FC
Tanyard Park	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home grounds to Caledon Rovers FC. The clubs notes that it needs additional training facilities at the site.
Stangmore Park	Dungannon	1 x Full 3G	NA	Home grounds to Dungannon Swifts FC. The club requires additional training facilities. There is also a small (45m x 40m approx.)

				3G pitch at the site used for training.
Valley Stadium	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	Standard	Home grounds to Fivemiletown FC. The club is in the process of purchasing land adjoining the site to develop a second pitch for training/matches due to club growth.
Mill Meadow	Magherafelt	1 x Full 3G	NA	Home grounds to Moyola Park AFC. The club notes they are at full capacity and require additional training facilities and wish to explore the development and use of Boyne Row Council owned pitch.
Hagan Park	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	Good	Home match pitch for Coagh United FC first team.
Coagh Sports Centre	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass 1 x SSG 3G	2 X Good	Home match and training pitches for Coagh United FC first and reserve teams. The club aspires to develop youth teams but note they would need additional/modified changing facilities.
Festival Park	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Home grounds to Upperlands Cross Community FC. The club aspires to develop a youth section for boys and girls but notes they cannot access funding as they are unable to secure a long-term lease from the landowner who is a local developer.
Backrow 3G	Magherafelt	1 x SSG 3G	NA	Pitch is owned and maintained by The Workspace Group, a social enterprise. Used by St Colm's High School, Draperstown Celtic FC and Ballinascreen GAC for training and youth games.
<p style="text-align: center;">Totals 9 x Full Grass Association Football Pitches 1 x Full 3G 2 x SSG 3G</p>				

6.5 Table 6.2 presents a detailed inventory of outdoor *training* facilities identified from both the club and school online survey and information provided by the Council – see Maps 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8 for location, ownership and type. The outdoor training facilities include a variety of surfaces (3G, grass and AstroTurf) and in a range of ownerships (Council, club, education, and community). The list below and Maps 6.6, 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 also include a number Council grass kickabouts.

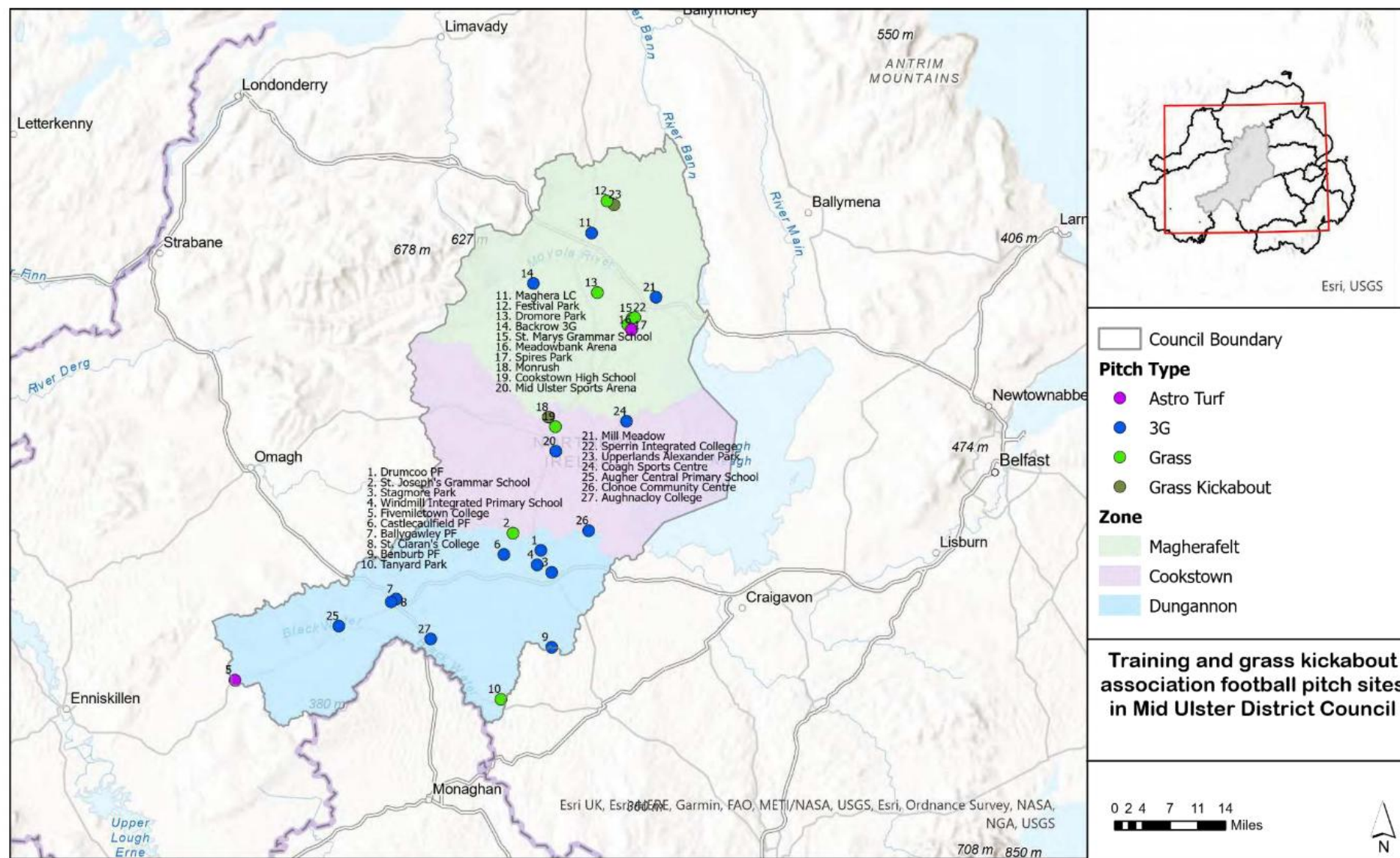
Whilst the kickabouts do not appear to be used for club training they are included as they may have potential to be developed for training purposes.

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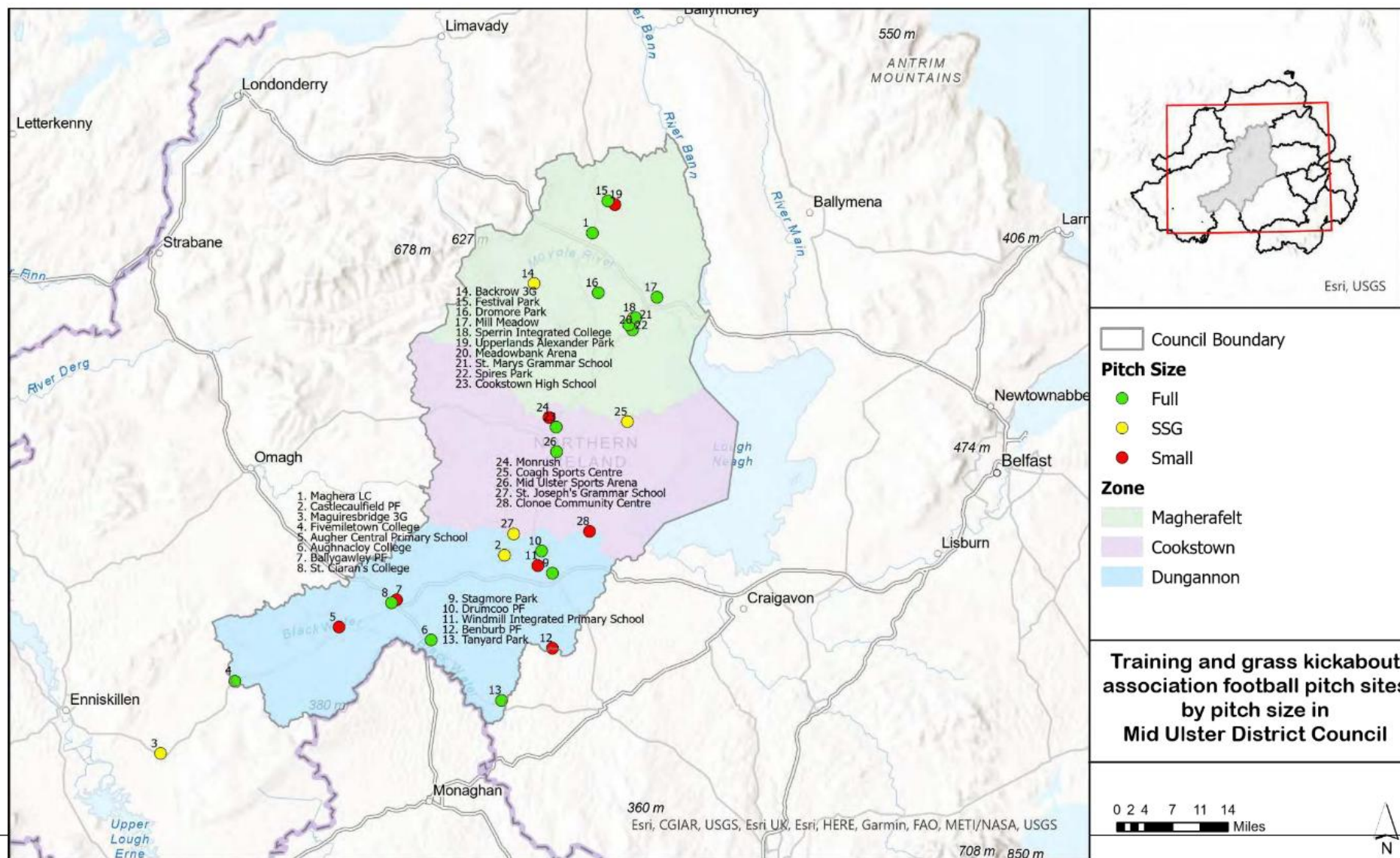
Map 6.6: Ownership – Association Football Training Pitch Sites and Grass Kickabouts

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Map 6.7: Type – Association Football Training Pitch Sites and Grass Kickabouts

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Map 6.8: Pitch Size – Association Football Training Pitch Sites and Grass Kickabouts

Table 6.2: Association Football – Inventory of Training Facilities by Ownership

Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Type	Remarks
<u>Council</u>				
Ballygawley Playing Fields	Dungannon	1	3G	Small - 40 x 20m – 35 bookings in 2018, 30 bookings 2019, 0 bookings in 2020 and 2021.
Backrow 3G	Magherafelt	1	3G	Developed and managed by The Workspace Group, used extensively by association football, gaelic games and St Colm's High School
Benburb Playing Fields	Dungannon	1	3G	Small - 40 x 20m, large number of bookings in 2018, 2019.
Castlecaulfield Playing Fields	Dungannon	1	3G	Community - leased from MUDC, used by IFA Small Sided Games
Drumcoo Playing Fields	Dungannon	2	3G	Over 624 bookings in 2018, 552 in 2019.
Maghera Leisure Centre	Magherafelt	1	3G	Full 3G recently opened
Meadowbank	Magherafelt	1	Indoor AstroTurf	Used extensively for association football training- hockey clubs concerned about the effect of association football training on the pitch surface. Hockey clubs report they often cannot get their preferred training times as the pitch is already booked by association football clubs.
Meadowbank	Magherafelt	2	Indoor 3G	4 small 3G courts 30m x 16m used for winter indoor training and 5 aside football.
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	1	3G	Small 5 aside pitch – over 600 bookings per year in 2018 and 2019
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	1	Indoor 3G	57 x 22m – over 1000 bookings annually in 2018 and 2019.
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	2	3G Soccer 3G Rugby/GAA	Soccer 3G pitch recorded over 1000 bookings in 2018 and 2019
<u>Education</u>				

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Fivemiletown College	Dungannon	1	Full AstroTurf	Used by a large range of clubs and sports for training including Fivemiletown Utd FC
St Mary's Grammar School	Magherafelt	1	Grass	Used by Moyola Park AFC and Magherafelt Sky Blues FC for training
Integrated College Dungannon	Dungannon	1	3G	Used extensively for training and matches
Cookstown High School	Cookstown	1	Grass	Used by Cookstown Royal British Legion Swifts FC for training and matches
St Ciaran's College		1	3G	Used by association football, hurling and gaelic football clubs
St Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore	Dungannon	1	Grass	Grass gaelic pitch used by Donaghmore FC for training
Aughnacloy Collage	Dungannon	1	3G	Recently completed 3G facility with after schools' hours community use
Augher Central Primary School	Dungannon	1	3G	Small - 50 x 30m with floodlights used by Orchard Farm FC and Fivemiletown FC
Windmill Integrated Primary School 3G pitch	Dungannon	1	3G	Small – 40 x 22m – used by Dungannon Utd Youth FC

Club/Community/Other Sport

Stangmore Park	Dungannon	1	3G	Small 45 x 40m used by Dungannon Swifts FC for training
Mill Meadow	Magherafelt	1	Grass	Owned by Moyola Park AFC
Clonoe Community Centre	Dungannon	1	Indoor 3G	Used by Coalisland Athletic FC
Backrow	Magherafelt	1	Youth 3G	Used by Draperstown FC
Spires Park	Magherafelt	1	Full Grass	Used by Magherafelt Sky Blues FC
Festival Park	Magherafelt	1	Full Grass	Used by Upperlands Cross Community FC
Tanyard Park	Magherafelt	1	Full Grass	Caledon FC training in summer months
Coagh Sports Centre	Magherafelt	1	Youth 3G	Caledon FC club training
Dromore Park	Magherafelt	2	Grass	Desertmartin FC club training

Outside Council

Maguiresbridge 3G	Fermanagh & Omagh DC	1	3G	Floodlit – 66 x 35m
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<u>Grass Kickabout</u>				
Monrush	Cookstown	1	Grass	Small 38 x 20m, there is also a shale pitch and MUGA at the site.
Upperlands Alexander Park	Magherafelt	1	Grass	Small 32 x 15m grass kickabout located next to a MUGA and play park.

Quantity of Pitches

- 6.6** Looking at competitive match pitch provision within the Council area there is a total of 40 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and small sided games matches and 11 full sized 3G facilities. In addition, there is a number of SSG pitches suitable for Small Sided Games (5 v 5, 7 v 7, 9 v 9), however, it is noted that the majority of SSG fixtures take place on floodlit 3G facilities on Friday evenings. It is noted that not all of the full size grass pitches are available for community use – generally, secondary school pitches are not available for competitive matches – this is further discussed in the Adequacy of Provision section.
- 6.7** A summary and breakdown of current match and training pitch provision by ownership is:-

Ownership	Full & SSG Match Pitches			Pitches used for Training – varying sizes		
	Grass Full	3G Full	SSG Grass + 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G
Clubs/Community	9	1	2 x 3G	3	0	4
Education	5	4	3 x grass	3	1	5
MUDC	25	4	1 x grass	16	1	4
Leased from MUDC	2	1	0	2	0	1
Total	41	10	6	26	2	14

- 6.8** Whilst sixteen of the Council's full size grass association football pitches are identified as currently available for training²⁰, the majority do not have floodlights and therefore can only accommodate some pre-season training needs. However, it is noted that both grass association football pitches at MUSA have floodlights and are used for both training and matches. The majority of association football training relies on the use of artificial 3G surfaces and in some cases AstroTurf when 3G is not available. There is a considerable difference in the total number of artificial training

²⁰ From an analysis of the Council's booking logs 2018 to 2021.

pitches (16)²¹ and full (match) pitches (51) reflecting the differing nature of use. The majority of matches are played in a very narrow window either Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon and therefore more will be required to satisfy demand. Training occurs across 4 to 5 weekday evenings over a 3 to 4-hour period and therefore fewer in total are needed. An assessment of 'Adequacy of Training Provision' is presented in later sections.

Proposed Pitch Developments in the Council Area

6.9 Whilst need has been evidenced, three projects are not considered in the proposed costed plan as they are already covered within capital projects that are currently being progressed:-

- (i) A 3G facility at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown
- (ii) A 3G facility at Railway Park, Dungannon
- (iii) A 3G facility and changing accommodation at Gortgonis

Quality of Pitches

6.10 As part of this audit, the quality of all Council owned pitches was assessed using Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field' Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment. This assessment is based on:-

1. A visual inspection of the grass pitch including grass-cover, size, slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall), length of grass, evenness of pitch, problem areas: evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks/ unofficial use/damage to the surface and evidence of poor drainage.
2. Maintenance of the pitch including grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilisation and weed killing.
3. A visual inspection of Artificial Grass Pitches including age of surface; evidence of moss/lichen, loose gravel (macadam surface), holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces), grip underfoot, line markings etc.

6.11 A full report on the quality of Council-owned pitches and changing accommodation is included as an appendix. The grass pitch quality scores are summarised below as these can be relevant for adequacy of provision modelling presented later in this section. As part of the online survey, clubs and schools were asked to rate their own club pitches as Good, Standard or Poor. A summary of the grass pitch quality ratings is:-

²¹ Excludes grass surfaces.

Summary of Quality Rating for Full and Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total No of Pitches
Clubs/Community	7	2	0	3	12
Education	6	2	2	2	12
MUDC	11	13	2	4	30
Leased from MUDC	2	0	0	1	3
Total	26	17	4	10	57

Pitch Quality – Online Survey

6.12 In addition to the non-technical quality assessment of each pitch as presented above, Clubs were asked to rate the following three aspects in relation to pitch quality and maintenance of their home match venue. Results are:-

1. Has the quality of your home match pitch(es) got better or worse since last season?		
Answer Option	No of Responses	% of clubs
Much better	1	4%
Slightly better	8	32%
No difference	9	36%
Slightly poorer	5	20%
Much poorer	2	8%
Total	25	100%

Comments

- ❖ 36% of respondent clubs report 'No difference' in pitch quality this season compared to last season.
- ❖ A combined 36% report pitch quality is 'Slightly better' or 'Much better'.
- ❖ A combined 28% feel the pitch quality is 'Slightly poorer' or 'Much poorer'.

Respondents were asked to record reasons for their response on pitch quality – the following responses, unaltered, were collected:-

▪ 'Significant works carried out to the pitch in June 2020.'
▪ '3G pitches tend to wear as they get older, this may or may not be the season.'
▪ 'There was not a lot of football over the last season due to covid.'
▪ 'Very little maintenance carried out by Council.'
▪ 'This is not relevant as we maintain our own pitch.'
▪ 'Maintenance'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Grounds work and maintenance seems to have got worse. Specifically, Beechway, the grass is missing in areas, seed is required, too much sand, too many divots, too uneven, not rolled correctly, often deep tyre tracks left from lawnmowers, rolling machines or other machinery, poor lining, poor cuts, goal nets very old and worn, occasionally broken glass, bottles, drug paraphernalia, rubbish on the pitch, dugout areas, or surround areas. Their needs to be additional fencing and security, the main building needs repaired, upgrading, modernised, the storage is not adequate, an additional building, maybe a modular building or mobile block could be added to the site to allow for storage of equipment.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Boyne Row has certainly decreased in quality. We understand grass pitches are a huge maintenance issue for MUDC.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Main club owned 3G surface needs replacing.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'We can't really answer the above Q correctly due to the amount of games played on the pitch were limited due to Covid Pandemic last season 2020-2021 and the leagues being postponed in April 2021. The season prior to that 2019-2020 the amount of games played were approx. 12-14 this was due to the poor pitch surface and games constantly being postponed due to the pitch being unplayable and primarily waterlogged. The playing fields at Benburb (Home Pitch for Seniors and Reserves) has just undergone essential grounds maintenance for the first time in 3 years, so hopefully the playing surface will be better for the 2021-2022 season and we hope this will allow for more games to be played during the upcoming season 2021-2022. Prior to this the pitch (since 2010) at Benburb playing fields has been very poor and has been very poorly maintained by the Council annually, with only the very basic maintenance (if even that) taking place during the off season. The current pitch is only playable during the months of August to October and March to May in the playing season, this is primarily due to very poor underground drainage and the pitch is always waterlogged thus our senior games were postponed and we had to play games at the Integrated College 4G to get them played.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Better upkeep'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Lack of spiking'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Significant works carried out to the pitch in June 2020.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'We have had to play games on Drumcoo grass pitch 3 and in Fairhill in Cookstown this season. We didn't play on those ones last year but have a couple of times so far this time around and the quality of them are awful.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Wear & Tear'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Covid has restricted on our own home pitch. Allowing pitch to nourish more. We need more work done especially floodlights.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Haven't played on Drumcoo pitch 1 yet in the new season but last season (for the limited number of matches we played) it was in good shape, it does seem to be well looked after, I can't comment on other grass pitches.'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Our pitch was made in the early 70s and from that time the only refurbishment it has received is sand placed on it every end of season plus the grass cut on a regular basis. I personally have been in loggerheads with the local Council over the past 10 years and

longer to upgrade the pitch, but my words have fallen on deaf ears while other pitches have been upgraded to a 3g surface and spectator barriers put in place but not Gortgonis.'

The survey results for the second aspect of pitch quality/maintenance are:-

2. How would the club rate the maintenance on its home match venue/ground?		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	13	48%
Standard	8	30%
Poor	6	22%
Total	27	100%

Comments

- ❖ The majority of respondents (78%) rate pitch maintenance as 'Standard' or 'Good'.
- ❖ A significant 22% of clubs rated maintenance of their home pitch as 'Poor'.

The survey results for the third aspect of pitch quality/maintenance are:-

3. Overall quality of your home pitch		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	15	48%
Standard	9	29%
Poor	7	23%
Total	31	100%

Comments

- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ Almost 50% of respondent clubs rate overall quality of their home pitch as 'Good'.
- ❖ A significant 22% rate their pitch as 'Poor'.

Pitch Usage Profile

- 6.13** The starting point in looking at how grass pitches are used is to understand their carrying capacity. Whilst each pitch will have its own carrying capacity Sport England guidance shows *'the number of match equivalent sessions a week that a natural*

grass pitch is likely to be able to regularly accommodate, based on an agreed quality rating without adversely affecting its current quality' to be as follows:-

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions per week ²²		
Good (G)	3	4	6
Standard (S)	2	2	4
Poor (P)	1	1	2

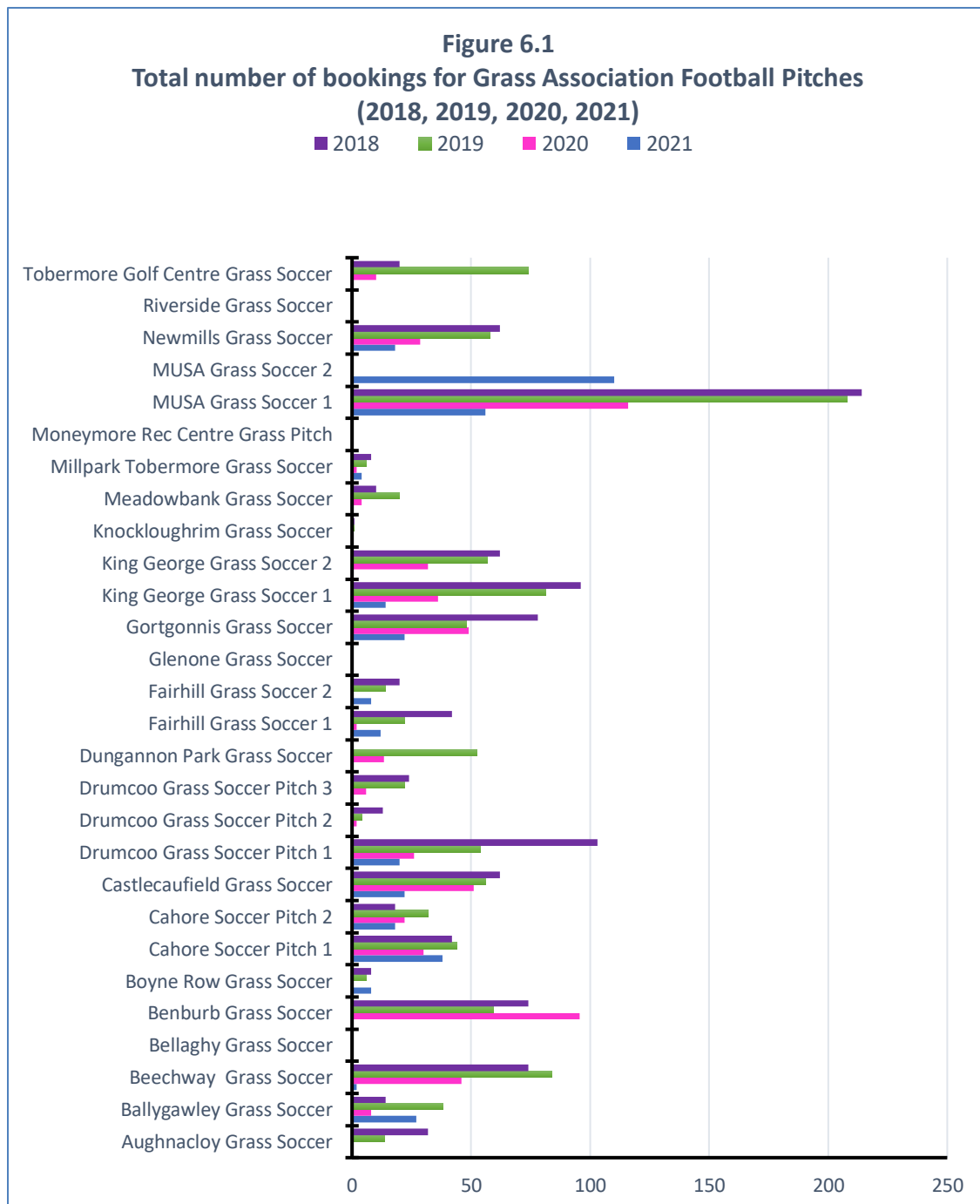
6.14 A summary of annual bookings for Council pitches for the years 2018 to 2021 is presented below, green cells represent the three most booked pitches, and the red cells represent the three least booked pitches (excluding those pitches not available to be booked). Note the 2021 bookings are from January to July.

Pitch	Booking type	Pitch Rating	Total no. of bookings (match & training)			
			2018	2019	2020	2021
Aughnacloy Grass Soccer	Training & Match	P	32	13.5	0	0
Ballygawley Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	14	38	8	27
Beechway Grass Soccer	Match Only	S	74	84	46	2
Bellaghy Grass Soccer	Not Available to be Booked	P	0	0	0	0
Benburb Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	74	59.5	95.5	0
Boyne Row Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	8	6	0	8
Cahore Soccer Pitch 1	Training & Match	G	42	44	30	38
Cahore Soccer Pitch 2	Training & Match	S	18	32	22	18
Castlecaulfield Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	62	56	51	22
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 1	Match Only	G	103	54	26	20
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 2	Not Available to be Booked	G	13	4	2	0
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 3	Match Only	G	24	22	6	0
Dungannon Park Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	0	52.5	13.5	0
Fairhill Grass Soccer 1	Match Only	S	42	22	2	12
Fairhill Grass Soccer 2	Match Only	S	20	14	0	8
Glenone Grass Soccer		P	0	0	0	0
Gortgonis Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	78	48	49	22
King George Grass Soccer 1	Training & Match	S	96	81.5	36	14
King George Grass Soccer 2	Training & Match	S	62	57	32	0
Knockloughrim Grass Soccer	Not Available to be Booked	S	1	1	0	0
Meadowbank Grass Soccer	Match Only	G	10	20	4	0
Millpark Tobermore Grass Soccer	Match Only	S	8	6	2	4

²² A match equivalent is on average 2 hours long.

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Moneymore Rec Centre Grass Pitch	Training Only	S	0	0	0	0
MUSA Grass Soccer 1	Training & Match	G	214	208	116	56
MUSA Grass Soccer 2	Training & Match	G	0	0	0	110
Newmills Grass Soccer	Match Only	G	62	58	28.5	18
Riverside Grass Soccer	Not Available to be Booked	S	0	0	0	0
Tobermore Golf Centre Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	20	74	10	0



- ❖ As expected, there is a clear decline in bookings as result of COVID-19 regulations for the year 2020 for most pitches.
- ❖ MUSA grass soccer pitch 1 is consistently the most booked pitch with over 200 bookings for years 2018 and 2019, perhaps suggesting a degree of overuse.
- ❖ Millpark Tobermore grass soccer pitch is the least booked pitch for all four years.
- ❖ Bellaghy, Knockloughrim, Drumcoo pitch 2 and Glenone pitches are not available for bookings.
- ❖ Aughnacloy grass pitch has had no bookings in the last 2 years.
- ❖ In 2021 thirteen pitches appear to have had no bookings.

Analysis of pitch bookings as percentage of recommended use

6.15 It is of interest to compare pitch usage to recommended annual usage for grass pitches as per Sport England guidelines presented above. A comparison for each pitch using the pitch rating and number of bookings is:-

Pitch	Booking Type	Pitch Rating	Capacity Hours ²³	% of Recommended Usage			
				2018	2019	2020	2021
Aughnacloy Grass Soccer	Training & Match	P	2	80%	2%	0%	0%
Ballygawley Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	4	18%	48%	10%	34%
Beechway Grass Soccer	Match Only	S	4	93%	105%	58%	3%
Bellaghy Grass Soccer	Not Available	P	2	0%	0%	0%	0%
Benburb Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	4	93%	74%	119%	No info
Boyne Row Grass Soccer	Training & Match	S	4	10%	8%	0%	10%
Cahore Soccer Pitch 1	Training & Match	G	6	35%	37%	25%	32%
Cahore Soccer Pitch 2	Training & Match	S	4	23%	40%	28%	23%
Castlecaulfield Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	6	52%	47%	43%	18%
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 1	Match Only	G	6	86%	45%	22%	17%
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 2	Not Available	G	6	11%	3%	2%	0%
Drumcoo Grass Soccer Pitch 3	Match Only	G	6	20%	18%	5%	0%
Dungannon Park Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	6	0%	44%	11%	0%
Fairhill Grass Soccer 1	Match Only	S	4	53%	28%	3%	15%
Fairhill Grass Soccer 2	Match Only	S	4	25%	18%	0%	10%
Glenone Grass Soccer	Not Available	P	2	0%	0%	0%	0%
Gortgonis Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	6	65%	40%	41%	18%
King George Grass Soccer 1	Training & Match	S	4	120%	102%	45%	18%
King George Grass Soccer 2	Training & Match	S	4	78%	71%	40%	0%

²³ Based on Pitch Rating.

Pitch	Booking Type	Pitch Rating	Capacity Hours ²³	% of Recommended Usage			
				2018	2019	2020	2021
Knockloughrim Grass Soccer	Not Available	S	4	1%	1%	0%	0%
Meadowbank Grass Soccer	Match Only	G	6	8%	17%	3%	0%
Millpark Tobermore Grass Soccer	Match Only	S	4	10%	8%	3%	5%
Moneymore Rec Centre Grass Pitch	Training Only	S	4	0%	0%	0%	0%
MUSA Grass Soccer 1	Training & Match	G	6	178%	173%	97%	47%
MUSA Grass Soccer 2	Training & Match	G	6	0%	0%	0%	92%
Newmills Grass Soccer	Match Only	G	6	52%	48%	24%	15%
Riverside Grass Soccer	Not Available	S	4	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tobermore Golf Centre Grass Soccer	Training & Match	G	6	17%	62%	8%	0%

Assumptions

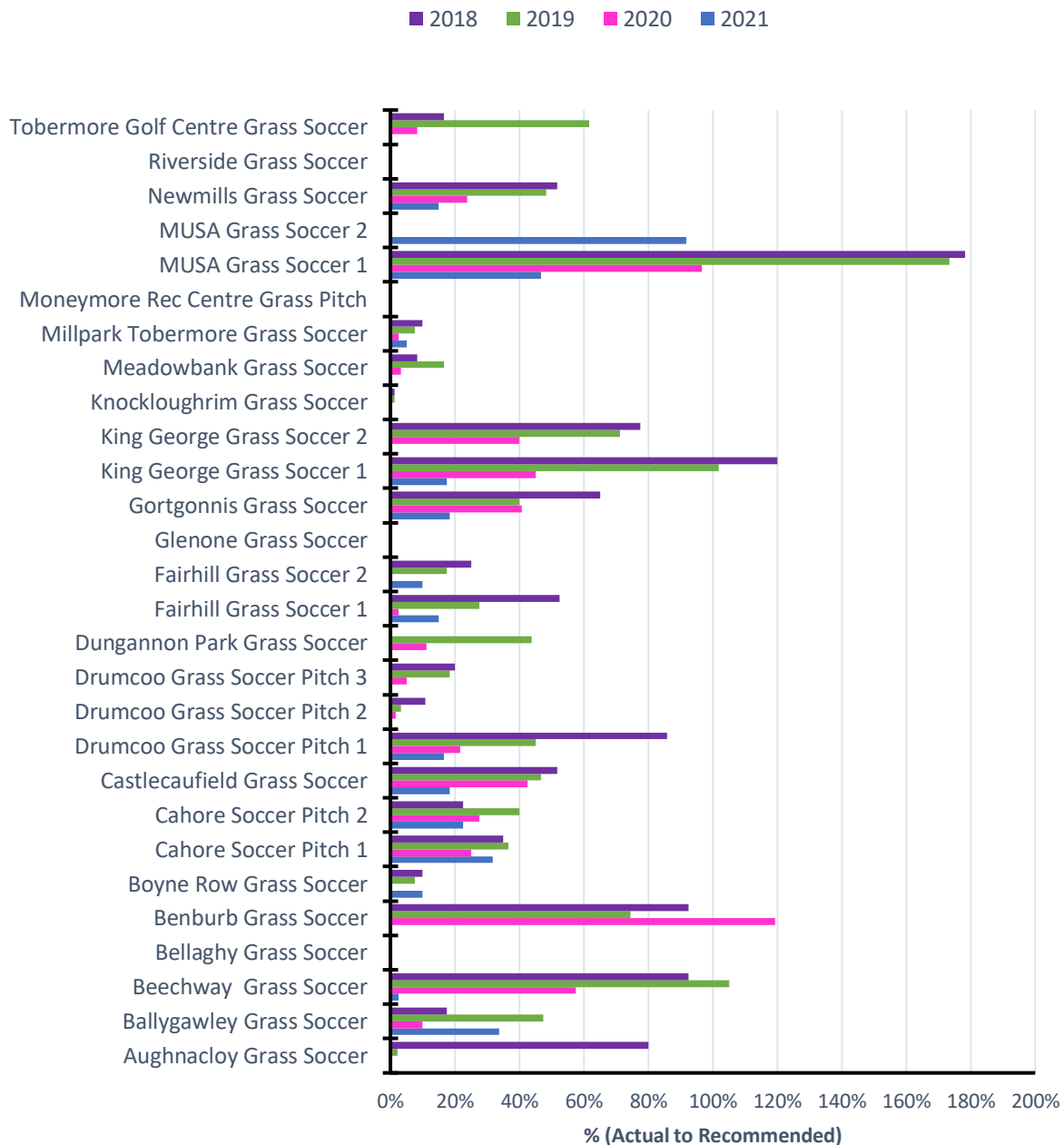
- ❖ Given that the number of bookings includes both matches and training, it is assumed that one booking is on average 1.5 hours long.
- ❖ Each pitch is available to be booked on average for 30 weeks of the year.
- ❖ The recommended usages for each of three pitch ratings are:
 - **'Good'** pitch is 6 hours per week for 30 weeks per year i.e., a total of 180 hours
 - **'Standard'** pitch is 4 hours per week for 30 weeks per year i.e., a total of 120 hours
 - **'Poor'** pitch is 2 hours per week for 30 weeks per year i.e., a total of 60 hours

So, for example, Aghnacloy grass pitch was booked 32 times for matches and training in 2018, the calculation is:

Pitch site	Aghnacloy
No of bookings in 2018	32
Total hours of use given that one booking on average = 1.5 hours	32 x 1.5 = 48 hours
Pitch Rating	Poor
Recommended annual usage given pitch rating Poor = 2 hrs/week for 30 weeks per year i.e., total usage of 60 hrs per year	60
Usage compared to recommended usage (%)	48/60 = 80%

6.16 A graphical representation of comparison to the recommended usage is:-

Figure 6.2
Percentage Comparison of Actual Pitch Usage to Recommended Usage
(2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)



Comments

- ❖ A number of pitches appear to have been overused i.e., greater than 100% for both MUSA grass pitches in 2018 and 2019.
- ❖ For 2021 MUSA grass 2 is at 92% of recommended usage.
- ❖ None of the pitches have reached recommended usage in 2021 - note the bookings are up to July 2021.

Clubs, Teams and Players

6.17 In order to evaluate the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. Association football has a total of 31 recognised clubs in the Council area. For the purposes of this audit, it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce as accurate as possible picture of association membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

6.18 Information from Mid Ulster District Council, association football league secretaries and desktop research identified a total of 31 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within the Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within the Council area.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within the Council area.

Every effort has been made to contact these clubs and secure a survey response. Where it has not been possible to get a response from identified clubs an estimate of team numbers was made using information from the league secretaries and desktop research; this was necessary for 2²⁴ of the clubs indicating that responses were obtained for 94% of all association football clubs.

Questionnaire

6.19 The comprehensive questionnaire (42 questions in total) distributed to the 31 identified association football clubs (i.e., satisfying criteria a, b and c above) collected information on the number of players (male/female/adult), number of teams, home venue, training venue, preferred home venue etc. This information is used to make an assessment of the adequacy of pitch provision in the Council area.

²⁴ The 2 clubs not making a return are: Cookstown Olympic FC and Donaghmore FC.

6.20 The questionnaire also collected information on issues relating to club development, attitudes to 3G playing surfaces, pitch condition and quality, pitch maintenance and condition/quality of ancillary facilities.

6.21 All of the responses were collected via an online electronic link emailed to the club contact either by the consultant or the league secretaries. In order to encourage completion of the survey, 14 clubs completed a shortened version of the questionnaire. The 31 clubs included in this audit are listed below in the following categories:-

- ❖ Clubs with only adult male teams
- ❖ Clubs with youth and adult teams

Table 6.3: Association Football Clubs with only Adult Male Teams

Club	No of teams	League
1. AFC Dungannon	1	Lonsdale League
2. Castlecaulfield FC	2	Mid Ulster Football League
3. Coagh United FC	2	Coagh United Ballymena Intermediate & Provincial League
4. Coalisland Athletic FC	1	Mid Ulster Football League - Division 1
5. Coalisland Bhoys FC	1	Lonsdale League
6. Cookstown Olympic FC	1	<i>Did not make a survey return</i>
7. Desertmartin FC	2	Ballymena League, Irish Cup, Craig Memorial Cup, Intermediate Cup
8. Donaghmore FC	1	Folded 4 years ago but looking to enter league in 2022
9. Dungannon Rovers FC	1	Mid Ulster Football League
10. Dungannon Tigers FC	2	Mid Ulster Football League
11. Killymoon Rangers FC	2	Ballymena and Provincial League Division 1 (Intermediate League next season)
12. Loughshore United FC	1	Mid Ulster Football League
13. Maghera Strollers FC	1	Coleraine & District League
14. Newmills FC	2	Mid Ulster League Division 1
15. Orchard Farm FC	2	Fermanagh & Western
16. Reclain Rovers FC	1	Lonsdale League
17. Tobermore United FC	1	Premier Intermediate League
18. Upperlands Cross Community FC	2	Coleraine and District League
Total number of teams	26	

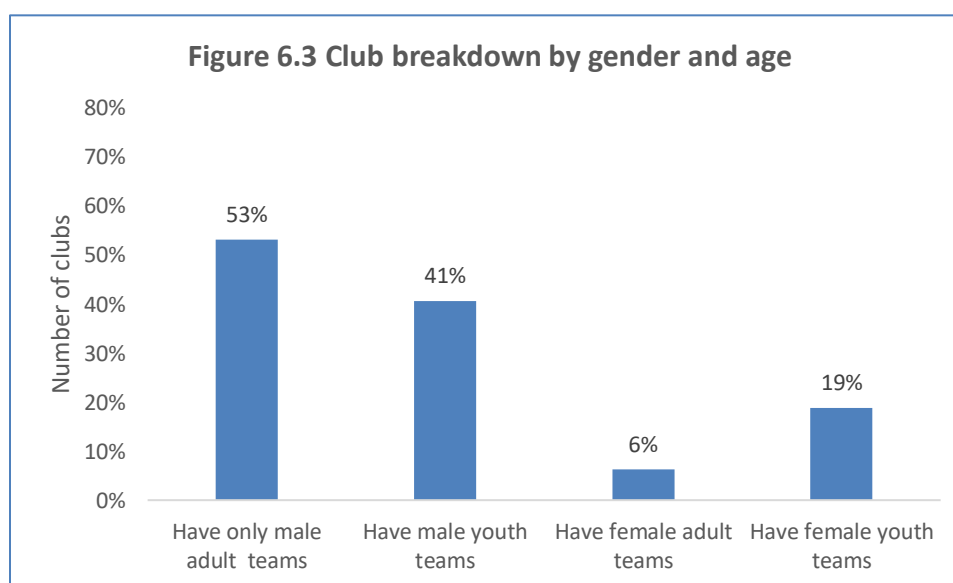
Table 6.4: Association Football Clubs with Youth and Adult Teams

Club	No of Youth Teams	No of Adult Teams	League/s
19. Caledon Rovers FC	5 x male 1 x female	2 x male	Mid Ulster Football League, Mid Ulster Youth Football League, IFA small-sided games
20. Cookstown Youth FC	21 x male 5 x female	2 x male	Ballymena & Provincial League/ Irish cup/ Intermediate Cup/ Mid Ulster Cups, NIBFA national Leagues, Mid Ulster Youth League IFA small-sided games
21. Cookstown Royal British Legion Swifts FC	1 x male	1 x male	Coleraine & District Football League
22. Draperstown Celtic FC	13 x male 5 x female	4 x male 2 x female	Coleraine and District League, Foyle League, Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League, IFA small-sided games
23. Dungannon Swifts FC	28 x male	3 x male	NIFL, National and Mid Ulster Leagues
24. Fivemiletown United FC	10 x male	2 x male	Fermanagh and Western FL, Mid Ulster Intermediate FL, Brendan Keogh Youth League, Mid Ulster Youth League
25. Magherafelt Sky Blues FC	20 x male	2 x male	Coleraine and District FL, Mid Ulster FL and IFA small-sided games
26. Mid Ulster Ladies FC	11 x female	1 x female	NIWFA Premiership in 2022, Mid Ulster Youth League, IFA small-sided games
27. Moyola Park AFC	19 x male 2 x female	2 x male	NIFL Premier Intermediate, NIFL Development League, Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League, South Belfast Youth League, NIBFA National League, IFA small-sided games
28. Riverdale FC	13 x male 4 x female	2 x male	Mid Ulster League, Lonsdale League, Girls Southern Girls League, Mid Ulster Youth League, IFA small-sided games
29. West End Hibs FC	1 x male	1 x male	Mid Ulster FL
Totals	159 121 male 28 female	24 21 male 3 female	

Table 6.5: Association Football Clubs

Club	No of Youth Teams	League/s
30. Dungannon United Youth FC	17	Mid Ulster & National League plus a wide range of Cup competitions and Youth Tournaments
31. Castlecaulfield Youth FC	5	Mid Ulster Youth League, IFA Grassroots Development Centre (Mid Ulster Region)
Totals	23	

6.22 Figure 6.3 shows that of the 31 clubs included in this report, 41% have only adult male teams (normally one or two teams), 53% of the clubs have youth teams, a relatively significant percentage (19%) have female youth teams. Just 2 clubs (5%) (Mid Ulster Ladies FC and Draperstown Celtic FC) have adult female teams, however, this could increase given the growing number of female youth teams. Just under half of the clubs have youth teams (13 clubs/41%) suggesting movement of players between clubs in the transition from youth to adult football. Clubs that operate with just one team may be less sustainable from year to year compared to those with a structure allowing players to feed through from youth to adult. The annual profile of total teams across the Council area will therefore vary as players progress to other teams/clubs and this may have implications for pitch provision. The club numbers and profiles presented in this audit are therefore a ‘snapshot’ of association football participation in the area in the Council area in the period June to September 2021.



6.23 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 31 identified clubs is as follows:-

Table 6.6 Association Football Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams

	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1424	306	1730
Junior (12 -18 yrs)	1040	108	1148
Adult	1142	71	1213
Total Players	3606	485	4091
Teams			
Small Sided Games (U7, U8) ²⁵	28	11	39
Small Sided Games (U9, U10) ²⁶	35	8	43
Small Sided Games (U11, U12) ²⁷	36	4	40
Youth (U13 to U18) ²⁸	54	5	59
Adult	48	3	51
Total Teams	201	31	232

- 6.24** It is important to note that the Small Sided Games (SSG) initiative has been adopted by the Irish Football Association (IFA) wherein children from Under 7 to Under 12 play matches in teams of 5-a-side, 7-a-side or 9-a-side according to age. This has been reflected in the reporting of team numbers. For this audit SSG teams are from U7 to U12 and include boys and girls teams.

Adequacy of Provision

- 6.25** The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

²⁵ Five-a-side

²⁶ Seven-a-side

²⁷ Nine-a-side

²⁸ Eleven-a-side

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

6.26 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of association football pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario.

Reference	Description	No of full grass and 3G pitches available for adult & youth matches	No of pitches available for SSG ²⁹ (Floodlit 3G)
Scenario 1	All pitches	51	10
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	38	6
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	25	4

6.27 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass Council pitches have been excluded from match provision for the reasons listed below:-

²⁹ SSG 5-side and 7-side games are currently delivered on Friday evenings on floodlit 3G pitches only.

Pitch Site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Aughnacloy Playing Fields	1	Pitch is rated as 'Poor' and has no changing facilities; these were relocated to service the recently completed Aughnacloy College 3G pitch. The pitch is reported to be 'rarely booked'.
Knockloughrim Playing Fields	1	There are no changing facilities at the site – no recent bookings.
Moneymore Recreation Centre Playing Fields	1	No bookings in recent years.
Riverside Playing Fields	1	The pitch has not been officially booked for several years, has no changing facilities.
Total	4 pitches	

6.28 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and small sided games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
	Full Grass	Full 3G	Full Grass	Full 3G	Full Grass	Full 3G
Clubs/Community	9	1	9	1	0	0
Education	5	4	0	0	0	0
MUDC	25	4	21	4	21	4
MUDC Leased to Club	2	1	2	1	0	0
Totals	41	10	32	6	21	4

Comments:-

- ❖ The above table records the number of pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth (U13 to U18) and adult matches are played on full size pitches. It is noted that each full size grass pitch can only accommodate one match per Saturday either in the morning or afternoon but not both.
- ❖ Although the Drumcoo grass pitch located next to the 3G pitch is slightly smaller than regulation size it is frequently booked and used for adult association football fixtures and is therefore counted as a full size pitch.

- ❖ For adult and youth association football Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude nine education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ For adult and youth association football, Scenario 3 excludes both education and club pitches – here only Council provision is assessed.
- ❖ The majority of 5-aside and 7-aside small-sided games are run by the IFA Grassroots Development programme and are accommodated on floodlit 3G pitches on Friday evenings (MUSA, Castlecaulfield, Moyola Park). They are included in the playing pitch modelling below.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude four identified unused Council pitches (Aughnacloy Playing Fields, Knockloughrim Playing Fields, Moneymore Recreation Centre Playing Fields and Riverside Playing Fields).
- ❖ It is noted that all youth fixtures (U13 to U18) are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ All full 3G pitches are included as they are used for competitive fixtures.

6.29 The results of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model PPM for each of the above 3 Scenarios are presented in Tables 6.7, 6.8, 6.9. In addition, in order to apply the Sport England Playing Pitch Model, Small Sided Games (SSG) teams have been calculated for 2 groups: SSG (U7, U8, U19, U10) requiring 5-aside and 7-aside facilities and SSG (U11 & U12) requiring 9-aside facilities.

Scenario 1

6.30 The picture for Scenario 1 for male association football in accordance with the Sport England model, for Mid Ulster District Council is presented in Table 6.7 below. Women's association adult football teams are not modelled here as generally their fixtures are in the summer months and therefore do not compete for pitches with male teams.

Table 6.7: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

Modelling Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	82 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	10 teams³⁰	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	59 teams	
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	48 teams	

³⁰ The majority of 9-aside teams play in the Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League where all games are played at Ulster University Coleraine campus and therefore place no pitch burden on MUDC. From the club survey approximately ten 9-aside teams play in Mid Ulster Youth League which is a normal home and away game set-up and therefore require MUDC pitches for home games.

2. Calculating home games per team per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1.0	Based on a home game every other week for SSG – 9-aside, Youth and Adult and 1 tournament every week for 5-aside & 7-aside SSG.
	SSG – 9-aside	0.5	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1 x tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	5 matches	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	30 matches	
	Adult	24 matches	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside 90% Fri PM	0.9	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as assessed from club surveys and league secretaries ³¹
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 61% Sat AM	0.61	
	Youth - 18% Sat PM	0.18	
	Adult – 7% - Sat AM	0.07	
	Adult – 93% - Sat PM	0.93	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside total need	4 pitches	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity is 24 teams ³² each for 5-aside 7-aside fixtures $(82/24) = 4$ (rounded up) Capacity for full pitch is one adult and one youth/SSG 9-aside game per week.
	SSG 9-aside Sat AM total needed	5 pitches	
	Youth Sat AM total needed	19 pitches	
	Youth Sat PM total needed	6 pitches	
	Adult Sat AM total needed	2 pitches	
	Adult Sat PM total needed	23 pitches	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth and Adult, SSG 9-aside	51 pitches	All full, youth and SSG pitches in all ownership. Note SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside requires floodlit 3G surfaces
	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	10 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision ³³	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	10-4 = +6 pitches	Good level of supply
	SSG - 9-aside Sat AM, Youth and Adult AM	51-(5+19+2) = +25 pitches	Good level of supply

³¹ This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. It will determine what percentages of all games are played on a Saturday for example. For this study from an analysis of the survey data together with knowledge of league fixtures it is known that approximately 90% of 5-aside & 7-aside Small Sided Games are held on Friday evenings and 100% of 9-aside, 61% of Youth and 7% of Adult matches are held Saturday AM and 93% of Adult matches are held Saturday PM.

³² Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x 7-aside SSG pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 3-hour tournament on Friday evening capacity is $3 \times 8 = 24$ teams.

³³ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

	Youth and Adult PM	51-(23+6) = +22 pitches	Good level of supply
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- 6.31** The results for Scenario 1 show there is a good level of supply for SSG, Youth and Adult with an over-supply of 25 pitches for Saturday morning matches and 22 pitches for Saturday afternoon matches.

Scenario 2

- 6.32** The picture for Scenario 2 for association football in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive association football matches. Also excluded are the four Council pitches currently not in use therefore reducing the number of full size grass and 3G pitches to 38 pitches for SSG, youth and adult games.

Table 6.8: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 - All community available pitches

Modelling Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	82 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	10 teams³⁴	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	59 teams	
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	48 teams	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1.0	Based on a home game every other week for SSG – 9-aside, Youth and Adult and 1 tournament every week for 5-aside & 7-aside SSG.
	SSG – 9-aside	0.5	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1 x tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	5 matches	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	30 matches	
	Adult	24 matches	
4. Establishing temporal	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside 90% Fri PM	0.9	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 61% Sat AM	0.61	

³⁴ The majority of 9-aside teams play in the Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League where all games are played at Ulster University Coleraine campus and therefore place no pitch burden on MUDC. From the club survey approximately ten 9-aside teams play in Mid Ulster Youth League which is a normal home and away game set-up and therefore require MUDC pitches for home games.

demand for games	Youth - 18% Sat PM	0.18	assessed from club surveys and league secretaries ³⁵
	Adult – 7% - Sat AM	0.07	
	Adult – 93% - Sat PM	0.93	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside total need	4 pitches	<p>Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.</p> <p>Capacity is 24 teams³⁶ each for 5-aside 7-aside fixtures $(82/24) = 4$ (rounded up)</p> <p>Capacity for full pitch is one adult and one youth/SSG 9-aside game per week.</p>
	SSG 9-aside Sat AM total needed	5 pitches	
	Youth Sat AM total needed	19 pitches	
	Youth Sat PM total needed	6 pitches	
	Adult Sat AM total needed	2 pitches	
	Adult Sat PM total needed	23 pitches	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth and Adult, SSG 9-aside	38 pitches	All full, youth and SSG pitches in all ownership. Note SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside requires floodlit 3G surfaces
	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	6 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision ³⁷	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	6-4 = +2 pitches	Good level of supply
	SSG - 9-aside Sat AM, Youth and Adult AM	38-(5+19+2) = +12 pitches	Good level of supply
	Youth and Adult PM	38-(23+6) = +9 pitches	Good level of supply

6.33 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand all age groups (SSG, Youth and Adult). There is a good level of supply for 9-aside and Youth teams on Saturday mornings with a surplus of 12 pitches. For adult matches on Saturday afternoons there is a surplus of 9 pitches.

6.34 It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

³⁵ This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. It will determine what percentages of all games are played on a Saturday for example. For this study from an analysis of the survey data together with knowledge of league fixtures it is known that approximately 90% of 5-aside & 7-aside Small Sided Games are held on Friday evenings and 100% of 9-aside, 61% of Youth and 7% of Adult matches are held Saturday AM and 93% of Adult matches are held Saturday PM.

³⁶ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x 7-aside SSG pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 3-hour tournament on Friday evening capacity is $3 \times 8 = 24$ teams.

³⁷ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand.
- ❖ The adequacy of provision results indicates supply is meeting demand for SSG 5-aside and 7-aside games. However, although there are seven floodlit 3G pitches available for 5-aside and 7-aside fixtures, the IFA Grassroots Development Officer reports difficulty in securing enough suitable venues as these are often booked by other sports and youth and adult training and games. Currently 5-aside and 7-aside fixtures are only held at MUSA, Castlecaulfield and Moyola Park. The IFA Development Officer reports they are unable to meet demand and have more teams than they can accommodate and are looking for additional suitable venues.
- ❖ The capacity of 3G pitches included in Scenario 2 has been set to 1 game Saturday morning and 1 game Saturday afternoon as per youth and adult fixtures – should this be increased it would result in a larger calculated surplus.
- ❖ A comparison of adequacy of provision for Scenario 2 with similar studies conducted by Otium Leisure Consultancy in other Council areas demonstrates there is a similar ‘buffer’ of pitches in Mid Ulster District Council area as found elsewhere. The buffer is the ratio of the number of unused pitches at peak demand to the number of pitches available for competitive matches at peak demand. For the Mid Ulster area this *surplus to supply buffer ratio* is 24%, similar to the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area and the Belfast City Council area as presented below:-

Pitch Audit Year	Council Area	Adequacy of Provision in Scenario 2	Supply Total number of pitches in Scenario 2	Surplus to Supply Buffer Ratio (%)
2021	Mid Ulster District Council	+9	38	24%
2018	Derry City & Strabane District Council	+3	46	7%
2017	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	+20	49	41%
2015	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	+10	47	21%
2013	Belfast City Council	+33	124	27%
2012	Newtownabbey Borough Council (legacy)	+21	44	48%

- ❖ Councils’ often require a pitch surplus, or ‘buffer’ for the following operational reasons:-

- allows for pitches to be taken out of circulation for maintenance and to be rested.
- allows for unexpected increase in games to be accommodated, for example National cup and league competitions that do not occur on a weekly basis.
- allows for use for by schools and development squads.
- poorer quality pitches may not be playable in periods of wet weather – a pitch buffer allows matches to be moved to other better quality pitches at short notice.

Scenario 3

6.35 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are considered. A total of 25 full sized pitches are available for all adults and additional for Youth and SSG. The results are: -

Table 6.9: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 - Only Council owned pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	82 teams	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	10 teams³⁸	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	59 teams	
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	48 teams	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1.0	Based on a home game every other week for SSG – 9-aside, Youth and Adult and 1 tournament every week for 5-aside & 7-aside SSG.
	SSG – 9-aside	0.5	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	1 x tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	5 matches	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	30 matches	
	Adult	24 matches	
4. Establishing temporal	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside 90% Fri PM	0.9	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 61% Sat AM	0.61	

³⁸ The majority of 9-aside teams play in the Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League where all games are played at Ulster University Coleraine campus and therefore place no pitch burden on MUDC. From the club survey approximately ten 9-aside teams play in Mid Ulster Youth League which is a normal home and away game set-up and therefore require MUDC pitches for home games.

demand for games	Youth - 18% Sat PM	0.18	assessed from club surveys and league secretaries ³⁹
	Adult – 7% - Sat AM	0.07	
	Adult – 93% - Sat PM	0.93	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside total need	4 pitches	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity is 24 teams ⁴⁰ each for 5-aside 7-aside fixtures $(82/24) = 4$ (rounded up) Capacity for full pitch is one adult and one youth/SSG 9-aside game per week.
	SSG 9-aside Sat AM total needed	5 pitches	
	Youth Sat AM total needed	19 pitches	
	Youth Sat PM total needed	6 pitches	
	Adult Sat AM total needed	2 pitches	
	Adult Sat PM total needed	23 pitches	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth and Adult, SSG 9-aside	21 pitches	All full, youth and SSG pitches in all ownership. Note SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside requires floodlit 3G surfaces
	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	4 pitches	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁴¹	SSG – 5-aside & 7-aside	4-4 = +0 pitches	Supply just meeting demand
	SSG - 9-aside Sat AM, Youth and Adult AM	25-(5+19+2) = -1 pitches	Supply not meeting demand
	Youth and Adult PM	25-(23+6) = -4 pitches	Supply not meeting demand

6.36 The results for Scenario 3, for Council pitches only, demonstrates that demand can be met for SSG matches, however there is a shortfall of 1 pitch for youth Saturday morning matches and 4 pitches for adult Saturday afternoon matches demonstrating the need for club-owned pitches to accommodate all matches across the age groups.

³⁹ This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. It will determine what percentages of all games are played on a Saturday for example. For this study from an analysis of the survey data together with knowledge of league fixtures it is known that approximately 90% of 5-aside & 7-aside Small Sided Games are held on Friday evenings and 100% of 9-aside, 61% of Youth and 7% of Adult matches are held Saturday AM and 93% of Adult matches are held Saturday PM.

⁴⁰ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x 7-aside SSG pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 3-hour tournament on Friday evening capacity is $3 \times 8 = 24$ teams.

⁴¹ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Adequacy of Match Provision by Area

6.37 The previous sections demonstrate an assessment of pitch provision across the Council area as a whole. In order to provide a more local picture it is of interest to look at adequacy of pitch provision in each of the three Council sub-areas – Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon.

6.38 Few association football clubs own their own facilities and as such do not have a ‘home’. However, most clubs will have a preferred home venue, used to generate match fixtures on a home and away basis and reflect the area where most of their players live. From the club survey the number and percentage of senior, youth and SSG teams who expressed a home venue preference in each of the three sub-areas was assessed. Where a club failed to respond to the home venue preference question an assumption was made on the area of the Council they would prefer to have as their home venue using additional information from the survey (i.e., member catchment information) and Council staff knowledge.

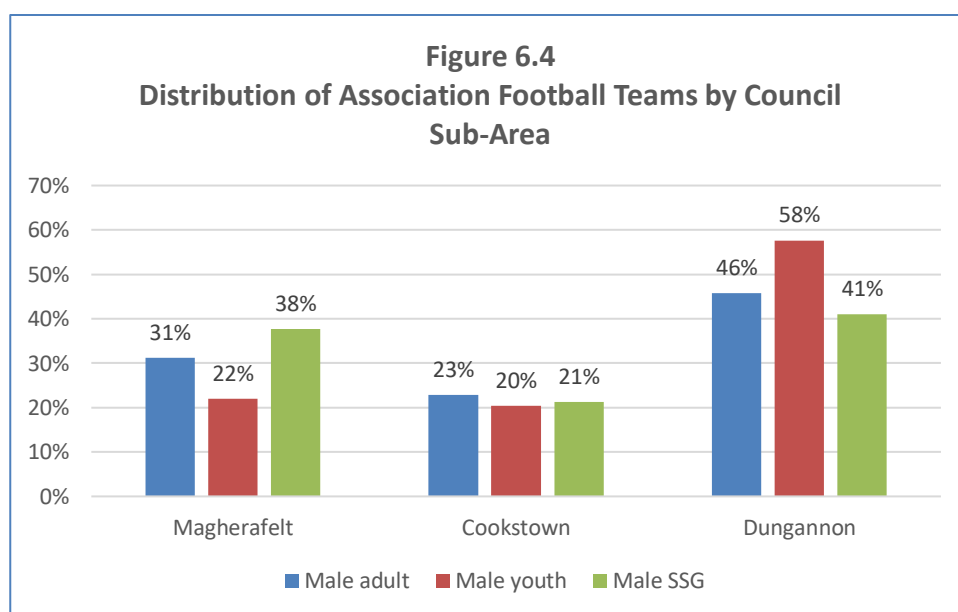
6.39 An inventory of clubs per area is:-

Magherafelt (7 clubs)	Cookstown (8 clubs)	Dungannon (16 clubs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magherafelt Sky Blues FC Upperlands Cross Community FC Maghera Strollers FC Desertmartin FC Draperstown Celtic FC Moyola Park AFC Tobermore United FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Ulster Ladies FC Coagh United FC Cookstown Youth FC Killymoon Rangers FC Loughshore United FC Newmills FC Cookstown Royal British Legion Swifts FC Cookstown Olympic FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reclain Rovers FC West End Hibs FC Dungannon Utd Youth FC Castlecaulfield Youth FC Dungannon Swifts FC Dungannon Tigers FC Dungannon Rovers FC Coalisland Bhoys FC Orchard Farm FC Castlecaulfield FC AFC Dungannon Caledon Rovers FC Coalisland Athletic FC Fivemiletown Utd FC Riverdale FC Donaghmore FC

6.40 The distribution of teams per area is:-

Table 6.10: Association Football – Distribution of Teams by Sub-Area (does not include adult female)

Area	No male adult teams per area	% male adult teams per area	No male youth teams per area	% male youth teams per area	No male SSG teams per area	% male SSG teams per area
Magherafelt	15	31%	13	22%	46	38%
Cookstown	11	23%	12	20%	26	21%
Dungannon	22	46%	34	58%	50	41%
Totals	48	100%	59	100%	122	100%



6.41 Full size match pitch provision per sub-area for Scenario 2 (pitches under Council and club ownership) is:-

Supply of pitches per Sub-Area (Grass +3G) for Scenario 2			
	Council	Club	Pitches not included in Scenario 2 totals
Magherafelt (14 pitches)	6 x grass, 2 x 3G	5 x grass, 1 x 3G	Knockloughrim, Moneymore Rec, Riverside Playing Fields
Cookstown (9 pitches)	5 x grass, 1 x 3G	3 x grass	
Dungannon (15 pitches)	10 x grass, 1 x 3G	2 x grass, 2 x 3G	Aughnacloy Playing Fields

6.42 Table 6.11 presents the PPM Scenario 2 for all 4 sub-areas for adult association football competitive games only.

Table 6.11: Association Football – Area based demand and supply for Scenario 2 for Adult and Youth football at peak demand Saturday afternoons

Model Stage	Whole Council	Magherafelt	Cookstown	Dungannon
1. Identifying teams	48 – adult 59 – youth	15 – adult 13 – youth	11 – adult 12 – youth	22 – adult 34 – youth
2. Calculating home games per team per week	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
3. Assessing total home games per week	24 matches – adult 30 matches – youth	8 matches – adult 7 matches – youth	5 matches – adult 6 matches – youth	11 matches – adult 17 matches – youth
4. Establishing temporal demand for games⁴²	0.93 – adult 0.18 – youth	0.93 – adult 0.18 – youth	0.93 – adult 0.18 – youth	0.93 – adult 0.18 – youth
5. Defining pitches required each day	23 pitches – adult 6 pitches – youth	7 pitches – adult 2 pitches – youth	5 pitches – adult 1 pitch – youth	10 pitches – adult 3 pitches – youth
6. Establishing pitches available	38 pitches	14 pitches	9 pitches	15 pitches
7. Adequacy of Provision⁴³	38 – 29 = +9 pitches	14 – 9 = +5 pitches	9 – 6 = +3 pitch	15 – 13 = +2 pitches

Comments

- ❖ For all three sub-areas there is an adequate supply of full-size grass and 3G pitches for adult matches at peak demand on Saturday afternoons.
- ❖ The smallest over-supply is for Dungannon with +2 pitches – this suggests supply is just meeting demand with a small ‘buffer’ supply.
- ❖ This analysis models for 93% of games being played at peak demand (Saturday afternoon); should this increase to 100% of games at peak demand there may not be enough pitches to satisfy demand particularly for the Dungannon sub-area.

⁴² On average 93% of adult games and 18% of youth games are played Saturday afternoon.

⁴³ Totals for the three Council sub-areas do not add up to that for the whole Council due to rounding up.

- ❖ This analysis assumes pitches can sustain two games, one youth game on Saturday morning and one adult game on Saturday afternoon.

Adequacy of Provision – Training

- 6.43** The majority of association football training takes places on pitches that are different to those used for competitive matches on Saturdays and mid-week. From the online survey, training during the winter months takes place predominantly on AstroTurf and 3G surfaces. Whilst some club training takes place at club owned grass training pitches, this is during the summer months. In order to assess adequacy of provision of training facilities at peak demand (winter) the supply of ‘one-hour’ training slots in the Council area is matched to the demand from the number of teams operating. A summary of the supply of 1-hour training slots is:-

Facility Type and Site		Number of 1-hour training slots midweek (i.e., Mon to Thurs) ⁴⁴
	No. of available training hours per week	Council Zone
AstroTurf – Floodlit (2 sites)		
Meadowbank (shared 25% with hockey teams) Here is assumed that the pitch is big enough to be split into two training areas therefore doubling the number of one-hour training slots to 24, this facility is shared with hockey reducing the number of 1-hour slots to 18.	18	Magherafelt
Fivemiletown College (shared 25% with hockey and rugby teams)	4	Dungannon
Total	22 x 1-hour slots	
3G outdoor – Floodlit (10 sites)		
Backrow 3G – Youth size Shared with GAA and School teams	8	Magherafelt
Castlecaulfield 3G – Youth Size	10	Dungannon
Coagh Sports Centre	12	Cookstown
Drumcoo⁴⁵	24	Dungannon
Junior Stadium, Mullaghana	24	Dungannon
Maghera LC	24	Magherafelt
Meadowbank GAA/Rugby (66% shared with GAA/Rugby)	30	Magherafelt

⁴⁴ Demand for association football training is predominantly Monday to Thursday evening 6pm to 9pm, i.e., a total of 12 hours per week.

⁴⁵ Here is assumed that the pitch is big enough to be split into two training areas therefore doubling the number of one-hour training slots to 24.

Here it is assumed the pitch can be split into 4 training areas – training slots = 12 x 4 =48.		
Mid Ulster Sports Arena Soccer 3G ¹⁶	24	Cookstown
Mid Ulster Sports Arena Indoor 3G - SSG	12	Cookstown
Mill Meadow 3G ¹⁶	24	Magherafelt
St Ciaran's College Community bookings as noted from the online survey.	10	Dungannon
Aughnacloy College (66% shared with GAA/Rugby)	8	Dungannon
Integrated College Dungannon Community bookings as noted from the online survey.	3	Dungannon
Windmill Integrated Primary School 3G pitch Small – 40 x 22m suitable for SSG teams	4	Dungannon
Augher Central Primary School 3G Pitch Small - 50 x 30m suitable for SSG teams	4	Dungannon
Floodlit Grass Pitches		
MUSA Grass Soccer 1	8	Cookstown
MUSA Grass Soccer 2	8	Cookstown
	235 x 1-hour slots	
Total Current Supply of 1-hour slots	257 x 1-hour slots	

6.44 In summary there are approximately 257 x 1-hour training slots available at 15 floodlit sites across the Council, the breakdown per Council zone is:

Training Provision		
Zone	Total 1-hour slots	No of sites
Cookstown	64	1 site
Magherafelt	104	4 sites
Dungannon	89	10 sites
Totals	257	15

Training Facility Demand

6.45 An assessment of Association Football training needs/demand is presented in Table 6.12. Here the total number and breakdown of Mid Ulster District Council association football teams by age and training needs is assessed using information from the survey and employing the following observations:-

- ❖ 4 x U7 to U12 SSG teams have the same pitch size requirements as one adult team i.e., equivalent to 1 adult team
- ❖ 1 x youth team (U12 to U16) training is equivalent to one adult team
- ❖ U7 to U11 SSG teams train on average 1.5 times a week

- ❖ U11/U12 SSG train on average 1.5 times a week
- ❖ Youth teams train on average 1.75 times a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average 1.75 times a week.

Table 6.12 –Association Football Training Needs

		No. of Male Teams	No. of Female Teams	All teams	Adult team equivalents ⁴⁶	Average No. of 1-hour training sessions per week per team	Total No. of 1-hour training slots needed (rounded up)
Whole Council	U7 to U10	63	19	82	20.5	1.5	31
	U10 to U11	36	15	51	25.5	1.5	30
	U12 to U16	54	5	59	59	2	118
	Adult	48	3	51	51	2	102
	Total Teams	201	42	243	156		281 x 1-hour
Magherafelt	U7 to U10	24	5	29	7.25	1.5	11
	U10 to U11	15	2	17	8.5	1.5	13
	U12 to U16	13	0	13	13	2	26
	Adult	15	2	17	17	2	34
	Total Teams	67	9	76	45.75		84 x 1-hour
Cookstown	U7 to U10	8	13	21	5.25	1.5	8
	U10 to U11	4	1	5	2.5	1.5	4
	U12 to U16	10	2	12	12	2	24
	Adult	11	1	12	12	2	24
	Total Teams	33	17	50	31.75		60 x 1-hour
Dungannon	U7 to U10	31	1	32	8	1.5	12
	U10 to U11	17	1	18	9	1.5	14
	U12 to U16	31	3	34	34	2	68
	Adult	22	0	22	22	2	44
	Total Teams	101	5	106	73		138 x 1-hour

6.46 As calculated, the 232 association football teams in the Council require at least 281 x 1-hour training slots. Currently there are an estimated 257 x 1-hour slots available across the whole Council area, that is an undersupply of 24 x 1-hour slots. If the training on AstroTurf is discounted due to unsuitability for the modern game, this

⁴⁶ The following is assumed: 4 x U7 to U10 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 2 x U11, U12 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 1 x U13 to U18 teams requires the same size training pitch as one adult team.

increases the short fall to 46 x 1-hour slots. Note this analysis does not take into account any training needs required for elite pathway development squads, social football programmes or 5-side games. This analysis suggests training needs for association football are not being met adequately; indeed, a large number of comments in the survey are related to training with 11 out of the 29 clubs that completed the survey noting training in the question relating to future needs, for example see the below comments:

Castlecaulfield FC	Possibly starting a ladies team. One of the difficulties is having suitable training space in winter
Dungannon Swifts FC	We are in need of pitches to accommodate training for our 15's & 16's
Mid Ulster Ladies FC	We are a growing club - the demand for girls and women football is very high our numbers are increasing
Moyola FC	We currently experience issues with pitch space to accommodate the number of participants involved in the club.

6.47 An analysis of training supply and demand per Council zones demonstrates the undersupply is most acute in Dungannon zone:

Zone	Supply No. of 1hr-slots	Demand No. of 1hr-slots	Adequacy of Provision
Magherafelt	104	84	Demand meeting supply
Cookstown	64	60	Demand meeting supply
Dungannon	89	138	Demand NOT meeting supply
Whole Council (incl AstroTurf)	257	282	Demand NOT meeting supply
Whole Council (excl AstroTurf)	235	282	Demand NOT meeting supply

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

6.48 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities. Results are as follows (clubs were able to select more than one response):-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	21%	24%
Hire cost too expensive for club	28%	24%

Finding venues of suitable condition	41%	NA
Finding venues of suitable surface	NA	41%
Availability of floodlit venues	NA	45%
Can't get booking slot	45%	41%
None	24%	21%

Comments

- ❖ 45% of clubs record 'availability of floodlit venues' as a significant barrier to accessing training facilities.
- ❖ 45% and 41% of clubs record 'Can't get booking slot' for matches and training respectively.
- ❖ It is of interest to note for match facilities, 41% of clubs record 'Finding venues of suitable condition' as a barrier suggesting that although there may be enough pitches for matches perhaps there are not sufficient of high enough standard?
- ❖ The following comments are record by clubs in relation to match facilities:-

'Getting the slots at the time we need them can get a problem. If we are to grow much more this will become a bigger issue.'

'Often Beechway and/or Fairhill pitches are unavailable, closed, undergoing maintenance, or not in an adequate playing condition.'

'Floodlights (Boyne Row) - particularly to utilise for mid-week training sessions. It is difficult to get a booking slot at Meadowbank.'

'Need more 4G facility.'

'We do not have to use other facilities unless weather conditions make our pitches unplayable.'

'Too many clubs sharing pitches that need them at the same time.'

'MUSA are very good and help us greatly.'

'We have to play too many of our home games in other towns and villages.'

'We can access match facilities no problem, but we want to make it as cheap as possible for every player. For a home game you pay £50 for a 3G pitch, and you pay on average £50 for a ref so that is £100 for a junior standard of football for a home game, sounds expensive for the level of football. I prefer the grass to play on anyway but the benefit with 3G is you know the match will be on. The grass pitch at Drumcoo is just under £40 so if you used that for every home match the saving compared to 3G can be substantial for a small club. Why is 3G not the same price for pitch cost as grass as there is less maintenance to be done on it compared to grass and on top of that the 3G earns more during the week due to clubs training on it as the grass can't be used for training, is the extra £10 it makes for one game at 2.15 on a Saturday going to be missed? Over a season that will benefit the clubs. There are not enough grass pitches in the Dungannon

area in my opinion, there used to be 2 years ago in Dungannon Park, but that area is not used for football anymore, the football pitch that is there is not up to standard, are there any grass areas in Dungannon that can be developed into a pitch?’

‘Ground doesn't meet IFA standard Requirements, Changing rooms too far away from the playing area, no exterior boundary or interior boundary for spectators etc.’

‘Parking Fencing Lighting.’

‘There have been some discussions in the past regarding the fee for a match. This is estimated for 2 hours where a match requires 2 half's of 45 minutes plus a 15 break and normally a minimum 30 min warm up pre match. Realistically the period is closer to 3 hours than 2.’

❖ And these comments in relation to training facilities:-

‘We are expanding club and need more booking slots.’

‘We only train once during the week, training twice a week would increase the cost for the players which you don't want to do and at this level twice a week is too much of a commitment. Ideal training is Tuesday evening with Wednesday evening the next preferable slot. Anything outside of this is too early in the week or too close to your Saturday game and you also don't want it too late in the evening either. To get the slot we needed to go to the Dungannon Integrated College as we could not get the time slot, we wanted at Drumcoo 3G due to the number of other teams all looking for the same time slots.’

‘We play in a winter league and training would require the use of outdoor floodlights to be used which the club can't afford so misses out on valuable training sessions.’

‘We were lucky to get 1/3 slot in Maghera twice per week. This however is £72 a week now with the lights. As the slots are booked in 1 hour blocks, we need to pay for 2 hours where we use 1 and a 1/2 hours on average.’

‘Getting slots can be an issue sometimes for the times we need them. if we grow bigger this will be a bigger problem.’

‘Numbers of teams we have outstrips the available facilities. Many of our teams have to train together which is not ideal - this leads to cramped training conditions. The above information relates to only 1 training session per week per team.’

‘We would be happy, willing, and probably prefer to train on Beechway pitch if the facility was better maintained, had floodlights, and the surface was better taken care of. Often the 3g surface at MUSA is hard to get slots in, it's very expensive to book, and the surface is sore and highly impactful on joints and muscles to train on an ongoing and regular basis.’

‘The size of the facility is dependent on where the current club training can be held, plus the accessibility (slots available) and it having floodlights.’

Playing Surface

- 6.49** Association football matches are increasingly being played on artificial surfaces. 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IFA and over the last number of years the provision of 3G pitches has increased both in the Council area and across Northern Ireland. The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to use artificial surfaces including 3G surfaces for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 6.13: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	58%	35%	4%	77%	23%	0%
AstroTurf	58%	27%	15%	77%	15%	8%
3G	4%	31%	65%	15%	31%	54%

- 6.50** As presented in Table 6.13, 65% of respondents indicated that they are favourable to the use of 3G surfaces for training but less, at 54%, are favourable to using 3G for matches. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁴⁷. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit however anecdotal evidence would suggest that grass surfaces are still in demand, especially floodlit grass surfaces; see the following three comments which reflect the general attitude to grass:-

⁴⁷ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

'Nothing beats grass to play a match on (my opinion).'

'Prefer grass pitches and proper maintenance.'

'Playing matches on synthetic pitches is considered okay during times of bad weather, however the preference would always be grass pitches for matches, and training.'

Membership Growth and Future Plans

6.51 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Expect Membership to	No of Clubs
Increase	24
Decrease	2
Stay the same	3

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase.
- ❖ Clubs listed the following reasons as to why they expect their membership to increase:-

'More competitive football being offered in the youth section with current age groups being retained and moving into juvenile football. Also greater emphasis being placed on girls football within the club.'

'We previously had a youth football team and we plan to reintroduce this team again.'

'Again more people looking to play soccer.'

'More female getting involved in sports, bigger age groups.'

'It is impossible to say as a lot of players will move from club to club or where there may be wages. We do not pay any players but sadly the way times are moving a lot of players do not stick with clubs.'

'We have been constantly growing this last number of years and we expect this to continue. We have rejuvenated the committee and club and expect to add additional youth teams and continue to grow the female section. As a true grassroots club we expect further increases as we do not hold trials for our members. All skill levels are catered for. As the winners of the IFA Grassroots Club of the Year 20/21 and IFA Inclusive Project of the Year 20/21 we expect the positive publicity to have a positive effect on our membership numbers.'

'Club better organised.'

'We have plans to bolster existing two squads, launch an under 18 team, and potentially launch another youth team as well.'

'The club plans to expand its female participation with the introduction of specific girls and ladies teams. Although with our own ground being 'land locked' in terms of expansion we would be looking to further utilise Council facilities within Castledawson village. There are plans to introduce an over 35's male team.'

'Club is better organised to cater now for larger numbers with the opportunity to play at both a highly competitive and recreational level.'

'Difficulty maintaining interest of younger players now with other interests/ effect of CV19 on mental health etc.'

'The main reasons our playing membership will increase over the next 5 years will be the current youth team members ages 2005-2007 will all have the opportunity to move into the pathway for senior football via our seconds and firsts team. If applicable the club would be willing to establish a 3rd team at U23 level to cater for the young players coming through our development pathway. That coupled with the introduction of new age groups in the next 5 years at both boys and girls the membership at youth and senior level will increase across the club.'

'Club is better organised.'

'Better organised.'

'Running costs of the club and facility.'

'The club is looking at building more youth football to bring lads through the club to be the future of the club in years to come.'

- 6.52** Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are six main strands: *Intermediate pitch facilities, changing accommodation, training, home pitch, lease, ancillary needs* - see Table 6.14 for a summary of the number of clubs making comments under these six strands. Table 6.15 presents the full response (unaltered) made by clubs in the two survey questions relating to 'future plans/needs' and 'any other comments.'

Table 6.14: Summary of emerging strands in relation to future plans and needs

Club name/Home grounds	Facility ownership	Intermediate Pitch	Changing accommodation	Training	Home Pitch	Lease	Ancillary
AFC Dungannon Drumcoo Playing Fields	Council		√				
Caledon Rovers Football Club Tanyard Park	Club			√			
Castlecaulfield FC Castlecaulfield Playing Fields	Council			√			√
Coagh United FC Hagan Park	Club		√				
Coalisland Athletic FC Gortgonis Playing Fields	Council	√					
Coalisland Bhoys FC Gortgonis Sports Arena	Council	√					
Cookstown Youth FC Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Council	√					
Desertmartin FC Dromore Park	Club						√
Draperstown Celtic FC Cahore Playing Fields	Council	√			√	√	
Dungannon Rovers FC Drumcoo Playing Fields	Council						
Dungannon Swifts FC Stangmore Park	Council	√		√			
Dungannon Utd Youth FC Junior Stadium	Council			√			
Fivemiletown Utd FC Valley Stadium	Club				√		
Killymoon Rangers FC Beechway	Council				√	√	
Maghera Strollers FC	Council		√				

Maghera Leisure Centre							
Magherafelt Sky Blues FC Spires Park Magherafelt	Club						✓
Mid Ulster Ladies FC MUSA	Council			✓			
Moyola Park AFC Mill Meadow	Club			✓		✓	
Newmills FC Newmills Playing Fields	Council			✓			
Reclain Rovers FC Drumcoo/Castlecaulfield/MUSA	Council			✓			
Riverdale FC Benburb Playing Fields	Council			✓	✓		
Tobermore United FC Fortwilliam Park	Club						
Upperlands Cross Community FC Festival Park Upperlands	Club			✓	✓		
West End Hibs FC Drumcoo Playing Fields	Council			✓			
Total Number		5	3	11	5	3	3

Comments

- ❖ Five clubs made comments on the need for Intermediate standard pitches.
- ❖ Three clubs commented on need related to changing accommodation.
- ❖ Eleven clubs commented on the need for more training facilities.
- ❖ Five clubs commented on need around a home pitch.
- ❖ Three clubs commented on the aspiration to secure a lease for pitch facilities.
- ❖ Three clubs have aspirations to further develop ancillary facilities such as car parking, floodlights and fencing.

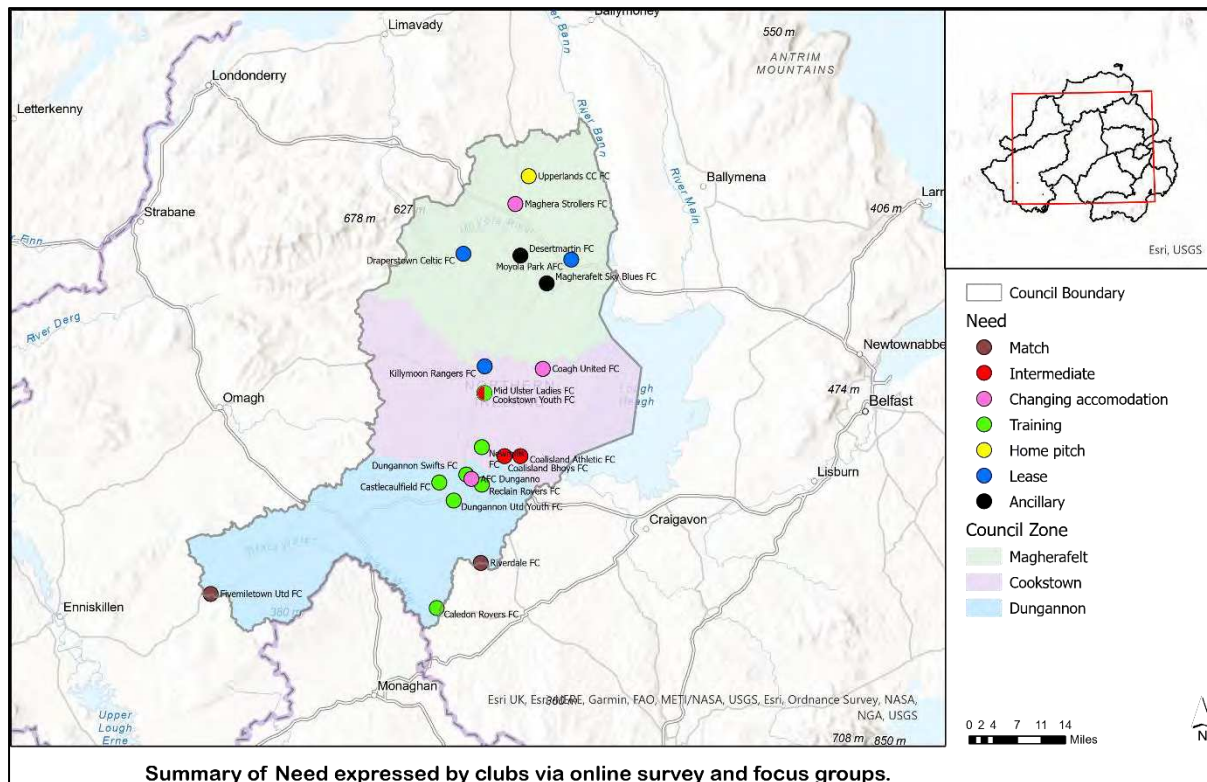


Table 6.15: Full Comments In Relation To Future Plans And Needs

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
AFC Dungannon Drumcoo Playing Fields	Council	Changing rooms need a total revamp and modernised. Toilets are awful and never any warm water changing rooms are far too small also.	Changing accommodation
Caledon Rovers Football Club Tanyard Park	Club	We have a need for a training facility at our pitch in Caledon. The growth of our youth section and also expected future growth particularly in the girls football section has meant that we are struggling with costs of pitch hire and will continue to do so in the future. Having additional training facilities that do not incur a high hire cost would ease current financial pressures a lot. We currently hire Aughnacloy College 3G pitch, it is an excellent facility but hire costs are very high compared to similar venues and there is no provision made for hiring of a half pitch to reduce hire costs. To that end we hope to try to source funding for a small 3G training facility in Caledon, at present we have a small grass area that could be converted into such a facility. Also we intend to increase storage facilities at our pitch in Caledon.	Training

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		<p>Due to the equipment needed both for training and pitch maintenance our current storage requirements are inadequate.</p> <p>Pitch provision in Mid Ulster Council is generally good though at times when external Council pitches have had to be hired at short notice they have been a little inflexible in accommodating the bookings. Also grass length and markings on hired pitches can be very inconsistent.</p>	
Castlecaulfield FC Castlecaulfield Playing Fields	Council	<p>Possibly starting a ladies team. One of the difficulties is having suitable training space in winter.</p> <p>Playing field pitch is good. Need fencing improved to stop balls getting lost in the river. Storage for equipment needed. Parking is an issue need a redesign of carpark as there have been numerous accidents at the pitch.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Ancillary</p>
Coagh United FC Hagan Park	Club	<p>We are keen to develop the youth structure (age 16+) at Coagh however we are limited in the use of our changing facilities available (only 2 changing rooms). We are also restricted in that there are no indoor facilities should weather be unfavourable. And the pitches are not floodlit which restricts use in winter months.</p>	<p>Changing accommodation</p> <p>Ancillary</p>
Coalisland Athletic FC Gortgonis Playing Fields	Council	<p>We are unable to advance to intermediate league due to not owning our own pitch. Also Gortgonis pitch doesn't allow us to advance to Mid Ulster Intermediate league due to criteria not being met, i.e. no fencing around the pitch.</p>	<p>Intermediate 3G match facilities</p>
Coalisland Bhoys FC Gortgonis Sports Arena	Council	<p>Ground doesn't meet IFA standard requirements; Changing rooms too far away from the playing area, No exterior boundary or interior boundary for spectators etc.</p> <p>About 10 years ago I started youth teams in my local area and had both boys and girls teams at various ages right up from under 8s to under 14s and each one of those teams had to play their home matches away from home as their existing pitch did not meet Mid Ulster Youth League criteria which was a 3G surface. I got onto my local Council and had numerous meetings with Council and assembly ministers over a 20 year period and still nothing was done. Plenty of empty promises but still the pitch stayed the same. There was also a smaller playing area to the right of the main pitch</p>	<p>Intermediate 3G match facilities</p>

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		<p>which had been put in situ the same time as the big pitch 1974 and it had a carpet-like surface which we used to train on and we asked the local Council to upgrade the surface as it was too dangerous when wet as it became like an ice rink but once again nothing was done. Eventually, the numbers started to decline due to the parents taking the children away to play GAA sports as their facilities were safer and so the youth section had to cease. I was also involved as the senior team manager some years ago and the team went from Div 4 to div 1 in the first four seasons it played winning all leagues on its way to the top. After winning division 1 for a couple of seasons I applied to the Mid Ulster League for promotion to the Premier League and was turned down as our pitch didn't meet the criteria. I once again got onto Mid Ulster Council and had numerous meetings with senior heads of departments and informed them what was required but was told the pitch was going to be upgraded soon to the point I even saw plans of the new pitch but as I write this survey and I now have very little connection with soccer in the town the pitch in Gortgonis is still sitting the same way as it did in 1974 with the playing surface still grass and the pitch still too far away from the changing rooms to meet the criteria and the club I managed some years ago is still playing and winning Div 1 titles but can't go any higher because the ground is inadequate. Why does this happen in my area while other areas are sporting state of the art playing facilities and are only in Div 3 of the league what is the difference?</p> <p>Our pitch was made in the early 70s and from that time the only refurbishment it has received is sand placed on it every end of season plus the grass cut on a regular basis. I personally have been in loggerheads with the local Council over the past 10 years and longer to upgrade the pitch, but my words have fallen on deaf ears while other pitches have been upgraded to a 3G surface and spectator barriers put in place but not Gortgonis.</p>	
Cookstown Youth Football Club Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Council	<p>We would most like to play our matches on a grass pitch but we cannot do this as we don't not have an intermediate standard grass pitch in the COOKSTOWN area, so we are forced to play on the 3G pitch which is of minimum size for intermediate football.</p>	Intermediate match facilities

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		<p>The club has been getting bigger and bigger, issues are getting training slots at the times we need them, this is normally 6 to 8pm each night of the week.</p> <p>In the Cookstown area there is only one pitch that is passed to play intermediate football on and that is the 3g at the Mid Ulster sports arena. The pitch itself is not a great size and is at the minimum size for Intermediate football, this is without doubt holding the club back when developing players at an older age. The way the game has moved we need a much bigger pitch either grass or 3G in the Cookstown area.</p>	
<p>Desertmartin Football Club</p> <p>Dromore Park</p>	<p>Club</p>	<p>Our club is a country club and we pride ourselves on the high standards of our grounds and changing rooms all clubs that play at Dromore Park for the 1st time are amazed in the middle of fields of sheep and cattle sits 2 full size soccer pitches and club house Our aim is to provide a safe and friendly club for any young lads that want to play football from any side of the community to build and instil in them the importance of team building and for them to enjoy a few hours a week away from computers, drinking etc.</p> <p>Over the next few years we would like to add more carparking spaces and if possible and there is enough interest start a youth setup to build the club players from youth to intermediate football under the club name.</p> <p>As a club we are lucky that we do not share the pitch and is always ready for use. Of course, if the weather is really bad and a lot of really wet days our training pitch may be too wet to use so we may have to book indoor pitches at Meadow Bank but these can be difficult to get and are costly for the club.</p>	<p>Ancillary</p>
<p>Draperstown Celtic FC</p> <p>Cahore Playing Fields</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>Draperstown Celtic would be open to signing a long-term lease or undergo a community asset transfer of land to secure the long-term future of the facility. It should be noted that for DC to enter into any long term lease or community transfer that the terms and conditions must include pitches that are up to standard and fit for purpose We would then propose and seek ways to development the existing community sports and leisure facilities at Cahore The installation of a 3G next generation, all-weather surface pitch with floodlights that can be used intensively all year</p>	<p>Home base for training and matches – long term lease agreement for Cahore Playing Fields to develop 3G Intermediate facility</p>

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		<p>round for training and matches. The proposed pitch should meet Intermediate football standard. This would replace pitch 2 at Cahore which is totally unfit for use from October to April each year because it is waterlogged. The upgrade of Pitch 1 and surrounding facilities at Cahore to Intermediate standard as well as the remedying of several Health and Safety issues. This would involve the construction of an internal fence with suitable gates, removal of concrete dugouts and replacement on the other side of pitch with suitable approved dugouts. The renovation and upgrade of the current pavilion to include 6 changing rooms which would include 2 unisex officials' changing rooms. Also a treatment room. The introduction of a Community Hub (with kitchen) including a community meeting rooms with capacity for roughly 75 people. Possible re-design of car-park. The addition of floodlights to Pitch 1 (Grass) along with the addition of a small covered stand. A small single room gym with cardio and strength equipment to meet broad range of needs.</p> <p>The ambition of DCFC on the field to be a leading community focused club, playing at the highest possible level is hampered by the available facilities. The current position also reflects the limitations of the current facilities in that they fall below what is required of a modern and appealing football club. There has been a blatant and distressing lack of investment and support in the development of facilities at the Cahore facility (other than basic remedial drainage works completed by the Council in 2012). This is further backed up by information that has come to light as a result of a FOI request to the Council regarding capital spend on sporting facilities. The results show spend in the following areas – Moneymore, Dungannon, Cookstown, Portglenone, Maghera and Tobermore. Local authority provision in the area does not possess the facilities to supply the present demand. Our club is being forced to alternate facilities (including some outside Mid Ulster District Council area) to train or play at non-desirable times. Poor pitch standards have led to the club having to play a lot of our games away from home – again some outside the MUDC area. The policy of only playing 1 game per day per pitch exacerbates the issue. The fact that we must play so many away games puts extra financial pressure on the club and on individual members. A major issue is that grass pitches can only sustain</p>	

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		a recommended 300/350 hours of use per year (6/7 hours per week). In addition, for approximately eight months of the year, daylight hours are limited in Northern Ireland and therefore the use of grass pitches is considerably reduced. These restrictions, and the identified shortfall, results in excessive use and saturation of grass pitches at peak times, resulting in the inability for many clubs/teams to find suitable training or competition venues. Excessive use of grass pitches causes significant deterioration, particularly during the winter months. Because of this problem it is therefore undesirable to floodlight a grass pitch for community use. Many grass pitches in Northern Ireland are in poor condition and are generally in a state of considerable disrepair – as evidenced by pitch 2. From October – April pitch 2 is unplayable as it is completely waterlogged. This is often due to poor planning at the outset, incorrect drainage, insufficient maintenance programmes and poor security arrangements. This adds to the problem of limited provision.	
Dungannon Rovers FC Drumcoo Playing Fields	Council	<p>We only train once during the week, training twice a week would increase the cost for the players which you don't want to do and at this level twice a week is too much of a commitment. Ideal training is Tuesday evening with Wednesday evening the next preferable slot. Anything outside of this is too early in the week or too close to your Saturday game and you also don't want it too late in the evening either. To get the slot we needed we needed to go to the Dungannon Integrated College as we could not get the time slot we wanted at Drumcoo 3G due to the number of other teams all looking for the same time slots.</p> <p>Development plans, personally my aim is just to get one team out each season and that seems to be getting more difficult. It has been very difficult to get a team out this year after the covid closure with a few players just finding something else to do or just retiring. We will never have our own pitch etc so will just see what the Council makes provision wise to further football in the town.</p>	Concerned about cost of match and training facilities
Dungannon Swifts FC Stangmore Park	Council	We are in need of pitches to accommodate training for our 15's & 16's – 2 x 18's and U20s playing league games is also very difficult for these age groups due to lack of pitches.	<p>Training</p> <p>Irish league standard match pitch</p>

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
Dungannon United Youth Junior Stadium	Council	We don't have the ground to extend into more pitches so really we need more proper decent floodlit 4g pitches in our area.	Training – 3G floodlit
Fivemiletown United Valley Stadium	Club	With the growing amount of teams we have pitches are in extremely shorts supply. We are presently trying to obtain a piece of land next to our home venue with a plan to develop a second playing pitch.	Match pitch
Killymoon Rangers FC Beechway	Council	<p>We have previously expressed an interest in leasing Beechway pitch, or at least offered the opportunity to discuss this option further. Cookstown Youth and Cookstown RBL, both younger clubs than ourselves, have both been considered and scored for a lease of Beechway in 2017. Link here to initial info on this - https://bit.ly/3yiMhsT We have huge aspirations to lease or own a local pitch. We would very much welcome a meeting on this and would like to be presented with the same lease agreement that Cookstown Youth were offered in 2017. Killymoon are celebrating 50 years in Cookstown, we are the longest serving club by considerable number of years and have big plans for developing more teams and pushing onwards into intermediate football and even back into championship football - however we feel this is being hampered by not having a pitch to call our own. Leasing a pitch will make us eligible for my grants and funding, plus allow for more sponsorship opportunity, better training and match options, and help our club grow and move forward. After 50 years this is the next move, it should have been done many years ago, but we are now very keen and eager to make this happen asap. Please feel free to contact Secretary Stuart to discuss further. We're aware contact has already been made regarding the above, and we have also asked local Councillors to reach out for us which they done, but as yet neither them or ourselves have received word back. We hope this isn't a case of inequality or being brushed aside, as we are very serious about having an urgent meeting and wish to be presented with the same equal opportunities as other clubs in the local area.</p> <p>As mentioned previously our committee feel some additional work and better care is required at a number of pitches in the Cookstown area, specifically Beechway, for which we have a strong desire to be considered for a long</p>	Home base at Beechway with a long-term lease agreement

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		term lease agreement. Again, as mentioned we would welcome some contact and dialogue on this topic, and feel very strongly as a 50 year old club that having a pitch to call our own is important, and we are very keen to have an official meeting or consideration put in place for the lease of this pitch, similar to what has been presented to other clubs in the past. Thank you.	
Maghera Strollers FC Maghera Leisure Centre	Council	The club has ambitions to grow and introduce a youth structure. We are also hoping to get a second team setup. There are currently over 50 players registered to the club. Club development would also be targeting intermediate football in the years ahead. The changing facilities currently are not practical for a football match. These are shared meaning both teams are in the same room as well as other people using the facility.	Changing accommodation
Magherafelt Sky Blues FC Spires Park Magherafelt	Club	To further our club. We need floodlights and better playing conditions. We totally rely on Meadowbank in winter and early spring times when we have our own facilities. We would like some help within the Council as we provide a service too community. We are one of the biggest clubs in area. We have new Cabins and changing rooms all funded. We would like better parking and some drainage help around pitch to maintain grass and keep our costs down.	Ancillary Floodlights, pitch drainage, car parking
Mid Ulster Ladies FC MUSA	Council	We are a growing club - the demand for girls and women football is very high out numbers are increasing. Our new programme the 'Little Dribblers' for Nursery to P2 has approx. 70 attending each week. We find it difficult to find enough floodlit training venues for all our training needs. We are very happy with MUSA as our home base and look forward to continuing to grow the club.	Training floodlit venues – 3G
Moyola Park AFC Mill Meadow	Club	We currently experience issues with pitch space to accommodate the number of participants involved in the club. The number of youth/children especially has increased in the last 5 years and the development plan for the club envisages greater provision of quality football coaching, but without proper facilities this will be difficult to deliver. We wish to explore the use and development of the Boyne Row facility within the village with MUDC. The changing rooms need upgrading, floodlights installed to provide greater	Additional training/match facility – would like to explore leasing Boyne Row pitch

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		flexibility for the use of the pitch and the surface looked at in general, to consider levelling, grassing cutting, quality of grass, goalposts, ball stop netting, storage facilities and the like. The Club would be interested in talking to MUDC about all of these things and the prospect of leasing the pitch in the long term.	
Newmills FC	Council	Need more 4G facility.	Training 3G
Newmills Playing Fields			
Reclain Rovers FC	Council	Too many clubs sharing pitches that need them at the same time.	Training
Drumcoo/Castlecaulfield/MUSA			
Riverdale FC	Council	We currently have a development plan 2019-2024 which supports and gauges the clubs aims and objectives and ensures these are measured on a regular basis, from coach education, facilities, equipment, committee, finances etc. The football club are almost at their capacity in terms of playing teams and playing members and we are in urgent need of another playing field within the village of Benburb that has lights to accommodate the number of teams we have at all age levels and to allow for training and matches to take place within the village, as currently and mentioned previously the following 9 club teams (Seniors Men's, Senior Reserves, Boys U16s, U14s, U13s, U12s, U11s, and Girls U17s and U15s) all have to travel to Dungannon weekly during the season to play matches to train at the Integrated College 4G in Dungannon. The hire costs of this facility on an annual basis are always increasing and putting severe pressure on the club financially and we urgently need the Mid Ulster Council to help us out in this area, as we are the only sports club in the village and we cater for boys, girls and senior playing members from Benburb and the surrounding villages of Moy, Blackwatertown, Eglis, Tullysarran, and beyond. Annually we add a new age group to our youth section (Boys and Girls) and in 2 years time we will have a team/s at each group from 2016s to 2005s plus 2 senior teams. Presently we are the largest football club outside of Dungannon in the Mid Ulster Council area with 264 playing members and 40 non playing members (coaches and committee) In the past 15 years the club have worked very closely with the Mid Ulster Council (previously Dungannon Council) and in partnership with the Benburb Community Association and	Training and match facilities
Benburb Playing Fields			

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		<p>more recently Duiche Neil Hurling Club , Benburb who were established in 2015 in the development of the park and playing fields at Benburb to upgrade and improve its facilities. This has seen the club and its key partners apply for and receive funding which has seen an investment in over £750k in new facilities, from a Small Sided Multi Use Games Area in 2009 where we started our youth section in 2010, new changing rooms in 2011, a new play-park, new fence around the playing field, new carparking and a 1km walking trail in 2018/2019 that has transformed the usage and numbers of people using the playing fields for recreational areas. The time has now come for a much needed new training and football facility within the village to accommodate our ever growing club and to allow for games and training to take place on a weekly basis.</p> <p>The provision of pitches within the Council area especially on a rural basis is very limited and those that have pitches the facilities are poorly maintained on an annual basis. Within the main town of Dungannon the pitch provision and quality of the pitches are very poor, this is primarily down to lack of essential annual maintenance and investment in the pitch over the past 10-15 years and its associated facilities to include changing and carparking. A much needed clubs forum would help with this area. Several years ago Riverdale FC established a football clubs forum with the Council on the areas identified in this survey and this led to some important dialogue and feedback on facilities, pitches etc that were addressed initially but this then fell away and this would be a good starting point for the Council to start to reengage on a localized basis with its pitch users to ensure areas identified such as maintenance, usage etc is communicated to key officers and work closer with the clubs who utilize the Council facilities.</p>	
Tobermore United FC	Club	Hoping to introduce an under 20 team	
Fortwilliam Park			
Upperlands Cross Community Football Club	Club	We need new facilities i.e., changing rooms and pitches as the owner of the pitch who is a building developer will not grant us 25 years lease to get the grants we required to build new facilities. We have the available grants, the committee to do the work. We want to develop the youth academy and develop female teams for all ages but our grass pitch will not	Training and match facility
Festival Park Upperlands			

Club Name / Home Grounds	Facility Ownership	Development Plans/Final Comment/Need	Summary Need
		allow this. We need purpose-built facilities build by our Council.	
West End Hibs FC	Council	We are on the process of starting up a youth team and it would help to get training slots early enough for them as the slots get booked up very quickly.	
Drumcoo Playing Fields			

Summary Points

6.53 Association football relies on Councils' provision of pitches and changing accommodation for matches and training to a much greater extent than the other large ball sports. The foregoing assessment of supply and demand, alongside consultation and survey work, informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at adequacy of provision, Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Small Sided Games (SSG)	+ 3 pitches
Youth & Adult – Saturday morning	+ 12 pitches
Youth & Adult – Saturday afternoon	+ 9 pitches

The results show that provision for SSG is under pressure with only a small oversupply. This view is emphasised by the IFAs Grassroots Development Officer who reports difficulty in securing suitable venues as demand is high for other sports and youth and adult training and matches. The apparent oversupply of pitches for youth and adult matches on Saturday mornings and afternoons is actually only a reasonable buffer against operational requirements (eg, unexpected increased demand, pitches unplayable due to inclement weather, etc) that is similar to the pitches' buffer in Lisburn & Castlereagh and Belfast but a good deal less than in Causeway Coast.

- ❖ Thinking about artificial surfaces, two thirds of the association football clubs are prepared to accept 3G for training purposes with the remaining third mostly adopting a neutral position. For matches 85% of clubs are either supportive of (54%) or neutral (31%) to the use of 3G for matches; the remaining 15% of clubs stated *not favourable* when asked their attitude towards the use of 3G for matches. This result is very similar to the attitude of association clubs surveyed in the Causeway Coast area in late 2017 which would suggest the acceptance of 3G has perhaps peaked at near 100% for

training and 85% for matches. Clearly investment in 3G pitches is an attractive option for local authorities.

- ❖ Of the 31 association football clubs in the Council area nearly half (48%) rate their 'home' pitch quality as *good* with a further 29% rating their pitch as *standard*. This mirrors the quality ratings coming from the pitch inspections carried out as part of this commission.
- ❖ Analysis of training needs points to an under-supply of 56 one hour slots, excluding AstroTurf, or 24 one hour slots including AstroTurf. This suggests training needs are not being adequately met; indeed, 11 clubs noted access to training facilities as a future need.
- ❖ Regarding membership growth, 34 clubs expect more members to join over the next five years. Whilst this result needs more detailed investigation (eg, do development plans detail how membership growth will be achieved?) it does indicate positivity even as clubs are emerging from perhaps the most challenging period in the last number of decades.

7. Gaelic Games

Introduction

- 7.1** This section presents an overview of the supply of and demand for gaelic games pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 47 gaelic games clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

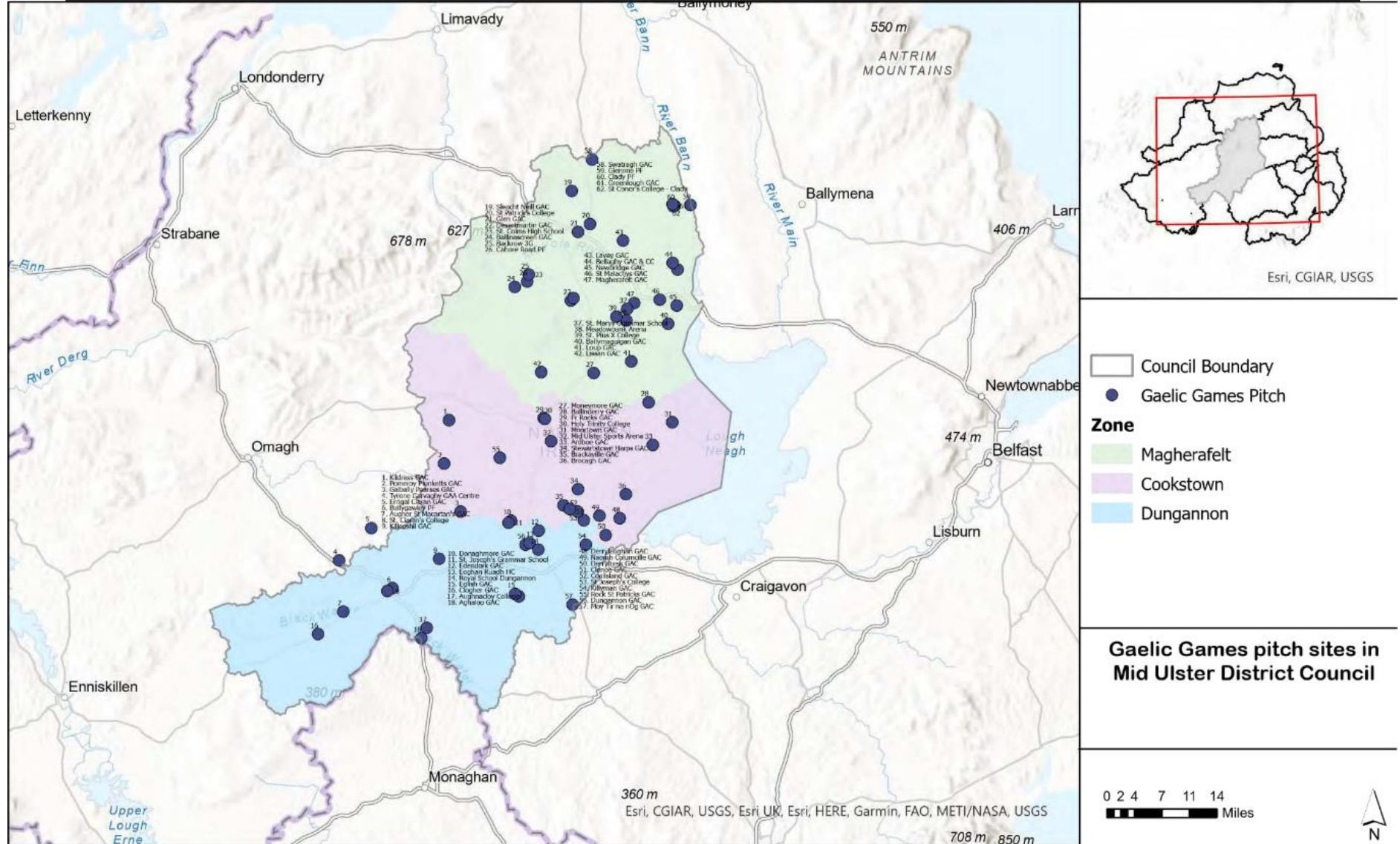
Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

- 7.2** Gaelic games are traditionally played on a grass pitch which at full regulation size is 145m x 90m. With recent developments in artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology synthetic pitches suited to gaelic games are beginning to appear although ATP's are more suited to gaelic football than to hurling or camogie. The majority of gaelic clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, however due to the large numbers of teams per club they often make use of community and Council pitch facilities both for training and occasionally for competitive matches. The inventory of gaelic pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 7.1. Three different types of pitch 'ownership' for gaelic games is recorded:-

- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council leased** – pitches leased from the Council for dedicated use by one gaelic games club
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club and community owned/leased** – pitches owned and maintained by a club.

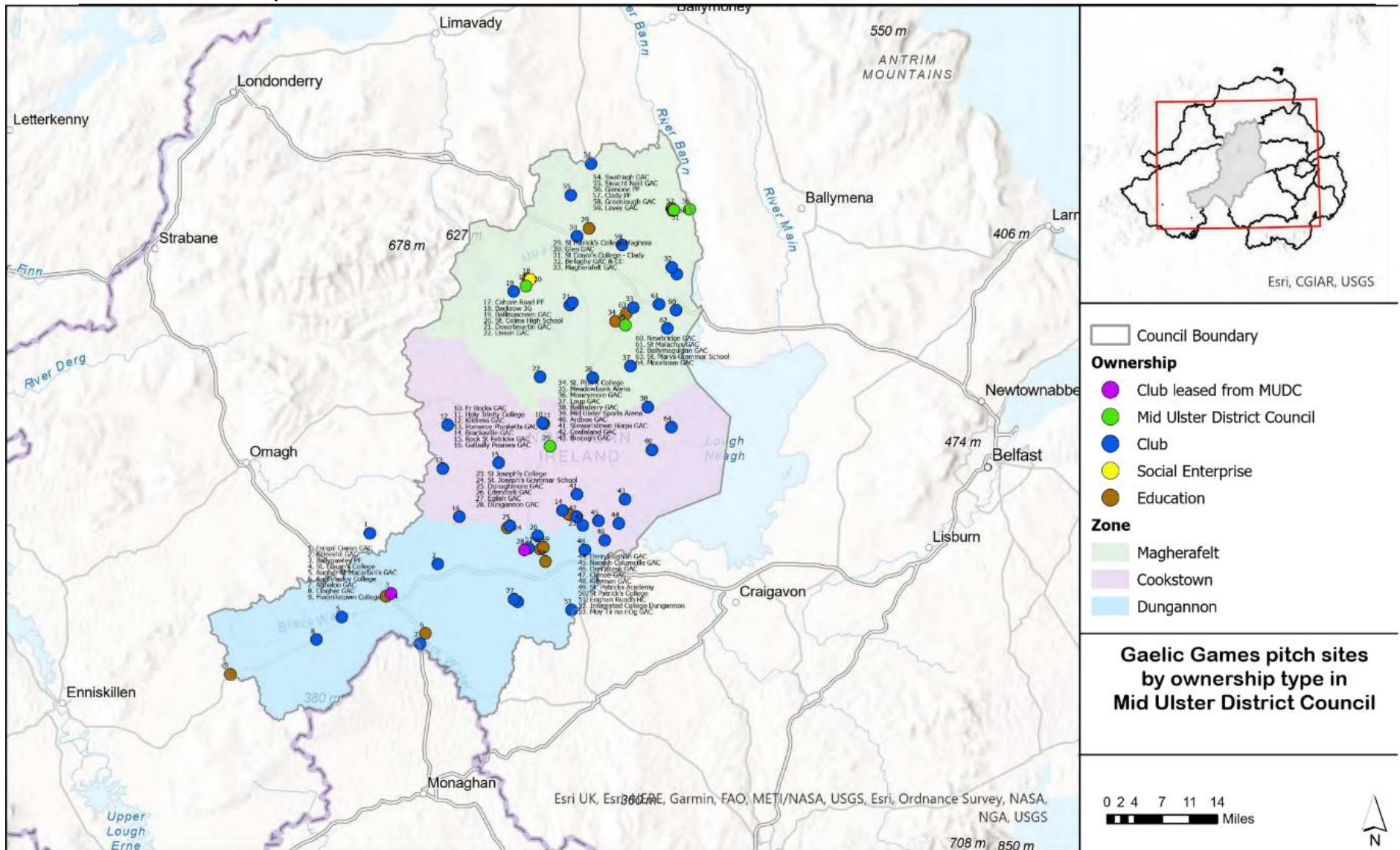
- 7.3** Table 7.1 presents a detailed inventory of gaelic games pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type*, *number*, *quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 7.1 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, and ownership.

GAELIC GAMES



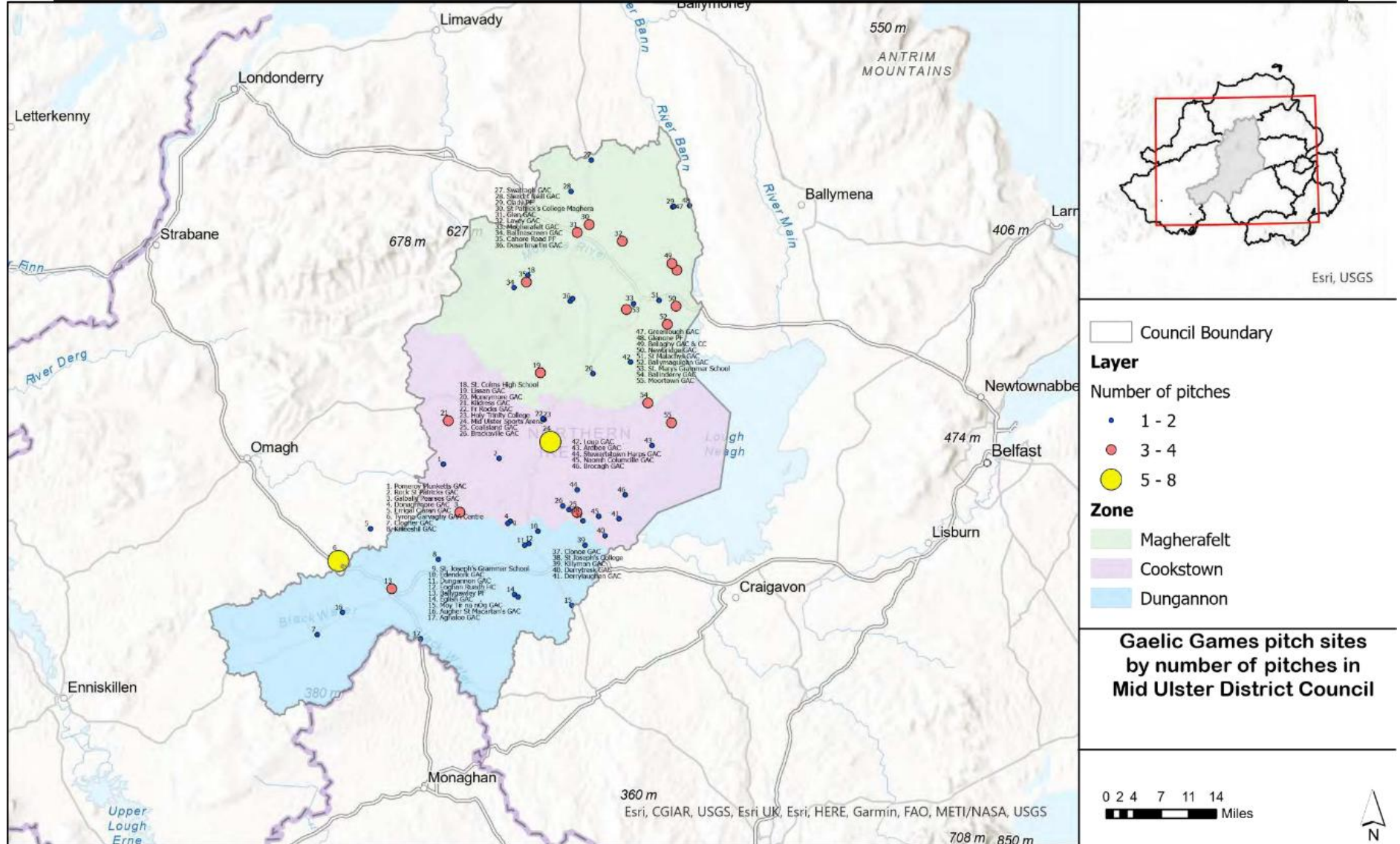
Map 7.1: Location – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

GAELIC GAMES



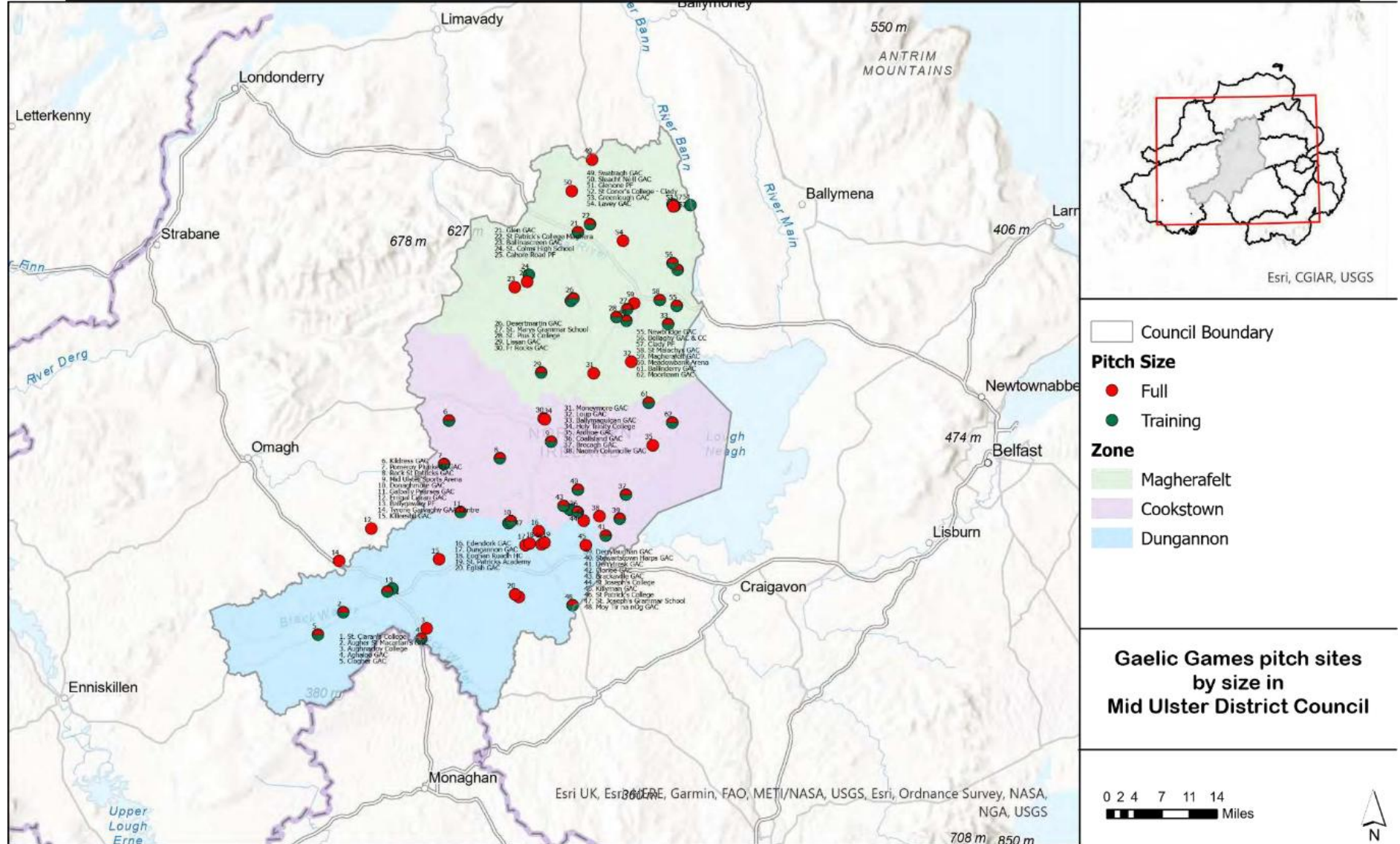
Map 7.2: Ownership – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

Gaelic Games



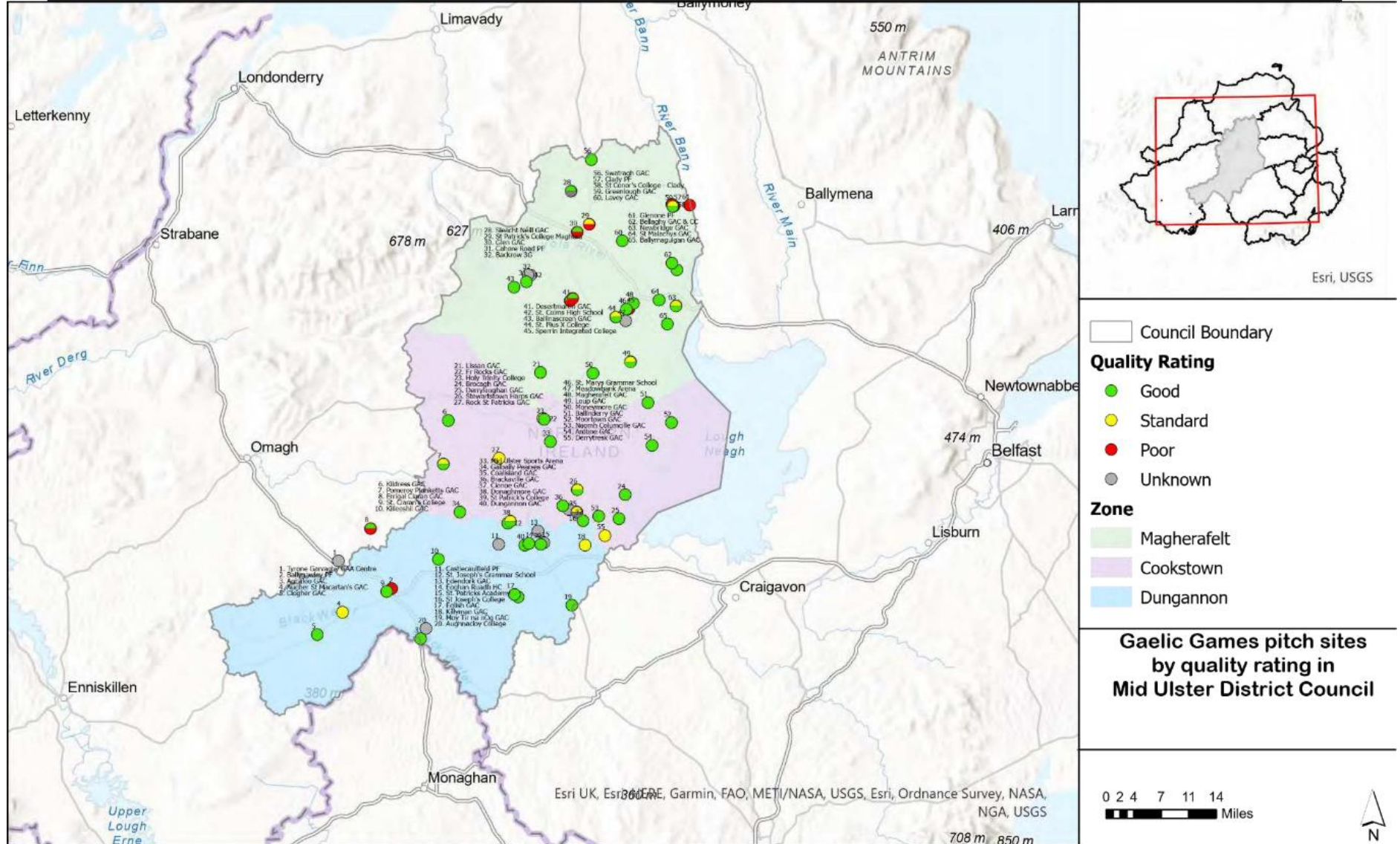
Map 7.3: Number – Gaelic Games Pitches

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Map 7.4: Pitch Size – Gaelic Games

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Map 7.5: Quality – Gaelic Games Pitches

7.4 Two pitch categories are noted:-

- ❖ **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- ❖ **Training** – pitches that are used for training and on occasions Go Games (small-sided matches for U10 and down).

Table 7.1: Gaelic Games – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

Club and County Board Owned Pitches

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Aghaloo O'Neill's GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	The club has aspirations to develop a walking track and indoor synthetic training area.
Ardboe GAC	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	
Augher St Macartan's GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Standard	The club reports it has recently refurbished the changing facilities and clubhouse and has plans to build a walking track.
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training 3G	3 x Good	The 3G pitch is available for community use, the club is interested in extending this facility. The club notes the growth in ladies football and future need for match and training facilities to accommodate.
Bellaghy Wolfe Tones GAC & Camogie Club	Magherafelt	3 x Full Grass 1 x Training 3G	4 x Good	The club facilities are split over 2 sites, one grass pitch is located in Bellaghy, 2 grass pitches are located a mile out of the village on the Drumanee Road. All pitches are floodlit, one of the grass pitches requires drainage works.
Brackaville Owen Roes GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training 3G	2 x Good	Changing accommodation in need of an upgrade. The club has additional land which it

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
				would like to develop for club use.
Brocagh GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	Changing accommodation upgrade to accommodate both female and male teams
Clogher Eire Og GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	The Clogher club has aspirations to develop a 3G training facility for club and wider community use.
Clonoe O’Rahilly’s GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club has purchased land to develop a second pitch and changing accommodation to satisfy a growing membership.
Coalisland Na Fianna GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 2 x Training 3G	1 x Standard 2 x Unknown	3G pitches are small (50 x 15m, 35 x 15m). The club reports it cannot accommodate training and match demand. The club has partnered with Mid- Ulster Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (MCAP) to explore joint development of club and community facilities to address physical and mental health and wellbeing.
Cookstown Fr Rocks GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Make use of grass pitches at MUSA and Holy Trinity College to accommodate large number of teams. Has aspirations to develop modern clubhouse facilities, the site known as ‘Ratheen Tarmac Play Area’ is one option being explored.
Derrylaughan GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	Looking to develop an indoor ‘playing area/hall’ to accommodate a growing membership.
Derrytresk GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Standard	Club has aspirations to upgrade their changing accommodation

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Donaghmore GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Standard 1 x Good	Large growing club expected to grow further with new housing development in the area. The community has acquired land (and is applying for planning consent) to provide a new full sized floodlit GAA pitch (natural turf or 4G) and changing block. This is strategically located adjacent to St Joseph's Grammar School and St Patrick's PS (and is connected to the overall village housing and facilities via a network of accessible paths (walking and cycling).
Edendork St Malachys GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	The club notes the distance to MUSA for a full size GAA pitch is too far. The club uses Drumcoo 3G, Drumcoo playing pitches and Dungannon Park regularly for training, however the lack of GAA posts/nets/lines impacts on the standard of training.
Eglish GAC	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	The club has aspirations to provide additional training facilities and improve their spectator stand.
Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club has aspirations to develop a training pitch, and further develop the clubhouse to accommodate a meeting space and a gym for community use.
Errigal Ciaran GAC	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Poor	The club reports the lack of winter training facilities especially Jan to Mar. The club has a lease agreement with MUDC for a training

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
				pitch at Ballygawley Playing Fields.
Galbally Pearse's GAC	Dungannon	3 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	3 x Good 1 x Standard	The club has aspirations to upgrade the clubhouse and changing accommodation. Reports strong links with St Joseph's Primary School.
Kildress Wolfe Tones GAC	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	3 x Good	The club recently completed a well-appointed indoor community hub. The need for an upgrade of the training grass pitch to a potentially covered 3G surface has been identified.
Killyman St Mary's GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	
Lavey GAC	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	The club reports it is has reached capacity and requires a third grass pitch primarily due to the growth in number of Ladies Football teams. The club, together with Termoneeny Community Association developed a large indoor community hub facility which has an indoor 3G training hall.
Lissan GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass 1 x Training 3G	2 x Good 1 x Unknown	The club reports it continually makes incremental improvements to club facilities.
Moneymore GAC	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club has identified the need for a training pitch, gym, clubhouse upgrade. The club has expressed an interest in a lease agreement for MUDC Moneyhaw Playing pitch for development as a training facility.
Moortown St Malachy's GAC	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good 1 x Standard	The club is currently upgrading the changing accommodation.

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Moy Tír na nÓg GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	The club has recently purchased a 5-acre site next to the existing grounds. The club notes "There are no other recreational facilities within our village and no Council facility for a town of its size/population."
Naomh Colum Cille GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club has plans to develop, disability toilets, a kitchen and showers and has identified the need for a covered wall-ball facility, walking track and playground.
Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The club is currently carrying out works to their main match pitch. Changing accommodation requires urgent upgrade. The club reports it cannot accommodate Ladies Football above U11 – players have therefore to play with another club if they want to continue to adult Ladies Football
O'Donovan Rossa GAC	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	The club reports there are not enough pitches for training in Magherafelt – 'it is difficult to book slots especially Monday Tuesdays and Wednesdays.'
Pomeroy Plunkett's GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Work is soon to start on provision of new clubhouse; the club identifies the need for an additional training facility given the increasing number of juvenile members
Rock St Patricks GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Standard	The club has aspirations to purchase land adjacent to the club site for a new pitch development.

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Sleacht Néill GAC	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Unknown	The club has aspirations to develop 'a full sized covered facility.'
Sean O'Leary GAC Newbridge	Magherafelt	1 X Full Grass 2 x Training Grass	1 x Good 2 x Standard	The club is looking to install floodlights on their main match pitch.
Stewartstown Harps GAC	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The club reports the need for an additional training pitch, a small, covered stand and further development of the clubhouse to include a club shop and gym. There is also the need for increased parking.
St Colm's GAC Ballinascreen	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	The club reports "We currently do not have the facilities on site to cater for all our teams. We rely on using St Colm's HS, Backrow 3G pitches as well as Cahore, however Cahore doesn't have lights and due to poor drainage, it isn't playable after rain fall. Plan is to build an indoor 3G on site for training purposes".
St Malachys GAC Castledawson	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good	The club has aspirations to develop a synthetic juvenile training pitch and notes 'The Council pitch ⁴⁸ in Castledawson is rarely used by anyone. Would be great if this was a rubber based pitch which could be used by GAA and soccer.'
St Patrick's GAC Loup	Cookstown	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The club reports it has reached capacity and requires a third pitch for training.
St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor 1 x Good	The club plans to upgrade the grass pitch playing surface

⁴⁸ Boyne Row Playing Field.

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
				and develop changing accommodation.
St Mary's Killeeshil GAC	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The club has identified the need for floodlighting for a walking track, additional changing block and a second full size pitch.
St Oliver Plunkett's GAC Greenlough	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The club has identified the need for improve changing accommodation, more training facilities and floodlighting. The club has approach MUDC to consider Community Asset Transfer of the adjoining Council pitch ⁴⁹ . St Conor's College makes use of the club's pitches on a daily basis.
St Trea's Ballymaguigan GAC	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 2 x Training Grass	3 x Good	The club has aspirations to develop an indoor hall.
Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre	Dungannon	5 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G 1 x Training 3G	7 x Unknown	Tyrone GAA Centre for county squad training.
Watty Graham's GAC Glen	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	2 x Good 1 x Poor	The club has identified the need for an indoor training facility and an all-weather pitch to accommodate demand of growing membership.
Totals 65 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches 23 x Training Grass Gaelic Pitches 1 x Full 3G Pitch 6 x Training 3G Pitch				
<u>Council and leased from Council</u>				
Ballygawley Playing Fields	Dungannon	1 x Training Grass	1 x Unknown	Leased by Errigal Ciaran GAC
Cahore Road Playing Field	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Used by Ballinascreen GAC

⁴⁹ Clady Playing Field.

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Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Clady Playing Field	Magherafelt	1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor	No official bookings – Greenlough GAC interested in acquiring the use of the pitch
Dungannon Thomas Clarke GAC	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	1 x Poor 1 x Good	Plans ongoing to develop a community hub with a mix of club and DfC funding. Aodh Ruadh LGFA ladies football club uses the club facilities for matches.
Glenone, Portglenone	Magherafelt	1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor	No official bookings
Meadowbank Sports Arena	Magherafelt	1 x Full 3G	1 x Unknown	Multi-sports pitch marked for association football, gaelic games and rugby
Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	1 x Full 3G 1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Unknown	The 3G Multi-sports pitch is marked for gaelic games and rugby. The grass pitches are heavily booked and home base for Tulach Og GAC

Totals

**4 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitch
4 x Training Grass Gaelic Pitch
2 x Full 3G Multi-Sports Pitch**

Education

Pitch Site	Area	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Aughnacloy College	Dungannon	1 x Training 3G	1 x Unknown	Available for community use
Holy Trinity College	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	Capital build due to commence. New school and new sports facilities - 3G Pitch, MUGA, Tennis Courts, Handball Walls, Fitness Suite.
Integrated College Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Training 3G	1 x Good	Available for community use mostly by association football and rugby teams
St Conor's College - Clady	Magherafelt	1 x Training Grass	1 x Poor	Small grass pitch – cannot accommodate school demand. School use Greenlough GAC's pitches daily.
St Joseph's College, Coalisland	Dungannon	1 x Training Grass	1 x Unknown	Available for community use by local GAA clubs. The school has aspirations to extend the

Gaelic Games

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
				pitch to full size for school and community use.
St Patrick's College Maghera	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 2 x Training Grass	2 x Standard 1 x Poor	Available for community use – pitches usually unplayable in winter months.
St Patrick's College, Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Training 3G	1 x Good	Shared campus with St Patrick's Academy – not available for community use.
St Ciaran's College	Dungannon	1 x Training 3G 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	3G pitch is available for community use - 10 hours per week by association football and gaelic games clubs.
St Colm's High School	Magherafelt	1 x Training Grass	1 x Unknown	
St Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore	Dungannon	1 x Training Grass	1 x Good	Available for community use – good club school links with Donaghmore GAC and states: <i>"The school has the necessary land to position a pitch on its site and has also developed strong links with local sporting groups which would ensure the facility would act as a tremendous hub for both the school and sporting groups in the local area."</i>
St Mary's Grammar School	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 2 x Training Grass	3 x Good	Available for community use. The school has aspirations to develop a 3G floodlit pitch – no funding secured yet.
St Patricks Academy, Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Not available for community use
St Pius X College	Magherafelt	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Available for community use by local clubs on an ad hoc basis. The school notes that <i>"The leadership of St Pius X College, through the current School Development Plan, is currently looking at ways to enhance the community use of the school, including our sports facilities, and are open</i>

Location	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
			<i>to conversations to facilitate this ambition”.</i>
Totals 5 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches 10 x Training Grass Gaelic Pitches 4 x Training 3G			

- 7.5** The majority of gaelic training takes place at the clubs’ own facility however some clubs with a large number of teams do make use of Council and Education facilities presented in the above table especially during the winter months. It is noted that the following clubs do not own their own facilities and are wholly dependent on other clubs, Council and education facilities to deliver club activities: -

Club	Home Match Venue	Training Venue	Comment
Aodh Ruadh LGFA	Thomas Clarke’s Dungannon	Dungannon Park, Drumcoo 3G	This is a Ladies Football club only and is not formally linked to a GAA club.
Tulach Óg GAC	MUSA	MUSA	Juvenile hurling and camogie club.
An Bhinn Bhorb GAC	Benburb Playing Fields	Benburb Playing Fields	First established in 2016 that now requires a full size GAA pitch to fulfil home matches.
Ghleanna Hurling & Camogie Club	Errigal Ciaran leased pitch at Ballygawley Playing Fields	Ballygawley Playing Fields	Established five years ago the club reports that it now needs access to a full size GAA pitch to accommodate home games for U15, U17 and adult teams as the club continues to grow.

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 7.6** Unlike association football, gaelic clubs typically train and play matches on the same pitch; often a pitch is used every evening of the week and during the weekend. A summary and breakdown of current gaelic pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Here, all matches and the majority of training takes place on club owned sites. It is noted that training pitches are of a range of sizes.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches (full) and training					
Ownership	Full Grass	Full 3G	Training Grass	Training 3G	AstroTurf
Clubs/County Board	65	1 ⁵⁰	23	6	0
Education	5	0	10	4	1
MUDC	2	2	3	8 ⁵¹	1
Leased from MUDC	2	0	1	1	0
Total	74	3	37	19	2

Summary of Quality of Pitches

7.7 A summary and breakdown of current gaelic games match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Gaelic Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	46	11	3	8	68
Education	3	1	0	1	5
MUDC	2	0	0	2	4
Total	51	12	3	11	77

Comments

- ❖ Two thirds of the pitches are rated as 'Good' ie, 51 out of 77 pitches.
- ❖ Just three pitches are rated as 'Poor'; these are all in club/community ownership (Dungannon GAC, Errigal Ciaran GAC, Desertmartin GAC).
- ❖ Of the 11 pitches where the Quality is 'Unknown' 6 of these are located at Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre.

Clubs, Teams and Players

7.8 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There is a total of 47 recognised gaelic games clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area providing a mix of gaelic football (male), hurling (male), ladies football (female) and camogie (female). Although the four 'codes' do not share the same governing body they do share pitch and club

⁵⁰ Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre.

⁵¹ Includes the majority of MUDC's 3G pitches excludes full size GAA 3G pitches, so for example includes Maghera LC 3G, Drumcoo 3G, Benburb 3G etc and Backrow 3G – details of these pitches are included in the Association Football section of this report.

facilities either as a totally integrated club in terms of finance and administration or have a working partnership in place between the sports. Forty three of the clubs own their premises, four rely on Council and education pitches; one of these is a ladies football club and the other three are recently established hurling and camogie clubs drawing members from local clubs providing only gaelic football. For the purposes of this audit it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

7.9 Information from the Council along with desktop research identified a total of 47 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- a) Home match pitch is located within Mid Ulster District Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use pitches within Mid Ulster District Council area for training.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within Mid Ulster District Council area.

All 47 gaelic games clubs completed the online questionnaire giving a completion rate of 100%.

7.10 The 47 clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of male and female teams across three age categories.

Table 7.2: Gaelic Clubs Team Profile

Club	Go Games (U7 to U10)		Youth (U11 to U18)		Adult		Total No of Teams
	Male	Female	Boys	Girls	Male	Female	All
Aghaloo O'Neill's GAC	2	2	4	4	1	2	15
Aodh Ruadh LGFA	2	0	4	0	1	0	7
Ardboe O Donovan Rossa GAC	2	2	4	4	1	3	16
Augher St Macartan's GAC	0	2	0	4	0	2	8
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	4	5	5	7	2	3	26
Bellaghy GAC & Camogie Club	2	2	3	4	2	6	19
Brackaville Owen Roes GAC	0	2	0	4	0	2	8
Brocagh GAC	2	2	4	4	2	2	16
Sleacht Néill GAC	4	4	7	7	3	3	28
Clogher Eire Ogs GAC	0	3	0	4	0	2	9
Clonoe O' Rahilly's GAC	5	6	3	3	1	2	20
Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	3	3	4	4	1	5	20
Cookstown Fr Rocks GAA	6	4	4	6	1	3	24
Ghleanna Hurling and Camogie Club	2	2	1	3	0	1	9

GAEILIC GAMES

Tulach Óg GAC	3	3	2	4	0	0	12
An Bhinn Bhorb GAC	0	2	0	2	0	0	4
Derrylaughan GAC	3	2	3	4	1	2	15
Derrytresk GAC	0	3	0	6	0	2	11
Donaghmore GAC	3	3	4	8	1	3	22
Dungannon Thomas Clarke GAC	0	2	0	4	0	3	9
Edendork St Malachys GAC	8	4	16	8	2	2	40
Eglishe GAC	8	8	10	8	1	3	38
Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon	1	4	5	8	1	3	22
Errigal Ciaran GAC	4	4	5	6	1	4	24
Kildress Wolfe Tones GAC	3	3	4	4	1	3	18
Killeeshil St Mary's GAC	3	3	4	4	1	2	17
Killyman St Mary's GAC	2	2	3	4	0	3	14
Lavey GAC	4	4	8	8	1	5	30
Lissan GAC	3	3	6	6	0	1	19
O'Donovan Rossa GAC	4	4	10	7	2	4	31
Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	2	4	4	8	2	3	23
Moneymore GAC	1	2	4	2	1	2	12
Moortown St Malachy's	2	2	4	4	1	3	16
Moy Tír na nÓg GAC	3	2	4	4	1	3	17
Naomh Colum Cille GAC	2	5	0	5	0	1	13
Galbally Pearse's GAC	3	3	4	4	1	3	18
Pomeroy Plunkett's GAC	4	2	8	8	1	2	25
Rock St Patricks GAC	2	2	4	4	1	2	15
Sean O'Leary GAC, Newbridge	3	2	3	5	2	3	18
St Colm's GAC Ballinascreen	15	10	11	10	2	2	50
St Malachy's GAC	4	4	4	4	2	2	20
Totals	145	158	201	240	47	116	907

7.11 There is a total of 907 gaelic games teams across the Council area. Typically, clubs will cater for all age groups from U7 to adult, both male and female teams. Player movement between clubs is kept to a minimum as members tend to play for the same club throughout their lifetime, only moving club if they move place of residence. The average number of teams per club is 19. There is a high female participation rate in gaelic games compared to other field sports such as association football and rugby. In common with most other field sports gaelic games provides for small-sided games through the Go Games initiative. Here, matches are played on varying pitch sizes and with varying team numbers depending on age group (U7, U9 and U11). Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the addition of portable goal posts and cones. Go Game 'Blitzes' (tournaments) rotate around host clubs – on average a club hosts one or two Go Game Blitzes each month.

7.12 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 47 identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 7.3: Gaelic Games Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female
Membership			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	3,009	2,303	5,312
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	2,832	2,009	4,841
Adult	2,732	1,463	4,195
Total Players	8,573	5,775	14,348
Teams			
Go Games (U7 to U11)	158	145	303
Youth (U12 to U18)	240	201	441
Adult	116	47	163
Total Teams	514	393	907

Adequacy of Provision

7.13 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured

Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use

Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

7.14 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for gaelic games pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of gaelic games it is assumed that all adult, youth and Go Games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used in the delivery of competitive games.

7.15 It is noted that the same stock of pitches is used for both matches and training. Training needs are accommodated in the model using ‘Team Equivalents’. Here, information on the number of teams, age group of teams and number of training times a week is used to calculate Team Equivalents. The following assumptions based on the club survey are made in regard to training:-

- ❖ 10 Go Games teams can train on an adult pitch at the same time
- ❖ Go Games teams train once a week
- ❖ Two youth teams train at the same time and on average train 1.5 times a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average twice a week.

So, for example, from the club survey there is a total of 303 Go Games teams – on average one full size adult pitch could accommodate 10 Go Game teams per training session, therefore a total of 31 pitches is required.

Reference	Description	No of Full Grass ⁵²	No of Training Grass
Scenario 1	All pitches	74	37
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	64 x Grass	25
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	2 x Grass	1

7.16 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass pitches have been excluded for the reasons listed below:-

⁵² 3G pitches not included as the preferred surface for matches is grass.

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	5 x Full Grass 10 x Training	Generally not available for matches or training
Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre	5 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	Not available for club games – reserved for County teams
3G MUSA and Meadowbank	2 x Full 3G	Gaelic games are almost wholly played on grass pitches in the main playing season April to Sept/Oct
Clady Pitch	1 x Training	Unused for a number of years
Glenone, Portglenone	1 x Training	Unused for a number of years
Total	10 x Full Grass 12 x Training 3 x Full 3G	

7.17 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full grass match pitches available for adult, youth and small sided games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
	Full Grass	Training Grass	Full Grass	Training Grass	Full Grass	Training Grass
Club and Community	65	23	60	23	0	0
Education	5	10	0	0	0	0
MUDC & Leased	4	4	4	2	2	1
Totals	74	37	64	25	2	1

Comments

- ❖ Youth, Adult and Go Games matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ The Council's 3G pitches at Meadowbank and MUSA are not included in Scenario 2 as 3G pitches are generally not used for gaelic games matches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude all 5 grass pitches at Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude Clady pitch and Glenone, Portglenone pitches in the training totals as the pitches are currently not booked.

Scenario 1

7.18 The picture of *gaelic total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 7.4: Gaelic Games – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

		Matches			Training			Comments
Model Stage	Team categories	Results			Results			Gaelic pitches are used for both training and matches
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Go Games (U6 to U11)	303			31 ⁵³			Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	441			441 ⁵⁴			
	Adult	163			326 ⁵⁵			
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U11)	1.5			1.0			Based on a home game every other week. Based on a blitz weekly Based on training every week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5			1.0			
	Adult	0.5			1.0			
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U11)	13 ⁵⁶			31			Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. NB – total youth and adult team equivalents for training is 441 + 245 = 686
	Youth (U13 to U16)	221			441			
	Adult	82			326			
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Mon PM	12%	15%	11%	22%	17%	16%	This is the demand given the % of matches and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for go games, youth and adult. ⁵⁷
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Tues PM	3%	20%	9%	11%	12%	19%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Wed PM	16%	14%	8%	19%	17%	17%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Thurs PM	9%	22%	5%	16%	17%	15%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Fri PM	0%	4%	33%	6%	10%	7%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat AM	42%	2%	3%	10%	9%	3%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat PM	5%	14%	8%	6%	4%	5%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun AM	14%	2%	4%	9%	8%	9%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun PM	0%	10%	18%	3%	6%	10%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Mon PM	43 pitches			115 slots			Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity.
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Tues PM	52 pitches			102 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Wed PM	39 pitches			117 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Thurs PM	54 pitches			111 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Fri PM	36 pitches			60 slots			

⁵³ 10 teams per pitch once a week.

⁵⁴ 2 youth teams per pitch 1.5 times a week.

⁵⁵ 1 adult team per pitch on average two times a week.

⁵⁶ Go Games Blitzes can accommodate 24 teams i.e., 303 teams / 24 = 13 rounded up.

⁵⁷ Typically, games and training take place across the week – eg 22% of youth games are played on Thursday evening and 33% of adult games are played Friday PM. The peak training nights are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for all teams.

GAELIC GAMES

account pitch capacity	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat AM	12 pitches	45 slots	Capacity is 24 teams ⁵⁸ for Go Games per week Capacity for full size grass pitch is 6 games a week Training capacity is 21 x 1-hour training slots ⁵⁹ It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each weekday evening and weekend mornings and afternoons and evenings.
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat PM	38 pitches	30 slots	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun AM	9 pitches	56 slots	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun PM	33 pitches	51 slots	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	315/6 = 53 pitches	688/21 = 33 pitches	
	Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	53 + 32 = 86		
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Games, Youth and Adult	74 adult + 18 training⁶⁰ = 92⁶¹ full equivalent pitches		All full and training grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision⁶²	Go Games, Youth and Adult matches and training	92-86 = +6 pitches		Supply is meeting demand

7.19 The results for Scenario 1 where all pitches are available, including those under education ownership, show supply is meeting demand with an oversupply of six pitches when considering go games, youth and adult match and training needs.

Scenario 2

7.20 The picture for Scenario 2 for gaelic games in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for club matches. Also excluded are all pitches at Tyrone Garvaghy GAA Centre as these are generally not available to clubs so reducing the total available to 64 full and 27 training grass pitches:-

⁵⁸ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 24 teams for a 2-hour blitz on Saturday/Sunday i.e. capacity is 24 teams.

⁵⁹ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁶⁰ A training pitch is deemed equivalent to half a full pitch – whilst it is not suitable for games – many are adequate for training.

⁶¹ Rounded up.

⁶² The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Table 7.5: Gaelic Games – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Club and Community Match & Training Pitches Only

		Matches			Training			Comments
Model Stage	Team categories	Results			Results			Gaelic pitches are used for both training and matches
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Go Games (U6 to U11)	303			31 ⁶³			Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	441			441 ⁶⁴			
	Adult	163			326 ⁶⁵			
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U11)	1.5			1.0			Based on a home game every other week. Based on a blitz weekly Based on training every week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5			1.0			
	Adult	0.5			1.0			
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U11)	13 ⁶⁶			31			Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U16)	221			441			
	Adult	82			326			
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Mon PM	12%	15%	11%	22%	17%	16%	This is the demand given the % of matches and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for go games, youth and adult. ⁶⁷
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Tues PM	3%	20%	9%	11%	12%	19%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Wed PM	16%	14%	8%	19%	17%	17%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Thurs PM	9%	22%	5%	16%	17%	15%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Fri PM	0%	4%	33%	6%	10%	7%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat AM	42%	2%	3%	10%	9%	3%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat PM	5%	14%	8%	6%	4%	5%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun AM	14%	2%	4%	9%	8%	9%	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun PM	0%	10%	18%	3%	6%	10%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Mon PM	43 pitches			115 slots			Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity.
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Tues PM	52 pitches			102 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Wed PM	39 pitches			117 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Thurs PM	54 pitches			111 slots			
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Fri PM	36 pitches			60 slots			

⁶³ 10 teams per pitch once a week.

⁶⁴ 2 youth teams per pitch 1.5 times a week.

⁶⁵ 1 adult team per pitch on average two times a week.

⁶⁶ Go Games Blitzes can accommodate 24 teams i.e., 303 teams / 24 = 13 rounded up.

⁶⁷ Typically, games and training take place across the week – eg, 22% of youth games are played on Thursday evening and 33% of adult games are played Friday PM. The peak training nights are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for all teams.

Gaelic Games

account pitch capacity	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat AM	12 pitches	45 slots	Capacity is 24 teams ⁶⁸ for Go Games per week Capacity for full size grass pitch is 6 games a week Training capacity is 21 x 1-hour training slots ⁶⁹ It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each weekday evening and weekend mornings and afternoons and evenings.
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sat PM	38 pitches	30 slots	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun AM	9 pitches	56 slots	
	Go Games/Youth/Adult – Sun PM	33 pitches	51 slots	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	316/6 = 53 pitches	688/21 = 33 pitches	
	Number of total weekly full pitches needed accounting for capacity is	53 + 32 = 86		
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Games, Youth and Adult	64 adult + 12 training⁷⁰ = 92⁷¹ full equivalent pitches		All full and training grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision⁷²	Go Games, Youth and Adult matches and training	76-86 = -10 pitches		Supply is meeting NOT demand

7.25 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that, when demand is calculated on a weekly basis, there is a shortfall of ten pitches when considering go games, youth and adult matches and training needs.

7.26 It is important to note the following comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Based on the club survey, Scenario 2 assumes that gaelic pitch capacity is 6 games per week (1.5 ours per game) plus 21 x 1-hour training slots, that is, total usage of approximately 30 hours per week – this is dependent on weather and pitch maintenance.
- ❖ Scenario 2 includes does not include the use of 3G facilities for matches and training.
- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include association football grass pitches as these are deemed to be inadequate for gaelic games training due to the lack of catch nets and goalposts, however, from the club survey some association football pitches are being used for gaelic games training as below:-

⁶⁸ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 24 teams for a 2-hour blitz on Saturday/Sunday i.e. capacity is 24 teams.

⁶⁹ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁷⁰ A training pitch is deemed equivalent to half a full pitch – whilst it is not suitable for games – many are adequate for training.

⁷¹ Rounded up.

⁷² The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Council Pitch	Club
Benburb Playing Fields	Cumann Iomana Duiche Neill, An Bhinn Bhorb
Drumcoo Playing Fields	Edendork St Malachys GAC
Dungannon Park	Aodh Ruadh LGFA & Edendork St Malachys GAC
Ballygawley Playing Fields	Cúchulainn an Ghleanna GAC

Cúchulainn an Ghleanna GAC report:-

‘The facilities in Ballygawley Playing Fields would not facilitate club growth as we rely on use of a soccer pitch for training and use a pitch hired long term by Errigal Ciaran when a large pitch and hurling posts are required. No ball stops are in place meaning we lose a large number of sliotars (balls) throughout a season also.’

- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include pitches under education ownership as these can be less secure, however, from the club survey the following school pitches are used for club training:-

School Site	Club
St Patricks College Maghera	Watty Graham’s GAC Glen
St Mary's Grammar School	O’Donovan Rossa GAC
St Colm's High School	St Colm’s GAC Ballinascreen
Holy Trinity College	Fr Rock St Patricks GAC

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for training and match needs. This suggests that clubs are delivering matches and training ‘under pressure’ which is likely to impact on current participation rates and future growth. The pressure on current pitch supply may become more of an issue as the large number of youth (male and female) teams filter through to adult levels - present provision would struggle to support any projected growth.

7.27 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are considered. However, as there are only two grass Council pitches suitable for adult gaelic games demand could clearly not be met, therefore this scenario is not modelled.

Adequacy of Provision Per Area

7.28 The previous sections demonstrate an assessment of pitch provision across the Council area as a whole. In order to provide a more local picture it is of interest to look at adequacy of pitch provision in each of the following three sub-areas by following Scenario 2 provision of pitches:-

- ❖ Magherafelt
- ❖ Cookstown
- ❖ Dungannon

7.29 An inventory of clubs per area is:-

Magherafelt (16)	Cookstown (16)	Dungannon (15)
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC Bellaghy Wolfe Tones GAC & Camogie Club Sleacht Néill GAC Lavey GAC Lissan GAC Magherafelt GAC Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh Moneymore GAC Sean O'Leary GAC, Newbridge St Colm's GAC Ballinascreen St Malachys GAC, Castledawson St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin St Oliver Plunkett's GAC Greenlough, St Patrick's GAC Loup St Trea's, Ballymaguigan GAC Watty Graham's GAC Glen	Ardboe O Donovan Rossa GAA Brackaville Owen Roes GAC Brocagh GFC Clonoe O' Rahilly's Coalisland Na Fianna GAC Cookstown Fr Rocks GAC Tulach Óg GAC Derrylaughan GAC Derrytresk GFC Kildress Wolfe Tones GAC Moortown St Malachy's Naomh Colum Cille GAC Galbally Pearse's GAC Pomeroy Plunkett's GAC Rock St Patricks GAC Stewartstown Harps GAC	Aghaloo GAC Aodh Ruadh LGFA Augher St Macartan's GFC Clogher Eire Ogs GAC Cúchulainn an Ghleanna Hurling and Camogie Club Cumann Iomana Duiche Neill, An Binn Bhorb Donaghmore St Patrick's GAA Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC Edendork St Malachys GAC Eglis GAC Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon Errigal Ciaran GAC Killeeshil St Mary's GAC Killyman St Mary's GAC Moy Tír na nÓg GAC

7.30 An inventory of teams per sub-area is:-

Table 7.6: Gaelic Games –Teams by Area

Sub-Area	No all adult teams	% all adult teams	No all youth teams	% all youth teams	No all GG teams	% all GG teams
Magherafelt	70	43%	188	43%	136	45%
Cookstown	50	31%	122	28%	86	28%
Dungannon	43	26%	131	30%	81	27%
Totals	163	100%	441	100%	303	100%

Comments

- ❖ Dungannon has the smallest percentage of adult teams (26%).
- ❖ Magherafelt has the largest percentage of youth and Go Game teams (43%).

7.31 The number of pitches available for training and matches for all age groups under both Council and club ownership is:

Supply of Full and Training pitches per Sub-Area (Grass) for Scenario 2					
	Council		Club		Total full and training grass pitches in Scenario 2
	Full	Training	Full	Training	
Magherafelt	1	0	26	7	27 x Full, 7 x Training
Cookstown	1	1	21	10	22 x Full, 11 x Training
Dungannon	0	0	15	7	15 x Full, 7 x Training

7.32 Table 7.7 presents the PPM Scenario 2 for all 3 sub-areas for adult and youth gaelic football competitive games and training only.

Table 7.7: Gaelic Games – Area based demand and supply for Scenario 2 for matches and training for all teams for grass only full and training pitches

Model Stage	Whole Council	Magherafelt				Cookstown		Dungannon		
1. Identifying teams	Go Games - 303 Youth - 441 Adult - 163	Go Games - 136 Youth - 188 Adult - 70				Go Games - 86 Youth - 122 Adult - 50		Go Games - 81 Youth - 131 Adult - 43		
2. Assessing total home games / 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games – 13 /31 Youth – 221 /331 Adult – 82 /326	Go Games – 6 /14 Youth – 94 /141 Adult – 35 /140				Go Games – 4 / 9 Youth – 61 /92 Adult – 25 /100		Go Games – 4 /9 Youth – 66 /99 Adult – 22 /86		
3. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	<i>Matches</i>	<i>Mon PM</i>	<i>Tues PM</i>	<i>Wed PM</i>	<i>Thurs PM</i>	<i>Fri PM</i>	<i>Sat AM</i>	<i>Sat PM</i>	<i>Sun AM</i>	<i>Sun PM</i>
	Go Games	12%	3%	16%	9%	0%	42%	5%	14%	0%
	Youth	15%	20%	14%	22%	4%	2%	14%	2%	8%
	Adult	11%	9%	8%	5%	33%	3%	8%	4%	19%
	<i>Training</i>	<i>Mon PM</i>	<i>Tues PM</i>	<i>Wed PM</i>	<i>Thurs PM</i>	<i>Fri PM</i>	<i>Sat AM</i>	<i>Sat PM</i>	<i>Sun AM</i>	<i>Sun PM</i>

Gaelic Games

	Go Games	22%	11%	19%	16%	6%	10%	6%	9%	22%
	Youth	17%	12%	17%	17%	10%	9%	4%	8%	17%
	Adult	16%	19%	17%	15%	7%	3%	5%	9%	16%
4. Defining pitches <u>required</u> each week for matches and training for <u>all</u> teams taking into account pitch capacity ⁷³	86 pitches all teams	37 pitches all teams			25 pitches all teams		25 pitches all teams			
5. Establishing pitches <u>available</u> – training pitches are set to be 0.5 x Full pitch	64 x Full 25 x Training =76 pitches	27 x Full 7 x Training =30.5 pitches			22 x Full 11 x Training =27.5 pitches		15 x Full 7 x Training =18.5 pitches			
6. Adequacy of Provision ²²	76– 86 = -10 pitches	30 -37 = -6.5 pitches			27 - 25 = +2.5 pitch		18.5 – 25 = -6.5 pitches			

7.33 An analysis of the adequacy of provision of full and training grass pitches shows the shortfall in pitches is most acute in Dungannon and Magherafelt sub-areas, with an undersupply of seven pitches in each sub-area.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

7.34 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week:–

Club	Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)
Augher St Macartan's GFC	8	4	12	7	2	9
Clogher Eire Og's GAC	10	4	14	-	-	-

⁷³ Rounded up to full pitches.

Gaelic Games

Clonoe O’Rahilly’s GAC	25+	10	35	-	-	-
Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	25+	24	49	25	0	25
Cookstown Fr Rocks GAA	22	10	32	10	-	10
Donaghmore St Patrick's GAA	18	12	30	20	7	27
Eglis GAC	20	5	25	15	0	15
ERRIGAL CIARAN GAC	6	6	12	20	1	21
Killyman St Mary’s GFC	20	5	25	-	-	-
Moortown St Malachy's	9	4	13	8	3	11
Moy Tír na nÓg GAC	11	5	16	11	0	11
Pomeroy Plunkett’s GAC	25+	14	39	25	10	35
Rock St Patricks GAC	25+	6	31	25	0	25
Sean O’Leary GAC, Newbridge	8	20	28	25	10	35
Watty Graham's GAC Glen	25+	12	37	25	12	37
Achadh Lú Uí Néill	25+	10	35	25	6	31
Ardboe O Donovan Rossa GAA	16	13	29	7	5	12
Bellaghy Wolfe Tones GAC & Camogie Club	2	25+	27	25	0	25
An Bhinn Bhorb GAC	3	2	5	-	-	-
Derrylaughan Kevin Barry’s GAC	12	8	20	12	2	14
Derrytresk GFC	4	3	7	4	1	5
Edendork St Malachys GAC	25+	20	45	25	0	25
Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon	25+	6	31	7	0	7
Killeeshil St Mary's	10	8	18	20	2	22
Lavey GAC	18	14	32	18	14	32
Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	7	5	12	18	6	24
Galbally Pearse’s GAC	12	8	20	12	6	18
St Malachys GGAC	8	12	20	12	8	20
St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin	12	8	20	15	4	19
St Mary's Killeeshil GAC	10	8	18	16	4	20

Gaelic Games

St Oliver Plunkett's GAC Greenlough	6	14	20	14	4	18
Averages	14 hours per week	10 hours per week	24 hours per week	17 hours per week	4 hours per week	18 hours per week

Comments

- ❖ Sixteen clubs report using their pitches more than 25 hours a week – one club with 49 hours per week combined for training and matches.
- ❖ The average weekly pitch use across all clubs is 24 hours per week for pitch 1 and 18 hours per week for pitch 2 (if a club has one).
- ❖ Given the carrying capacity of a grass pitch is 2 matches per week for 30 weeks of the year as recommended by Sport England, the majority of gaelic pitches are heavily overused. This may to some degree be mitigated through careful pitch maintenance and it is recognised that the season for gaelic games avoids the worst of the winter months. However, over-use of grass pitches continues to be a challenge for clubs; the use of 3G pitches would help to address the problem by reducing the use of clubs' grass pitches for training especially pre-season and when weather poor.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

7.35 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experience in accessing outdoor match and training facilities; results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	26%	21%
Hire cost too expensive for club	26%	32%
Finding venues of suitable condition	32%	34%
Availability of floodlit venues	NA	57%
Can't get booking slot	40%	60%
Condition of pitches	34%	30%
None	13%	13%

Comments

- ❖ The two most significant barriers as noted from the survey are the availability of floodlit venues for training (57% of clubs) and, closely related, 'Can't get

booking slot' (60%). Many clubs are looking to provide training during the winter months in preparation for the season ahead.

❖ The following the comments are also recorded:-

- *We have to travel to Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown to avail of GAA pitches. During wet weather in pre-season, very difficult to get slots.*
- *There is no Gaelic Pitches available in Dungannon locality. The closest GAA pitch available is MUSA and it is 10mile from Edendork and very difficult to get a slot.*
- *No floodlights for evening matches in the period of year when they are needed.*
- *Winter - only one pitch is floodlit, and it is junior size. Full size pitch is 49yrs old and has poor drainage and so is only suitable for summer months. Training pitch suffers during hectic training period where all teams use it at once. Hard to manage booking of one junior size pitch for training.*

Playing Surface

7.36 The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to the use of artificial surfaces including 3G surfaces for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 7.8: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces – Gaelic Games

Surface	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	48%	53%	11%	78%	22%	0%
AstroTurf	41%	33%	26%	80%	13%	7%
3G	17%	37%	46%	54%	30%	15%

7.37 A combined 83% are either favourable or neutral to the use of 3G surfaces for **training** but significantly less at a combined 45% are either favourable or neutral to using 3G for **matches**. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁷⁴. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit however anecdotal evidence would suggest that grass surfaces are strongly preferred for matches whilst 3G is acceptable only for winter pre-season training sessions.

⁷⁴ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

7.38 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Membership	No of Clubs
Increase over the next 5 years	42
Stay the same	3
Decrease over the next 5 years	0

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase (42 clubs) or remain the same (3 clubs).
- ❖ None of the clubs expect their membership to decrease.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:-
 - *New club facilities being developed, NGB increases*
 - *More houses planned and more families moving to our “commuter town”*
 - *Facilities will be enhanced*
 - *Better facilities, more housing planned.*
 - *More housing planned, club facilities being developed*
 - *With a huge surge of youth at u6 levels, this will have a positive impact on membership years to come. Many new families have joined the club since covid, and their siblings will join when they are older. Key to our membership growth is getting parents involved in physical activities. We run a range of fitness classes throughout the year and offer both a running club and cycling club as an alternative to GAA sports.*
 - *With the increase in recent youth players we would hope that we can retain as many as possible and that they progress into the older teams. Tyrone County Board have discussed the introduction of a recreation league (Junior B) and we want would to be entering a third adult men's team into that which would mean players who have stepped away from the adult teams will return as this league would not require as much commitment to the Senior and reserve leagues. We also released details of new club facilities which will also go a long way to player retention and ease the congestion of pitches availability which will allow for training sessions to be at suitable times. Currently our club facilities do not cater for hosting male and female training at the same time and therefore the new facilities will ease that problem.*

- *Club profile is increasing and we are moving toward introduction of adult teams for both male and female. With a growing population in the Ballygawley and Clogher Valley areas, we expect to see an increase in juvenile membership also.*
- *Club will continue to grow with teams at all ages in next 5-10 years.*
- *100's of new families (mostly young professionals) have moved into the parish, who have brought a new generation of members to our doorstep. The club's link with the 3 local, vibrant primary and secondary schools offers the ability to have children join Donaghmore GAA along with their school mates. We expect the recent exponential rise in membership to continue for years to come. The club is reacting to this, and with increased playing numbers, we have also increased the number of coaches, and their training, to ensure we can offer the best coaching possible. We have also begun to field two teams at every level in Male youth to ensure that we are able to offer gametime for all members.*
- *Children coming from the new houses been built at present. the number of houses in village area has double since 2000, with a further 50% growth in the next 5-10 years. There has also been a significant number of new build houses in the outlying parts of our locality. Numbers are currently increasing in both primary schools in our catchment.*
- *Improved retention of ladies players given better structures and focus on integration of Minor girls into Senior Ranks. Club has focussed on providing opportunities for all, with increased number of teams now entered at youth level (we now have two U15 & U13 teams for Boys). This will lead to less dropout as youngsters want to play, not sit on side-lines. We currently have 4 adult men's teams, which provides an opportunity for all young adults to continue to participate at a level which meets their needs and abilities. As increased numbers come through the youth ranks this will lead to increased numbers of adult players at both Men and Ladies level.*
- *Better youth structure meaning increased retention of players*
- *Club is better organised. More matches to play. More female players*
- *New club facilities being developed along with additional housing development.*
- *New club facilities are to be started in the later part off this year and a lot more emphasis is being put into enjoying the game with our youth teams*
- *There has been no housing developments in the area in the last 20 years plus but some new developments are planned which we hope will lead to greater participation.*
- *Lack of available housing, social, affordable private developments and new build single dwellings within our area is the single biggest issue facing our club in the incoming period ahead*

- Club is better organised with a development plan for a new hall that will encourage more activities for the community. Mother's and Others team, lads and dads team as well as rounders started in recent weeks as well as the increase of numbers in the running club.

7.39 Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are three main strands: *match pitch needs*, *training facility needs* and *ancillary needs* - see Table 7.9 for the number of clubs making comments under these three strands. The comments are presented in full in Table 7.10 together with remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 7.9: Summary Of Emerging Strands In Relation To Future Plans And Needs

Club	Additional Match Pitch (Lease, Home)	Training Facilities (grass, 3G, indoor)	Ancillary Facilities (Wall Ball, floodlights, parking, changing)
Aghaloo GAC		✓	
Aodh Ruadh LGFA	✓		
Ardboe O Donovan Rossa GAA			
Augher St Macartan's GFC			✓
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC		✓	
Bellaghy GAC & Camogie Club			✓
Brackaville Owen Roes GFC		✓	✓
Brocagh GFC			
Sleacht Néill GAC		✓	
Clogher Eire Ogs GAC		✓	
Clonoe O'Rahilly's GAC		✓	
Coalisland Na Fianna GAC		✓	
Cookstown Fr Rocks GAC		✓	✓
Cúchulainn an Ghleanna Hurling and Camogie Club	✓		
Cuman uí Néill Tulach Óg			✓
An Bhinn Bhorb Benburb GAC	✓	✓	
Derrylaughan Kevin Barry's GAC		✓	
Derrytresk GFC			✓
Donaghmore St Patrick's GAA		✓	
Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC		✓	✓
Edendork St Malachys GAC		✓	
Eglish GAC		✓	✓
Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon		✓	✓
Errigal Ciaran GAC		✓	

Gaelic Games

Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA		✓	
Killyman St Mary's GFC			
Lavey GAC	✓		
Lissan GAC			
Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh		✓	
Moneymore GAC	✓	✓	
Moortown St Malachy's			✓
Moy Tír na nÓg GAC		✓	
Naomh Colum Cille			✓
O Donovan Rossa GAC Magherafelt			✓
Galbally Pearse's GAC			✓
Pomeroy Plunkett's GAC		✓	✓
Rock St Patricks GAC		✓	
Sean O'Leary GAC, Newbridge			✓
St Colm's GAA Ballinascreen		✓	
St Malachy's GAC Castledawson	✓	✓	
St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin			✓
St Mary's Killeeshil	✓		
St Oliver Plunkett's GAC Greenlough	✓	✓	
St Patrick's GAC Loup		✓	
St Trea's Ballymaguigan GAC			✓
Stewartstown Harps GAC		✓	✓
Watty Graham's GAC Glen		✓	
Total Number	8	28	18

Comments

- ❖ 28 clubs made comments in relation to the need for additional, winter all-weather (3G) and grass training facilities.
- ❖ 8 clubs made comment on the need for match pitch development, including exploring lease agreement with MUDC.
- ❖ 18 clubs noted the need for upgrade/improvement to ancillary facilities including changing accommodation and community trim trails.

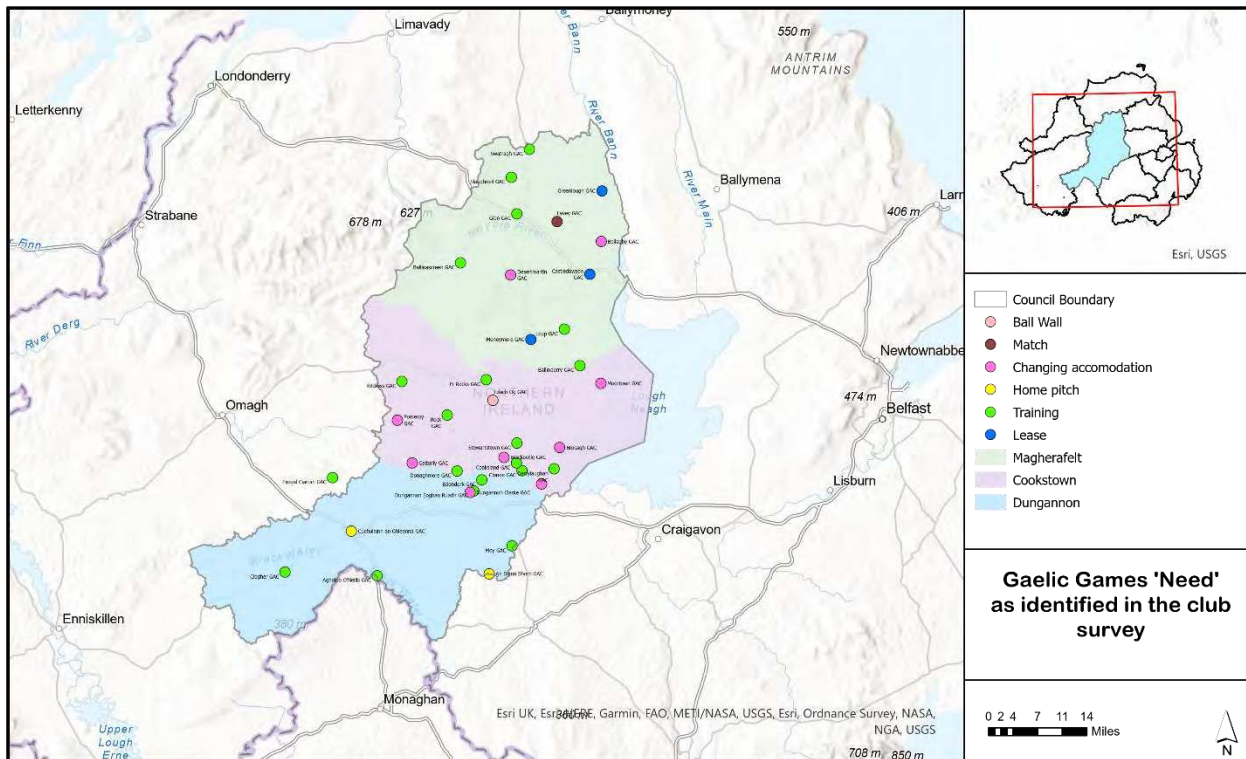


Table 7.10: Comments in Relation to Future Plans and Needs

Club Name		Need Themes
Achadh Lú Uí Néill	<p>We're currently in the middle of a development plan. Work being done includes improvements to current changing rooms, stand and gym. Budget dependent we'd also like to build a walking track and a covered training area with synthetic surface. Present difficulties are covid has put a stop to our fundraising, and the cost of the work we want to do has risen considerably.</p> <p>We rely heavily on our own pitch provision currently, but if there was a covered training facility for our youth and senior teams to use in the winter would be a fantastic asset.</p>	Training - Indoor
Aodh Ruadh LGFA	<p>Don't have our own facilities so completely dependent on other clubs to support us with Pitch availability. Train on Council pitches in Dungannon but can't play any matches as not adequate for GAA - pitch size, goalposts etc.</p> <p>No facilities, dependent on generosity of Dungannon Thomas Clarkes.</p>	Home pitch

Club Name		Need Themes
Ardboe O Donovan Rossa GAA	No comment	
Augher St Macartan's GFC	We recently refurbished our changing facilities and clubhouse. Increasing the size of changing rooms and quality of shower facilities. We now have plans now to build a public walking track around the premises.	Ancillary
Ballinderry Shamrocks	<p>We are getting to the stage where we have to have a rota system as we have more teams and also more member and public Interest in our Astro facility.</p> <p>We need to maintain our pitches to ensure they are kept to the standard required for our many players. We need to main our 4g pitch and even extend it if possible. We may need another pitch if we extend to ladies football which demand is growing for. We need to plan for new changing rooms on our premises or develop the existing or both.</p>	Training – 3G
Bellaghy Wolfe Tones GAC & Camogie Club	We currently have a need to upgrade existing changing rooms and toilet facilities at our Pairc Sean de Brun venue in Bellaghy. One of our pitches is out of action during the winter months due to water logging and would require significant investment in order to bring it up to a standard in order to be in use all year round.	<p>Changing accommodation</p> <p>Ancillary</p>
Brackaville Owen Roes GFC	<p>We envisage a complete refurbishment of our changing facilities in the next few years as they have been in existing since the early 1980s and require updating and to co formally accommodate our growth in numbers and away teams. Also shower and toilet facilities for the teams and spectators require upgrading. We have a significant amount if ground which we have filled and hope to develop in the coming years with possibly a 3rd smaller pitch, a ball wall etc. We also envisage raising the fence around our existing 4g facility as our premises are quite open and we are prone to littering, minor vandalism and general control issues especially after dark.</p> <p>In the past we found that pitch provision in the Council area was lacking especially with the number of clubs with no training pitches. We found that you really had to be on the ball early to get a booking especially in pre-season such was the demand.</p>	<p>Changing accommodation</p> <p>Training</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
Brocagh GFC	As there is a mix of male and females using the club at the same time, the club is looking about extending in the future to the girls and men don't have to use the same area while getting changed.	Changing accommodation
CLG Roibeard Eiméid Sleacht Néill	It is our intention to erect a full sized covered facility. The pitches in our area of MDC are limited and we find it difficult to get availability hence our infrequent use of these.	Training - Indoor
Clogher Eire Ogs GAC	<p>With increasing numbers at youth level we hope to source funding for an AstroTurf or 4 g pitch 50m by 30m which we have already made contact with the Council and other funders for the use of the whole community in the village and not just for GAA use. In the medium term we also need to enlarge our changing rooms built 30 years ago so are dated and small. see letter we are currently circulating.</p> <p>Dear All, I am writing on behalf of the Clogher community and surrounding area as the development officer of Clogher Eire Og Gaelic athletic club. Clogher and the Clogher valley, as you may be aware lies on the southerly boundaries of the Mid Ulster Council and straddles the border of Co Monaghan. Clogher is 18 miles from Monaghan town, 18 from Omagh, 25 from Dungannon and 25 From Enniskillen. Clogher Eire Og is a small rural club. The club was founded in 1938. The closest town with leisure facilities is @20 miles away. Football based and run on a totally voluntary base it provides free access to amenities such as a floodlit walking trail around the pitch, an indoor gym with ladies and gents' fitness, health and wellbeing classes, and coaching in a safe family-friendly environment just of the village main street. Over the past 15 years in particular, with the support of the Council fundraising and other minor grants we have created a focal point for the community to meet, communicate and feel comfortable with the addition of the walking trail, and an indoor fitness gym to compliment the 2 grass pitches already onsite. The club is registered with the Mid-Ulster Council and has supported its efforts as a drop of point before members voluntarily delivered essential supplies to vulnerable in the area during the early stages of lockdown 2020. We organised members to support Businesses with deliveries of essential groceries, the butchers & the pharmacy to self-isolating people The aim of everyone in the area is to increase provision and usage to a greater number of the population from a diverse range of ages</p>	Training – 3G

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>and all communities which in turn benefits the club and the community. In recent years we have actively promoted health and wellbeing through our new facilities being made available to the wider community at community fun days, linking up with other sports clubs in Clogher valley, a blood donation awareness cycle and a 5km walk run in association with the local primary school and last year before lockdown a 24 hour fundraising venture in aid of mental health. Any new dynamic will be a positive factor. The objective is to offer extra attractions in the form of a 4G pitch on the club grounds. To do this we need to secure funds from whatever opportunities and funding groups are available at this difficult time for those with limited access to facilities to support their mind and wellbeing. Clogher is currently rated 16th out of 542 for proximity to Services Deprivation As recorded in the last census http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk. We recognise that we are the most suitable area to develop this idea due to our location off the village in a fully floodlit area which is safe to use all year around. The addition of a 4G pitch will help the local population to still exercise during the winter season and inclement weather which is currently not available. Clogher is the only Village in the Clogher Valley without such a facility. One is located at Fivemiletown College, One at Augher Central School and another Close to Augher at Roughan Hall. In Ballygawley one located at St Ciaran College and one at the Council playing fields. The local St Macartans' Primary school does not have the space to develop such as facility. Increasing numbers at the school negate an expansion which is likely to reduce play areas outdoors. The Local Playgroup is currently based straight across the main road from Clogher GAC so again we can act as a vital link to support both education facilities if required. Sport NI have no suitable currently available from very recent enquiries, We have also made enquiries indirectly to the department for communities. We have started to canvass local political representatives how we can move this forward. Based on a 50m by 30m plan of the area immediately available the cost to create the pitch costs @ £100k . this does not include ground levelling to make ready, and perimeter fencing and lighting of the pitch which could reach a total towards £140k . The club cannot provide this level of funding and is seeking any support and guidance that can be offered.</p> <p>Due to our location as stated in the letter above which we are circulating to try and source funds we have limited access to leisure</p>	

Club Name		Need Themes
	facilities other than those we develop ourselves which puts a financial burden and time burden on volunteers as we have no paid staff.	
Clonoe O’Rahilly’s GAC	<p>Only have one pitch for nearly 20 teams.</p> <p>We purchased land to build 2 new pitches, that includes changing rooms and covered stand (Planning permission already obtained)</p> <p>At the moment we can't cope with demand for training and Ladies changing facilities.</p> <p>Second field has been purchased next to existing field. However, require funds to do second pitch up and to provide additional changing facilities.</p> <p>Not enough pitches in this area.</p>	Training - Grass
Coalisland Na Fianna GAC	<p>We have to travel to Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown to avail of GAA pitches. During wet weather in pre-season, very difficult to get slots.</p> <p>As we have only 1 full size pitch and a huge amount of male and female teams, demand for training g and matches is taking a huge toll on the playing surface. We have access to a small green area adjacent to our grounds which we use for overflow training but on most evenings, training sessions are cancelled due to home games. We had been in negotiations with neighbouring ground that encompasses the old mine pit (19 acres) of which 10 acres are ideal for 2 additional pitches, a walking running track and play park. The owners, however, were asking £750,000 for the property and subsequently have put the ground on the market. This ground would be ideal, however, we could not afford the asking price and the money required to make safe the old mine pit area which is prone to anti-social behaviour. We have also partnered with MACP mental health charity who are looking for a greenfield site to build a mental health facility. We believe the partnership could create a model mental and physical wellbeing hub in the Mid Ulster Area that would have a massive benefit for the residents of the Coalisland area. Both groups, unfortunately, do not have the resources to purchase, make safe and develop the current site.</p> <p>We need a massive investment in our terraces and covered stand. We required resurfacing, new retainer walls, disabled access ramps, crowd barriers and safety markings and signage.</p>	Training

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>Before Covid, we had a massive lack of playing surfaces at Coalisland Fianna. Pre-season we were able to haphazardly book Mid Ulster Sports Arena but we were asking over 90 players to travel a round trip of 20 miles to attend training sessions. Since Covid, numbers have exploded with to date 735 registered adult and youth members. A record high and up over 110 members from our previous high in 2018. Within a 3 mile radius of Coalisland there exists 9 Gaelic Football clubs, 1 independent hurling club, and 2 soccer teams and pitches in the area are at full capacity. Unfortunately, with continuously growing numbers, Coalisland Na Fianna is going to have to curb training sessions and cap youth membership in order to just fulfil current fixtures and commitments. We desperately need help!!</p>	
<p>Cookstown Fr Rocks GAC</p>	<p>The problem out at Mid-Ulster Sports Arena is for young children having to walk from Gaelic Pitch or 4G back to the toilet block. Changing facilities of our club changing rooms at Paddy Cullen Park are shared and which is not appropriate when Male and Female training is on at the same time.</p> <p>Due to the increased numbers of both male and female players, our current club rooms do not cater for hosting male and female training and matches at the same time. As our players showers and toilets are communal and poor quality, this is also not suitable for female players who choose not to wash at the club and go straight home after games and training. We currently have one pitch to share among all our teams and only for the agreement / use of Holy Trinity College Grass pitch we would have major difficulty in catering for our large numbers. With the proposed plans for HTC school, we are now entering into a new agreement with HTC to fund flood lights to their new 4G pitch which is planned for the same location as their current grass pitch. Although we will lose the use of this pitch during the construction period, the agreement will give us after school use of a high quality full size 4G GAA pitch with flood lights. As a club we therefore decided to tie this in with new club facilities development and a covered stand. We are currently reviewing a number of options for the location of the new club facilities building. We are intending this new building to have event and meeting spaces so it can made available for local community needs and other sporting clubs, such as dancing, drama, boxing etc. We have been advised by HTC of the possible use of what's known as 'Ratheen Tarmac Play Area' as</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Changing accommodation</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>this was where the original school changing block was to be located but this would require engagement with local residents. This would be our preferred option as locating our new changing block on the grass area between Convent Road and the Tarmac area would allow safe and easy access down onto HTC new 4G pitch. There would also be scope to make use of the tarmac area with the possibility of upgrading the area to a secure flood lit 4G surface for use with youth mini games up to Under 12. This would mean all club training and matches could be hosted within the club vicinity in the town centre. With any new development it will require major fund raising around the community and further afield and we are in the process of setting this up over the next number of months and it would also require Mid-Ulster Council to review the possibility of making use of this area at Ratheen.</p> <p>New Changing and Community Building Cover Stand.</p> <p>Paddy Cullen Park, Convent Road, Cookstown is preferred. For competitive adult games there can be big spectator attendances and therefore this needs to be managed, with traffic control, entrance fee, crowd control at pitch. This is not possible at Mid-Ulster Sports Arena. There is no fence around the Gaelic pitch which has caused issues in the past, although there is a fence around the Gaelic 4G it does not cater for taking gate fees. We also feel because it is not within the town centre it does not cater for walking spectators. MUSA is also used by a number of local GAA clubs and does not provide any home advantage. HTC pitch playing surface is only good enough for training for a number of reasons. It is only junior size, there are no pitch markings and no fence separation for spectators.</p> <p>I have noticed over the past number of years the use of Fairhill playing fields has not been as active as it used to be. For example, the local soccer street league mainly being played out in MUSA. As soccer matches are usually played on a Saturday, I would ask you to look into adding Gaelic Goals at each end of this area. This would allow Gaelic training to take place over the 2 soccer fields without taking away the actual soccer fields and also make use of parking and changing facilities. The location is ideal within the town centre for all our playing members, and it would greatly help us during the Holy Trinity College Re-development.</p>	

Club Name		Need Themes
Cúchulainn an Ghleanna Hurling and Camogie Club	<p>Pitch used for training is soccer pitch with soccer posts. Unsuitable for hurling/camogie matches. Also, pitch not suitably lined so unusable.</p> <p>Using soccer pitch for hurling & camogie training. Surface is good but posts, pitch size and pitch marking are inadequate.</p> <p>As a five year old club we have plans to progress into older age groups for juvenile hurling & camogie as well as progressing with senior teams. The facilities in Ballygawley Playing Fields would not facilitate club growth as we rely on use of a soccer pitch for training and use a pitch hired long term by Errigal Ciaran when a large pitch and hurling posts are required. No ball stops are in place meaning we lose a large number of sliotars (balls) throughout a season also. Ideally, we would look to develop a suitable playing field and changing rooms to be able to successfully host training and matches as the club grows.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Council have been extremely helpful in facilitating our needs this season as we look to establish a home for hurling and camogie in the wider Clogher Valley Area. the committee of Cúchulainn and Ghleanna are keen to work with the Mid Ulster Council to work to develop a home for hurling and camogie that can be utilised by the wider community within the area.</p>	Home pitch
Cuman uí neill Tulach Óg	<p>Being forced by MUSA when grass pitches are free. Pitches not available on Sunday and bank holiday. Facilities not available- particularly a ball wall.</p> <p>Hurling is the fastest growing sport in Mid Ulster Council is doing nothing to support this. The current situation in MUSA with grass pitches not being available to hurlers is not sustainable - the club will be forced to look at other provision. There has been a number of requests for a ball wall provision- we have attended a number of consultation where tennis and running tracks haven't been mentioned but a number of clubs have requested a ball wall - despite this we are getting a running track and tennis courts at MUSA.</p>	Ball wall
Cumann Iomana Duiche Neill, An Bhinn Bhorb	The club will be fielding an U15 team soon and the Council pitch is not regulation size for a Hurling game.	Home pitch

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>We are a new club who are growing year on year. The past 2 years have been difficult, but we are adding older teams as we grow. At present the facilities in Benburb can accommodate the younger groups but the older age groups will require a regulation sized training and playing field. Within a few years we will be fielding an adult team and proper changing facilities will be required for visiting clubs. At present we have a lot of difficulties in organising any tournaments as the facilities are not big enough. As we are a hurling club we also require ball catching nets which are not in place. We have the use of a shared storage cabin but we have a lot of equipment and there is not enough space to store everything, the coaches are taking equipment home after each session. Ideally our club would like their own ground in order to establish ourselves in the area and this may be something we will look into in the future.</p> <p>While we are grateful for the use of the Council facilities in Benburb, they are a shared ground and are mainly designed for soccer playing. The GAA regulations require a minimum playing size of 130m x 80m and regulation goal posts which are not possible in Benburb at the moment.</p>	
Derrylaughan Kevin Barry's GAC	<p>During the summer months, our playing fields can be adversely affected by warm weather leaving them burnt out and bumpy. Has a particularly bad effect on our training field which then becomes less desirable for training, leave our main training pitch forced to hold the majority of sessions which leads to more clashes between teams and pitch unavailability.</p> <p>Over the past number of years we have undertaken a number of developments on our grounds relating to our playing/changing facilities, last year saw us complete an enclosed ball wall development area encompassing a large player developmental ball wall, fully fenced with the option to enclose additional goalposts, this we intend to be make fully floodlit in the near future to complete the area. We have fully developed plans for a proposed indoor playing area hall with provisional facilities in addition to act as an extension onto our current changing room facilities to be located between our two playing fields. These plans have been submitted for planning approval. We lack an indoor playing/training facility suitable for our youth in particular during the times of year of inclement weather which has led to us</p>	Training - Indoor

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>previously having to source indoor halls at St Joseph's Coalisland School and at MUSA but this provides difficulties for parents/transportation, having something on site we've found in relation to other activities is much more beneficial for our members. We're also finding out recently with increased youth member representation for both football and camogie, we have large numbers for U-6/8/10's for both codes, in addition to accommodating other youth and Adult teams at both levels, that our two playing fields can be particularly crowded especially during weekday evenings, having additional playing areas would help to ease these burdens for our expanding player base.</p>	
Derrytresk GFC	<p>We will be looking to improve our changing area and club house to bring it up to modern standard. We have recently renovated our playing field.</p>	Changing accommodation
Donaghmore St Patrick's GAA	<p>Our facilities have become oversubscribed, so we are often having issues of double booking.</p> <p>Winter - only one pitch is floodlit, and it is junior size. Full size pitch is 49yrs old and has poor drainage and so is only suitable for summer months. Training pitch suffers during hectic training period where all teams use it at once. Hard to manage booking of one junior size pitch for training.</p> <p>Our GAA club has 400+ members and the neighbouring St Josephs Grammar School has 700+ pupils. The adjoining Primary School has 230 pupils. At present, we share one full sized grass pitch, last resurfaced in 1972. We have one junior-sized sand carpet pitch, with floodlighting and a primary sized pitch of moderate quality. Our aim is to resurface our main playing pitch to modern standards (sand carpet) and to add floodlighting. We also intend to extend the junior pitch to full size and improve the floodlighting to modern standards. Finally, we have begun a project with an aim to develop a nearby 4G pitch with floodlighting and running track, which will be used by St Joseph's Grammar during the day, and Donaghmore GAA in the evenings and weekends. These facilities could potentially have 1200-1600 playing members over the next 5yrs with the projected growth in Donaghmore parish. Alongside the new 4G pitch, we aim to develop separate changing/toilet facilities, as well as suitable car parking.</p>	Training – 3G

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>Two full sized floodlit pitches are improvements/extensions of current pitches. Additional outdoor toilet block (including disabled toilets) and outdoor storage also planned. 4G pitch would also require changing/toilet facilities and car parking.</p> <p>The appetite for Gaelic Games in Donaghmore is at an all-time high, and with continued development in the parish (live planning permission for another 180 houses between Castlecaulfield and Donaghmore, with development imminent on some of these), we expect our membership to grow and grow. We have also seen a great desire for parents to get involved in coaching. Our 3 primary schools and Grammar school are thriving, and at present we have one full sized grass pitch between us. This pitch is not-floodlit and is almost 50 years old. Our 5 year plan has left us with a long term vision, and all lands required for any extension of existing facilities or for the development of a third full sized pitch, are all currently within our ownership. We have a driven club and committee and offer great off-field facilities to our community. At present, our pitches are adversely restrictive, and we believe that we can offer much more coaching and games to a large number of GAA members' and students of St Joseph's Grammar, if we were able to develop our pitches as desired.</p>	
<p>Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC</p>	<p>We plan to develop our club rooms with the assistance of DFC monies together with significant fundraising that began in early 2020 and is ongoing we plan to build a new community hub.</p> <p>The town of Dungannon would benefit from additional pitches and specifically GAA pitches. A 3G pitch would allow clubs to provide youth training for more months of the year.</p>	<p>Changing accommodation</p> <p>Training</p>
<p>Edendork St Malachys GAC</p>	<p>There is no Gaelic Pitches available in Dungannon locality. The closest GAA pitch available is MUSA and it is 10 mile from Edendork and very difficult to get a slot in.</p> <p>Our biggest barrier for playing pitches is the distance to MUSA for a full size GAA pitch. We use Drumcoo 4G and Drumcoo playing pitches and Dungannon Park regularly for training various teams however it is lacking the proper GAA nets and set up in all of these places and none of them are suitable for games.</p>	<p>Training</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
Eglish GAC	<p>Too many activities and teams, Eg, Typical week, 3-4 games, 18 training sessions.</p> <p>We wish to provide improved spectator accommodation. We would also want to extend our grounds to provide more training facilities.</p> <p>Spectator accommodation.</p> <p>We feel there is a need for floodlit facilities in the Dungannon area that are available in the early part of the year, Jan- Mar.</p>	<p>Ancillary</p> <p>Training</p>
Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon	<p>Currently we have some additional land behind our clubhouse but not enough for an additional full-size pitch. Ideally, we'd like to utilise it for nursery teams, either with a grass or 3G surface. Our ball-wall area is one of the best in Ulster but is let down by the playing surface. It too would benefit from a surface enhancement, ideally 4G. We also have space on first floor (attic) of our clubhouse but cannot develop at present as we would have to provide lift and dual stair access/exit. We actually sacrificed provision of 4th changing room to provide public and disabled toilets for users of our Community Walkway. It's floodlit, open all year around (as are toilets) which we maintain and service on daily basis. The additional space would be well utilised for small club/community events/training seminars/meetings etc. We'd also look at provision of a unisex gym (male/female use) which an increasing majority of our adult members have been pressing for. Down the line we'd also want to consider moderate covered spectator provision too.</p> <p>The quality of the leisure provision around Cookstown/Magherafelt is very good. Some of the facilities in Dungannon are excellent if a little too few. I think Council expertise and drive is important in providing such facilities, but I think they need to bring on board "buy-in" from local clubs such as looking to establish user forums who can play a part in sharing and running the facilities. Flexible facilities would be good too, for example, for field sports, develop spaces that can accommodate two Hurling/Gaelic football/ and two Rugby/Soccer areas, one each for playing standard and one each for training. However, they would also be open enough to cater for summer camps, blitz days, tournaments at all levels. maybe training facility could be multi-sport surfaced to accommodate field hockey.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Ancillary</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
Errigal Ciaran GAC	<p>Need additional pitch to support training & matches on Main Site, this would need to include changing facilities. Also, Ballygawley site needs enhanced, ideally with a 3g Pitch to provide all year-round training facilities. We are severely restricted during the Period Jan- April each year, as pitches are unplayable on many occasions and training cannot take place.</p> <p>We are based on the edge of District Council, there is little provision of 3G pitches within this side of Council area. Our closest facility is MUSA, 20 miles away and very difficult to get a booking in place. A facility, like MUSA, in the West of the Council area would be a huge benefit to the area.</p> <p>As a response to population increases in the Ballygawley area – Ballygawley village has seen over 100 new homes constructed in recent years – the club conducted an online survey of club members. The club, based in Cardinal McCrory Park in Dunmoyle where they have two pitches – one floodlit – leases a grass pitch from the Council at Ballygawley Playing Fields. The survey, which attracted over 300 responses, highlights the club’s need for a facility suited to training, especially for youth sections. Here’s a summary of the survey results:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a desire for better facilities at Ballygawley Playing Fields, with mention of walking/running tracks, children’s play areas, basketball court, handball/racquet ball walls, an all-weather floodlit training surface. Respondents ranked the need for a training surface as having highest priority. ▪ Regarding ‘<i>areas of development</i>’, the survey highlighted the need for winter training programmes for youth sections. This need was identified by about half of the survey respondents. ▪ Whilst the club’s Dunmoyle grounds is the natural ‘<i>home and centre of club activity</i>’, Ballygawley was identified as the preferred location for youth training by 48% of the respondents. <p>The club is of the opinion that the Ballygawley areas has had ‘<i>poor investment in leisure facilities generally when compared with other villages and towns.</i>’ The club identifies Ballygawley as an area for investment, with specific reference to a floodlit all weather surface.</p>	Training – 3G

Club Name		Need Themes
Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA	<p>We now need to '3G' our 40m x 50m training area AND provide cover on it. That is needed to meet our high and growing levels of demand (all now influenced by COVID) and because at 600' above sea level we suffer from harsh weather conditions and need a 'year round' protected surface. We also need a fit-for-purpose community walking track: the nearest such facility is 12 miles away.</p> <p>Re Council pitches/other leisure provision the 'wicked issues' always were and remain: Provision is layered into the urban centres and rural communities (a good 60% of the MUDC population) are essentially ignored If you're in that 'urban spine' of Maghera-Magherafelt-Moneymore-Cookstown-Coalisland-Dungannon, then happy days: if not, it's 'get on your bike' and head to that urban spine. Curiously, urban communities are never expected to make those journeys in reverse. Rural areas are left to fend for themselves and the GAA's goodwill and commitment is, to be plain about it, badly exploited Our Club provides two full-size pitches (one fully floodlit), a training area and a spectator stand, plus a newly-completed £1.45m Club building Pitch maintenance alone costs us £1,100 net pm In last week's paper we see that MUDC plans to spend another £0.5m adding a 3G pitch to its previously planned investment of £1.0m at Railway Park, Dungannon To that it intends to add £26,275 pa to staff the facility for five hours a day, six days a week That's following on from huge recent sports/leisure facility investment in Maghera and Moneymore, plus a planned £5m+ investment in Gortgonis, Coalisland (for a community that's much closer to MUSA than Kildress is!) MUDC/civic society's contribution to Kildress (and our 2,500 population) meanwhile? Charging our Club Rates for doing its/government's facility-provision job for them and, to add insult to injury, sending us bills for Waste Collection Having just 83% self-funded our £1.45m building we now find we have to raise £30,000 ourselves to make its external surfaces fit-for-purpose, meaning we're left as a deprived/disadvantaged/marginal community to yet again go back to our own not-very-deep well to scrape together the funding to provide what would be just taken as read in an urban setting There are just very serious equity issues involved here. And what's being done is not right. This sounds 'whingy' but years of platitudes, surveys, 'live-horse-and-you'll-get-grass' responses and ongoing, continuous investment in urban communities just don't cut it with us anymore. The Mid-Ulster Community Plan says this: "It is essential that Mid Ulster receives</p>	<p>Training - Indoor</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
	its 'fair share' within the overall NI context; but this has to be matched by the achievement of Equality within the District between places, communities, groupings and cultures. The actions delivered through Community Planning must be accessible for all to benefit from, with consideration given to those most vulnerable and those with disabilities." Honeyed words that have not been/are not being delivered.	
Killyman St Mary's GFC	No Comment	
Lavey GAC	<p>We reckon we need a further field as ladies gaelic football developing in a big way. At present we are at maximum capacity and the fields are often used by multiple groups at one time. It was considered hiring facilities this year, but we have coped as due to covid we did not want to move too much.</p> <p>I believe there is excellent pitch provision in the area. We may have to avail of it in the future as we are near capacity.</p>	Match
Lissan GAC	<p>We are constantly improving our campus just recently got our pitch done up drained etc spent a lot of money, ideal time during lock down.</p> <p>The pitches in Musa are top notch but sometime not available due to reseed etc , but we find them as a massive asset for us early on in the year for training and some home games right on our doorstep. We are over the moon the rugby pitch is not available for gaelic.</p>	
Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh	We are currently undergoing a redevelopment of the main playing field. This has put the pit out of operation for the full calendar year 2021. All underage matches this year have been away from home as agreed with the county board. Underage teams from U15 down have had to make use of the primary school pitch for training this year with their generous agreement. The changing rooms to the main pitch will need full replacement. They are almost at the point of being unusable. Covid and main pitch renovation has mitigated that for this calendar year but that will change next year. The club would like to consider starting to provide ladies football teams initially from U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 with a view to adult teams as players develop. Currently girls who want to play football play with the boys up until U13 when they go on to play with other local	Training – 3G

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>clubs. A lot of other girls who may want to play football are put off from playing with the boys and may never go onto play football. Currently the club does not have enough facilities to provide for any further teams. Realistically the club would require a third pitch to provide this preferable 3G with lights to provide the majority of underage training with grass pitches primarily for matches. Difficulties with procuring a third pitch include securing a suitable site and capital costs.</p> <p>Our club have on occasion used the indoor facility at the Meadowbank in Magherafelt for pre-season underage tournaments. It is always freezing cold for spectators and the carpet surface is not particularly suitable for gaelic games. It is a useful facility for teams no older than U9/10 but any older than that then risk of injury increases. Generally, it is too far away for our club for make regular use of. We note that a new 3G pitch has been developed at Maghera which is more local. We will probably seek to make use of this over the winter months though it is too soon to tell what the cost and availability will be like. I am not aware of any other pitch provision from Mid Ulster Council that we make use of.</p>	
Money more GAC	<p>3 phase plan for multipurpose area, gym, training pitch and clubrooms overhaul.</p> <p>We would like to lease Moneyhaw Playing pitch for development as a training facility.</p>	<p>Lease</p> <p>Training</p>
Moortown St Malachy's	<p>We currently have temporary mobile changing room facilities. A community hall was erected on site along with toilets, hall and meeting rooms with the assistance of a grant. Further works for changing rooms to be completed when we have the finance available to carry this out.</p> <p>Build permanent changing facilities.</p>	<p>Changing accommodation</p>
Moy Tír na nÓg GAC	<p>We have currently reached maximum capacity on our current site with the club having recently purchased a 5-acre field next to our existing grounds with a view to adding more pitches.</p> <p>There are no other recreational facilities within our village and no Council facility for a town of its size/population.</p>	<p>Training</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
Naomh Colum Cille	Disabled toilets. New kitchen, showers. All self-maintained and self-funded. Need covered ball wall and walking track and playground for spectators.	Ancillary
O Donovan Rossa GAC Magherafelt	Club is expanding. We are planning installation of an ice bath. Handball wall 3rd pitch. We don't believe there are adequate pitches as it's difficult to book slots especially Monday Tuesdays and Wednesdays.	Ancillary
Galbally Pearse's GAC	WE have plans to build extensive facilities dedicated to the club including 4 new dressing rooms designed to properly accommodate ladies and also provide meeting rooms, viewing gallery and office space. We also intend to renovate the existing GAA Hall to be used primarily as a dedicated gym for strength and conditioning space. Members are also directly involved in providing adjacent land for a site for a new Primary School which will be able to benefit all the existing facilities. Long term we would be interested in building an indoor arena linking the new school and the club facilities. We have on occasion used the Council owned facilities in Cookstown whilst we were developing our own pitches. We are in the fortunate position now of being able to assist other clubs who sometimes need pitches when doing their own development. There is obviously a need for additional floodlight pitches as we often are asked by teams competing in Ulster Club championships later in the year for the use of our pitches which we always try to accommodate within reason.	Changing accommodation
Pomeroy Plunkett's GAC	The club are in the process of going to tender for the provision of a new club house, work is anticipated to start later this year. We require another playing surface for the training off a greater number of children as girls are becoming a larger part off our club and this is something we like to encourage.	Changing accommodation Training
Rock St Patricks GAC	We hope to purchase some ground close to our pitch to allow for a new pitch to be developed at some point in the future when funds become available.	Training
Sean O'Leary GAC, Newbridge	No floodlights for evening matches in the period of year when they are needed.	Ancillary

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>We are putting together a strategic 5 year plan for the club incorporating the following keys areas for development; 1. Club Structure & Administration 2. Coaching & Games 3. Finance & Fundraising 4. Facilities & Development 5. Communications, PR & Culture We are also going to be embarking upon the erection of floodlights on the main pitch and planning permission was obtained last year, and now we are trying to get the finance in place to carry out the works.</p>	
<p>St Colm's GAC Ballinascreen</p>	<p>Large no of teams we have.</p> <p>We currently do have the facilities on site to cater for all our teams. We rely on using St Colm's HS, Backrow 3G pitches as well as Cahore however Cahore doesn't have lights and due to poor drainage it isn't playable after rain fall. Plan is building an indoor 3G on site for training purposes.</p> <p>Indoor 3G facility with additional changing rooms and gym.</p> <p>Our club relies on the GAA pitch at Cahore for training and games however the fact there are no lights on it and no drainage in place it is of limited use to our club.</p>	<p>Training - Indoor</p>
<p>St Malachy's GAC</p>	<p>Club would like to have a small juvenile rubber-based pitch for juvenile training and enhance our changing facilities.</p> <p>Council pitch in Castledawson is rarely used by anyone. Would be great if this was a rubber-based pitch which could be used by GAA and soccer.</p>	<p>Lease</p> <p>Training</p>
<p>St Martin's GAC, Desertmartin</p>	<p>Presently we have one pair of adequate changing rooms (small in size) built in 1984. The pitch has not been upgraded in 30 years and in the winter is unplayable. The smallish changing facilities and poor pitch condition is an issue for winter training and the use of the venue for cup competitions. In 2010 we secured Sport NI funding for the development of a training pitch 500M from the main clubhouse and changing facilities. It opened in 2011 and was done to a high standard, but there are no on site changing facilities down there so participants and spectators must walk down. Around this time, we developed a walking track around the main pitch for public use and thanks to funding from the Council this is</p>	<p>Changing accommodation</p> <p>Ancillary</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>now lit up at night and gets good community usage over the winter. Just last year we developed a medium sized function room to facilitate community engagement projects but due to the pandemic this has not fully opened. The 5 year plan would be to first develop the main pitch playing surface to a modern year round standard, then develop a second set of larger changing facilities that could accommodate multiple groups at any one time. Along with this we are aiming to open a gym which would be open to public use and enhance the potential community engagement along with the recently opened function rooms.</p> <p>At times due to the quality of our pitch we have been fortunate to be able to avail of the excellent facilities at Meadowbank including the 4g surfaces. We have also at times had to seek the use of neighbouring clubs and school facilities. Whilst these options are always there, the club is one of the longest established in Ireland and proud to be able to provide GAA games to the public within the rural area. We wish to be able to stand on our own two feet and possibly be the club that helps out others in need of facilities as well and provide a venue suitable for all competitions.</p>	
St Mary's GAC Killeeshil	<p>Have a small field bought but needs development</p> <p>1. Lighting up the rest of track 2. Build two dressing rooms with a club meeting/tearoom and a gym 3. Buy more ground to make a second full size field 4. Tar the rest of the track around our main pitch in gravel at present</p> <p>Our walking/running track has been well used during lockdown/winter by both sides of our community, but public toilets are a major requirement.</p>	
St Oliver Plunkett's GAC Greenlough	<p>There is a Council pitch adjacent to our club facilities, but it is generally unplayable because of glass bottles, bonfires, dog dirt, no proper goal posts or catch nets and no floodlighting. Unsafe to play.</p> <p>We are currently developing our Club Strategic Plan 2021 -2026. Feedback from our survey suggests that we need to improve our club changing facilities, increase the training pitch capacity, improve the floodlighting of the existing training pitch. We have already made a request to MU Council to consider Community Asset Transfer of the Council pitch however, we have received no</p>	<p>Lease</p> <p>Training</p>

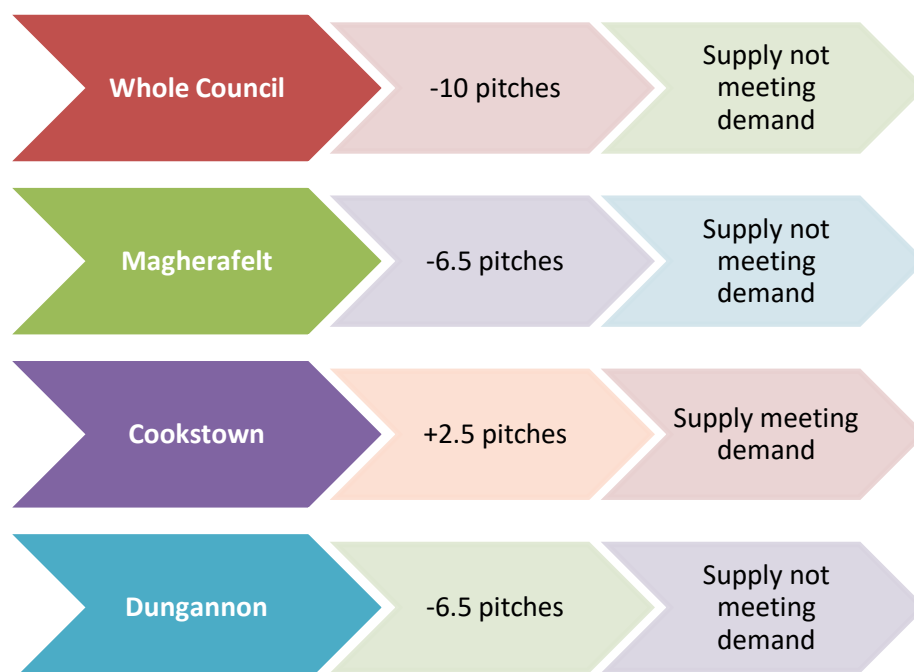
Club Name		Need Themes
	<p>feedback from this request. We believe that if this pitch was in club ownership, we could ensure it is maintained to a playing standard at all times and it would serve the purpose of meeting the capacity of our underage training programme. The club survey also identified a demand for ladies Gaelic football. This is likely to progress within the next 5 years with underage ladies football starting in 2022. This will put further additional demand on our pitch capacity.</p> <p>The most economic method of providing pitch provision is to allow the clubs to own and maintain their own grounds. Gaelic Clubs in particular are extremely effective in minimising the financial burden on Council to provide the same. However, the subsidised cost of hire to soccer clubs in particular should be reflected in any report. In order to level the 'playing field' those clubs who own and maintain their own grounds should be offered equivalent subsidies to assist in the ongoing running costs of the club. This could be by way of annual revenue grant and capital grants which will assist in the development of the club grounds. Consideration should also be given to asset transfer of pitches to clubs where it is deemed beneficial to all parties.</p>	
St Patrick's GAC Loup	<p>We hope to one day have a 3rd training pitch possibly a 3G surface in the ground we have available. Our two pitches at the moment cannot cope with the numbers every night with the men's football, ladies football and camogie. Most groups are sharing half pitches each to accommodate. At the moment in the dark evenings, we have only one pitch available with lights so we would hope in the near future to get floodlights on the other field which would help us a lot.</p> <p>We use MUSA in Magherafelt over the winter for underage training which is a great help. It is very hard to get a good time slot on the pitches over the winter with the Council and it can be expensive.</p>	<p>Training - 3G</p>
St Trea's Ballymaguigan GAC	<p>We are looking to develop our hall in order to provide better facilities for the club as a whole.</p>	<p>Ancillary</p>
Stewartstown Harps GAC	<p>New training pitch for use by all teams. Small covered stand to be erected on main pitch. Expansion of pavilion to include a club shop and a gym. Increased car parking facilities.</p>	<p>Training Ancillary</p>

Club Name		Need Themes
	MUSA facility is top class for wide range of sports for individual and team use.	
Watty Graham's GAC Glen	<p>Requirements: Indoor training facility, All weather pitch. Above are absolute requirements to meet growing demands.</p> <p>There are no dedicated Gaelic pitches in the Maghera area (unlike other towns in the district). This needs to be addressed to meet the growing local population and their needs.</p>	Training - Indoor

Summary Points

7.40 All but four of the gaelic games clubs in the Council area operate their own pitches and changing accommodation. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only grass pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches and training for all age groups: -



- ❖ An analysis of the adequacy of provision by area demonstrates a shortfall of pitches in Magherafelt and Dungannon sub-areas. This analysis does not include the use of 3G pitches as these are not used for matches or training

during the main playing season April to September – however, the use of 3G pitches is likely to relieve training pressure on club pitches and matches in the early part of the season (January, February, March)

- ❖ The majority of gaelic games clubs have at least 2 grass pitches: one full size and one training size. Six clubs have 3G training pitches which accommodate the clubs' winter and pre-season training and are also available for use by other clubs/other sports. Four clubs do not have their own facilities, three of which are newly established (in last 5 years) hurling and camogie clubs, the fourth a ladies football only club. The Council's 3G facilities at MUSA and Meadowbank are well used by a range of gaelic games clubs, schools and county squads.
- ❖ With the 47 clubs fielding 907 teams each club has an average of 19 teams. Whilst gaelic games generally is thought of as operating during the summer months, in practice the season commences with pre-season training from January to March with competitions running through to October. Each week during the competition season a total of over 300 go games/youth/adult matches are played; with 64 full grass pitches available this indicates at least 6 matches taking place on each pitch. Training needs add significantly to the use of pitches as the same stock of pitches is used for matches and training. Survey results show that the average weekly use (matches and training) of each clubs' main pitch is 24 hours
- ❖ When asked about synthetic surfaces especially thinking of 3G and AstroTurf, the clubs responded as follows:-

	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable
AstroTurf	41%	33%	26%	80%	13%	7%
3G	17%	37%	46%	54%	30%	15%

The result shows 3G is generally accepted for training and preferred to AstroTurf, whilst only 15% of respondents accept 3G for matches. It is also noted that the acceptance of 3G pitches for training may relate largely to the pre-season period (January to March) when clubs' grass pitches are less able to accommodate demand due to weather conditions and dark evenings.

8. Hockey

Introduction

8.1 This section presents consultation with Ulster Hockey followed by an overview of supply of and demand for hockey pitches; an assessment of adequacy of provision is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership using the 'Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are three hockey clubs⁷⁵ in the Council area; two of the clubs cater for female players only and the third has both male and female membership. In addition to the three clubs, Rainey Endowed School Hockey Club is included as they use the Council's Astro Turf pitch at Meadowbank for the majority of their matches and training. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

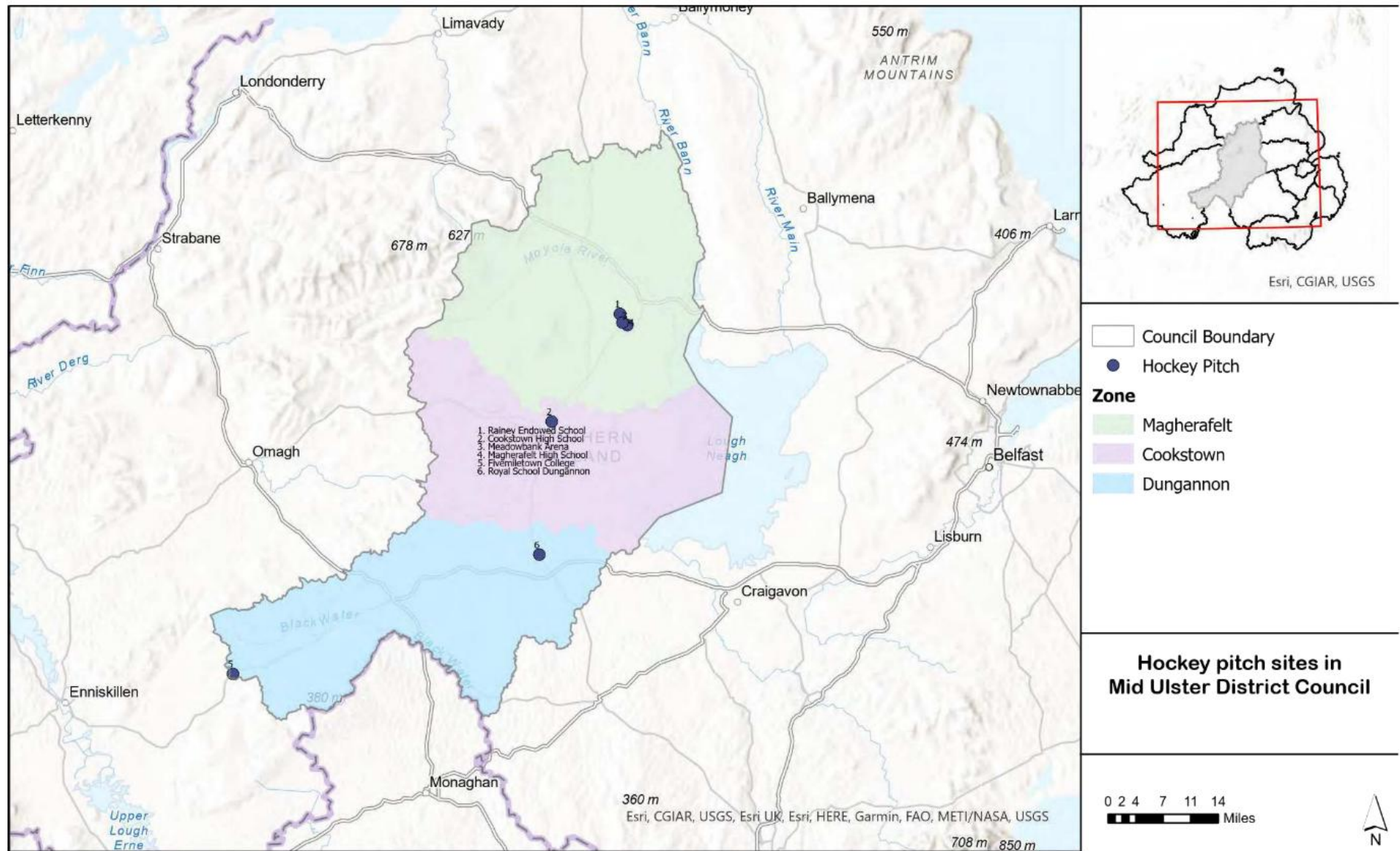
8.2 Club hockey is exclusively now played on artificial turf pitches (ATP's), either sand or water 'AstroTurf' – 3G surfaces cannot accommodate hockey. It is the case that school's hockey often uses the shale pitches still found on many school sites. For the purposes of this study although the Ulster Hockey Union stipulates all games should be played on ATPs, school shale pitches are noted as these may be upgraded to ATP surfaces. Two different types of pitch 'ownership' for hockey are recorded:-

- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.

8.3 Table 8.1 presents a detailed inventory of hockey pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, type, number, quality and additional remarks are presented.

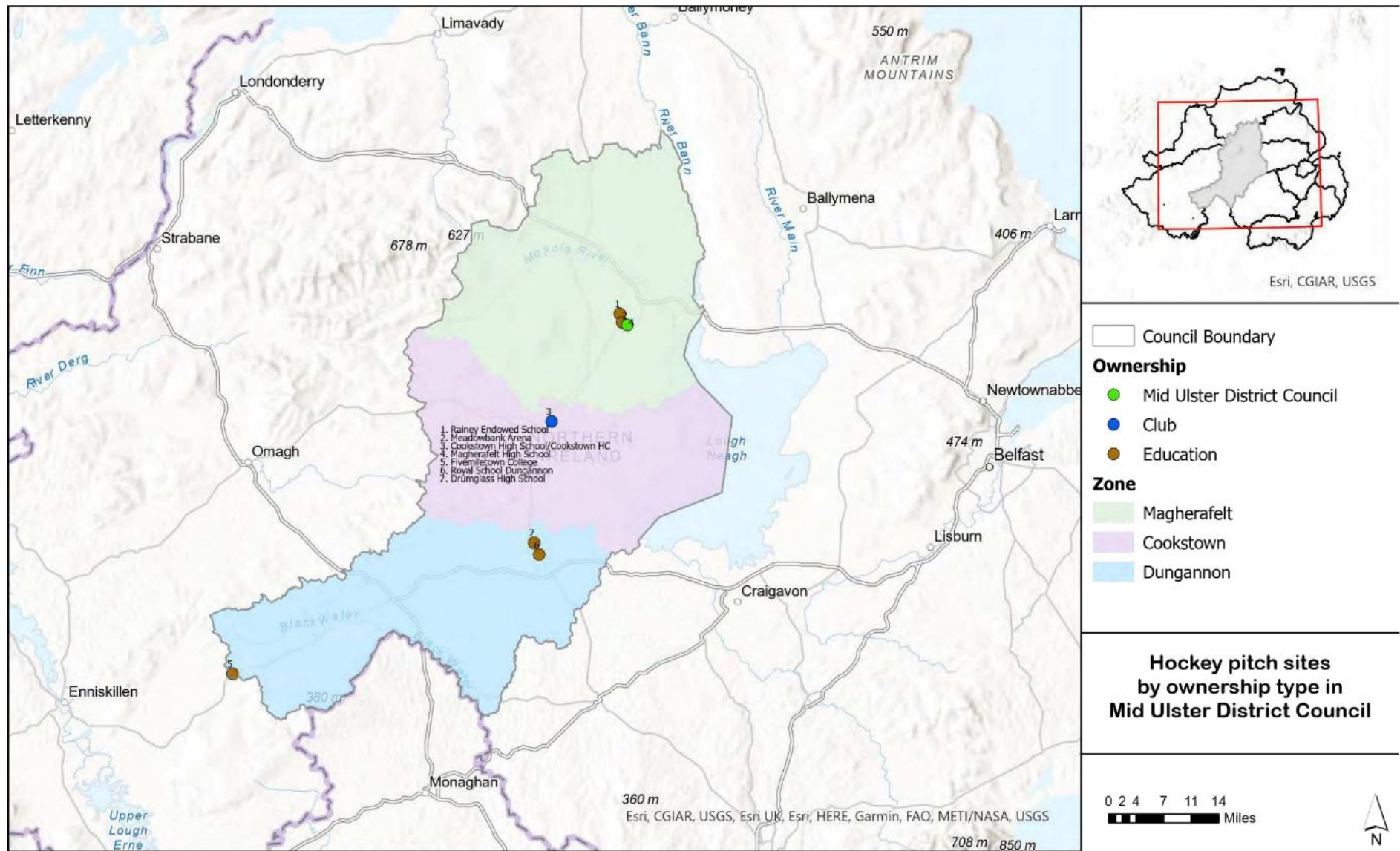
⁷⁵ Cookstown HC, Dungannon HC and Rainey HC.

HOCKEY



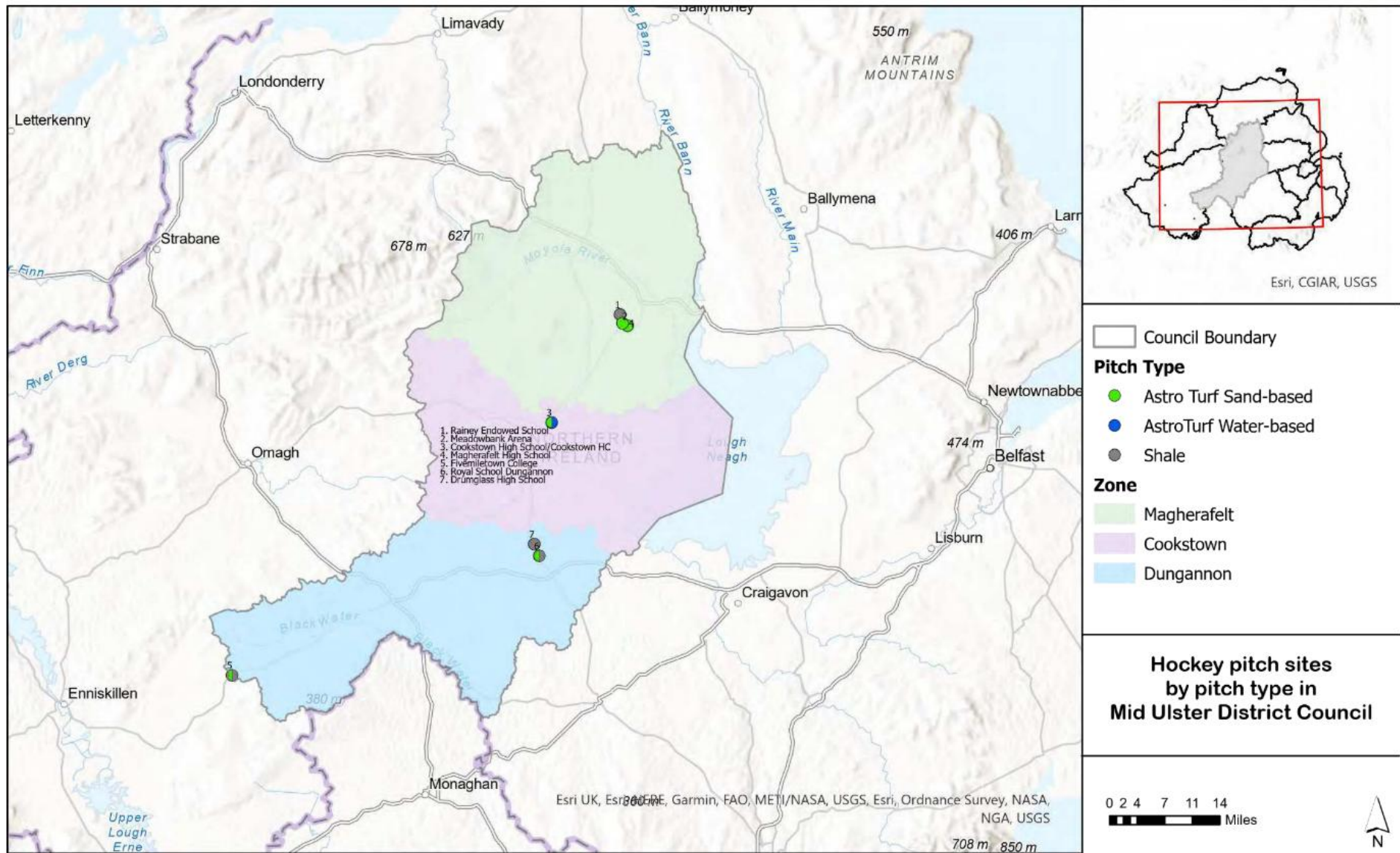
Map 8.1: Location – Hockey pitch sites in Mid Ulster District Council Area

HOCKEY



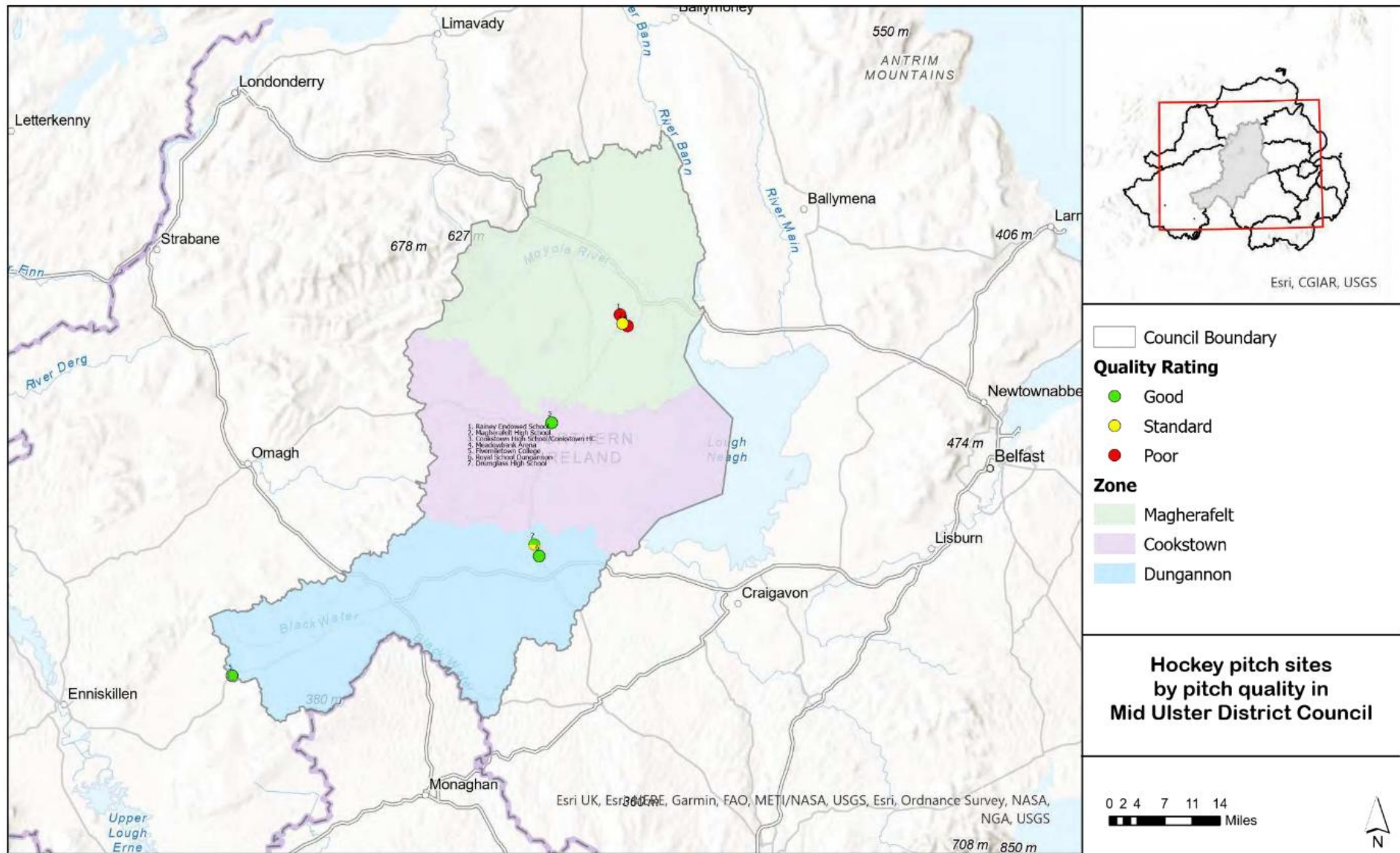
Map 8.2: Ownership – Hockey Pitches

HOCKEY



Map 8.3: Surface Type – Hockey Pitches

HOCKEY



Map 8.4: Quality – Hockey Pitches

Table 8.1: Hockey – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches in Mid Ulster District Council under Council and Education Ownership.

Council				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Meadowbank Arena (Indoor)	Magherafelt	1 x Full Sand AstroTurf	1 x Poor	This is an indoor facility and is home base to Rainey Hockey Club. The club notes that the surface is poor in places and they find it difficult to book suitable slots for club training due to high number of bookings by association football teams. The pitch is also used by Rainey Endowed School hockey teams as the school has only shale pitches available currently.
Totals				
1 x Full AstroTurf Pitch (Indoor)				
Education				
Fivemiletown College	Dungannon	1 x Full Sand AstroTurf 1 x Full Shale	2 x Good	Available for community use – used by Enniskillen Hockey club and association football, gaelic games and rugby teams. The school notes the pitch surface is due to be replaced soon and are looking to see if a 3G surface would be more viable. The school is very keen to continue community use of its facilities.
Magherafelt High School	Magherafelt High School	1 x Full Sand AstroTurf	1 x Standard	The pitch is available for community use and used by Rainey Endowed School hockey teams for training.
Cookstown High School	Cookstown High School	1 x Full Sand AstroTurf 1 x Full water-based AstroTurf	2 x Good	Home base for Cookstown Hockey Club. The club reports they have a licence agreement with the school for the land, the club installed the pitches and floodlighting. The school has full use of the pitches during school hours and the

				club has full use at all other times.
Drumglass High School	Dungannon	2 x Training Shale		School facilities are managed by H & J Martin Facilities Management
Rainey Endowed School	Magherafelt	2 x Training Shale		Applying to Sport NI Multi Facility Fund to convert the two shale pitches to a full size AstroTurf pitch for school and community use. The school notes that due to the high number of school hockey teams they will still need to use Meadowbank AstroTurf to provide school hockey to current levels of participation.
Royal School Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full Sand Astro Turf 1 x Full Shale	1 x Good	Home base for Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club. The schools reports: <i>"We regret the decision of MUDC to withdraw from a very successful commercial agreement for the hire of our AstroTurf pitch which was both cost beneficial to the Council and which supports hockey for a premier league team in an area where there is no alternative provision"</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Totals 4 x Full Sand Astro Turf Pitches 1 x Full Water Astro Turf Pitch 2 x Full Shale Hockey Pitches 4 x Training Shale Hockey Pitches</p>				

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 8.4** A summary and breakdown of current hockey pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Also included are shale pitches, however these are only used for schools hockey, not club hockey.

Hockey Pitches used for matches and training		
Ownership	AstroTurf Pitch	Shale
MUDC	1	0
Education	5	6
Total	6	6

Summary of Quality of Pitches

- 8.5** A summary and breakdown of hockey pitch provision by quality is presented. Shale pitches are also included here for completeness, although they are used reluctantly by schools.

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (AstroTurf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total Number of Pitches
MUDC	0	0	1	0	1
Education	6	2	3	0	0
Total	6	2	4	0	12

Comments

- ❖ Six of the education pitches are rated 'Good'.
- ❖ The Council's only full-size AstroTurf pitch at Meadowbank Indoor Arena is rated 'Poor'. The pitch inspection report notes

'It has been used as a factory during the Covid-19 pandemic and as such needs repair. There are bumps on the surface, the carpet has separated in places and the overall condition of the Astro Turf is worn. The main strengths of this pitch are its size and the fact that it is indoor and therefore allows teams to train and compete all year round.'

- ❖ Dungannon Hockey Club report that the quality of the pitch at Dungannon Royal School (their home base) is 'Poor' whilst the school rates the pitch quality as 'Good'.

Clubs, Teams and Players

- 8.6** In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. The four identified hockey clubs (includes Rainey Endowed School) completed an online questionnaire to produce as accurate as possible picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations. The four clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- ❖ Home match pitch is located within Mid Ulster District Council (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within Mid Ulster District Council for training.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within Mid Ulster District Council area.

8.7 The four hockey clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of adult, and youth teams.

Table 8.2: Hockey Club Team Profile

Club	Mini (U7, U9, U11, U13)		Youth (U14 to U18)		Adult		Total No of Teams
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Cookstown Hockey Club	12	12	3	3	5	3	38
Dungannon Hockey Club	0	8	0	5	0	3	16
Rainey Hockey Club	1	9	0	1	0	5	16
Rainey Endowed School Hockey Club	0	5	0	6	0	0	11
Totals	13	34	3	15	5	11	81

8.8 There is a total of eighty-one hockey teams in the Council – from U9 to adult. Hockey participation is predominantly female with just one male section in Cookstown Hockey Club. In addition, Rainey Hockey Club has one male mini team. Rainey Endowed School Hockey Club is included in this analysis as it plays the majority of its school matches at the Council’s Meadowbank Arena Astro Turf pitch.

8.9 Hockey, like most outdoor team sports caters for player development through the use of small-sided games as follows:-

Programme Name	Pitch Size
U9 Fun Fours	Games are played between two teams of 4 on 1/8 of the size of a full size hockey pitch.
U11 Super Sixes	Super 6s is played on 1/3 of a full sized hockey pitch with teams having 6 players on the pitch at any one time.
U13 Extreme Eights	Extreme 8s is played on half of a full sized hockey pitch between two teams of 8 and is the final stepping stone allowing young players to think more about spatial awareness on the pitch and about playing a more expansive game.

8.10 The profile of teams and player numbers in the four identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 8.3 Hockey – Profile of Membership and Teams based in MUDC			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	88	260	348
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)⁷⁶	70	350	420
Adult	150	190	340
Total Players	308	800	1108
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U9 to U13)	13	34	47
Youth (U14 to U18)⁷⁷	3	15	18
Adult	5	11	16
Total Teams	21	60	81

Adequacy of Provision

8.11 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured

Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use

Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

⁷⁶ Includes membership (150) of Rainey Endowed School Hockey Club as they use Meadowbank Astro Turf for matches.

⁷⁷ Includes 11 female teams from Rainey Endowed School Hockey Club.

- 8.12** These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision hockey pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of hockey it is assumed that all adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – shale pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are not used for competitive club hockey games.

Reference	Description	No of full size ATP pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	6
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	4
Scenario 3	Council pitches only.	1

- 8.13** There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following AstroTurf pitches have been excluded:-

Pitch Site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Fivemiletown College	1 Astro Turf pitch	Although the pitch it is available for community use it is very distant to all four hockey clubs and therefore unlikely to be used.
Magherafelt High School	1 Astro Turf pitch	The pitch is available for training by Rainey Endowed, however it is unclear if it is available for additional community use.

- 8.14** The pitch breakdown for each scenario for AstroTurf pitches available for adult, youth and mini competitive hockey games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	AstroTurf	AstroTurf	AstroTurf
Council	1	1	1
Education	5	3	0
Totals	6	4	1

Comments

- ❖ The above table records the number of full-size AstroTurf pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 excludes two education sector pitches on the basis that one is too distant and the other has no association with a club.

Adequacy

Scenario 1

- 8.15** The picture of **hockey total demand and total supply for Scenario 1**, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 8.4: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches			
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini Hockey (U11 to U13)	21	Based on the club survey A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.
	Youth (U14 to U18)	18	
	Adult	16	
2. Calculating home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don't play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a Saturday afternoon. Mini blitz/tournament are once every 4 weeks
	Youth (U14 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) Sat AM	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. 38% of Mini-hockey teams play Sat AM, the rest mid-week and Sunday A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. Youth matches are played Sat AM (50%) and mid-week.
	Youth (U14 to U18)	9	
	Adult	8	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	38%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	70%	

			70% of Adult games are played Sat PM and 30% mid-week on Wednesday.
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	1 ⁷⁸	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 2 games 1pm and 2.30 starts. Capacity for Sat AM is assumed to be 2 games for Youth teams Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	$(9 \times 50\%)/2 = 3 \text{ pitches (rounded up)}$	
	Adult – Sat PM	$(6 \times 70\%)/2 = 3 \text{ pitches (rounded up)}$	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	6	All Council and education owned pitches
	Youth	6	
	Adult	6	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁷⁹	Mini Hockey	$6 - 1 = +5$	Supply meeting demand
	Youth	$6 - 3 = +3$	Supply just meeting demand
	Adult	$6 - 3 = +3$	Supply meeting demand

8.16 The results show that the supply of hockey facilities meets demand with a surplus for mini, youth and adult hockey demand. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming 1 hockey pitch can support 2 youth games Saturday morning adult games on Saturday afternoon and 1 youth game on Sunday morning or a mid-week evening.

Scenario 2

8.17 The picture for Scenario 2 for hockey in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where two of the secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches:-

Table 8.5: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Pitches available for community use only

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
	Mini Hockey (U11 to U13)	21	Based on the club survey
	Youth (U14 to U18)	18	

⁷⁸ A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.

⁷⁹ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Adult	16	A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.
2. Calculating home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don't play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a Saturday afternoon. Mini blitz/tournament are once every 4 weeks
	Youth (U14 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) Sat AM	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. 38% of Mini-hockey teams play Sat AM, the rest mid-week and Sunday A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. Youth matches are played Sat AM (50%) and mid-week.
	Youth (U14 to U18)	9	
	Adult	8	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	38%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week. 70% of Adult games are played Sat PM and 30% mid-week on Wednesday.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	70%	
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	1 ⁸⁰	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 2 games 1pm and 2.30 starts. Capacity for Sat AM is assumed to be 2 games for Youth teams Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	$(9 \times 50\%)/2 = 3 \text{ pitches (rounded up)}$	
	Adult – Sat PM	$(6 \times 70\%)/2 = 3 \text{ pitches (rounded up)}$	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	4	All Council and education owned pitches
	Youth	4	
	Adult	4	
	Mini Hockey	4 - 1 = +3	Supply meeting demand

⁸⁰ A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.

7. Adequacy of Provision ⁸¹	Youth	4 - 3 = +1	Supply just meeting demand
	Adult	4 - 3 = +1	Supply just meeting demand

8.18 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for mini, youth and adult hockey with a surplus of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is meeting demand for mini hockey and less so for youth and adult hockey.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that hockey pitch capacity is 2 games on a Saturday afternoon and 70% of games are played then.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that Youth games are played both mid-week and on Saturday mornings as informed from the club survey responses.
- ❖ It is known that the AstroTurf pitch at Meadowbank is also used for other sports training. This may reduce the availability for hockey training and matches if hockey is not given priority.

Scenario 3

8.19 A third scenario can be modelled where only the Council's AstroTurf pitch is used:-

Table 8.6: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 - Council Pitches only

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini Hockey (U11 to U13)	21	Based on the club survey A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.
	Youth (U14 to U18)	18	
	Adult	16	
2. Calculating home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13)	Tournament	From the club survey all adult and youth teams play in different leagues i.e. don't play each other, therefore in particular for adult teams scheduling may mean they all have a home game on a Saturday afternoon. Mini
	Youth (U14 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	

⁸¹ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

			blitz/tournament are once every 4 weeks
3. Assessing total home games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) Sat AM	Tournament	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. 38% of Mini-hockey teams play Sat AM, the rest mid-week and Sunday A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams. Youth matches are played Sat AM (50%) and mid-week.
	Youth (U14 to U18)	9	
	Adult	8	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	38%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played mid-week. 70% of Adult games are played Sat PM and 30% mid-week on Wednesday.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	70%	
5. Defining pitches required at peak demand taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U9 to U13) – Sun AM/PM	1⁸²	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity for Saturday PM is assumed to be 2 games 1pm and 2.30 starts. Capacity for Sat AM is assumed to be 2 games for Youth teams Capacity mid-week is set at 1 i.e. 1 match per evening.
	Youth (U14 to U18) – Sat AM	(9 x 50%)/2 = 3 pitches (rounded up)	
	Adult – Sat PM	(6 x 70%)/2 = 3 pitches (rounded up)	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	1	All Council and education owned pitches
	Youth	1	
	Adult	1	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁸³	Mini Hockey	1 - 1 = +0	Supply just meeting demand
	Youth	1 - 3 = -2	Supply NOT meeting demand
	Adult	1 - 3 = -2	Supply NOT meeting demand

8.20 The results of scenario 3, where only the Council-owned pitch is used, shows demand cannot be met youth and adult for hockey games with an undersupply of 2 pitches calculated.

⁸² A 2 hour blitz on a full size pitch can accommodate 12 teams.

⁸³ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

- 8.21** In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities No of clubs	Training Facilities No of clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	1	0
Finding venues of suitable training surface	0	1
Availability of floodlit venues	-	0
Can't get booking slot	1	0
Condition of pitches	0	0
None	1	1

Comments

- ❖ The following comments are recorded in relation to match and training facilities:-
 - *"There are no Council outdoor match facilities to hire for hockey."*
 - *"Our only option is to use pitch and RSD and pay the fee they ask for."*
 - *"No access to outdoor training in Magherafelt. No outdoor AstroTurf pitch."*
 - *"Not always able to get all booking slots."*

Playing Surface

- 8.22** As stipulated by the Ulster Hockey Union, all club competitive games are played on AstroTurf surfaces either water or sand based. As part of the online survey, clubs were asked to record their attitude to the AstroTurf - water based, AstroTurf -sand based and polymeric surfaces for training and for matches. The results are:-

Table 8.7: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Polymeric	4	0	0	4	0	0
AstroTurf- Sand Based	1	0	3	1	0	3
AstroTurf- Water based	4	0	4	4	0	4

Comment

- ❖ All four clubs are not in favour of the use of polymeric surfaces for either training or matches.
- ❖ All but one club are in favour of using sand-based AstroTurf pitches for matches and training or matches.
- ❖ All clubs are in favour of using water-based AstroTurf pitches for matches or training.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

- 8.23** Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Membership	No of Clubs
Increase over the next 5 years	4
Stay the same	0
Decrease over the next 5 years	0

Comments

- ❖ All four clubs expect their membership to increase.
- ❖ Rainey Endowed School HC note the following:-

'We have had so much success both as teams and as individual Ulster and Ireland players it inspires the younger girls to play. We have got more matches for our B teams and more training sessions for them. Better links with post primary schools and success of junior sections.'

- ❖ Dungannon Hockey Club notes:-

'We are unable to provide coaching for boys due to lack of coaches more older women have returned to the club strong junior club with numbers growing.'

- 8.24** Table 8.8 presents the four hockey clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 8.8: Comments in Relation to Future Plans and Needs

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Cookstown HC	<p>The club currently have a clubhouse that is not beside either pitch. The club would like to look build a dual purpose building beside its water based pitch. The building would serve the following purposes: 1. Spectator toilets 2. Spectator viewing area 3. Social area for kids throughout the week (to hang out with their peers in a safe controlled environment) 4. Break out rooms for video analysis and coaching feedback. 5. Small cafe</p>	<p>Cookstown Hockey Club will use Meadowbank in an ad hoc way during the winter months when the clubs pitches are unplayable due to frost or snow. Unfortunately, due to the popularity of that venue it is very difficult to secure a booking. The surface at Meadowbank would be much better if it was a proper sand dressed hockey pitch with a more adequate shock pad. The surface at Meadowbank really lets it down from a competitive training / match perspective. Would the Council considering partnering with Cookstown Hockey Club to provide a dome over one of its existing sand dressed pitch in Cookstown? Using a https://covair.co.uk solution? The sand dress provision is much more suitable to multi-sport and would extend the use of the pitch during the winter months. Cookstown Hockey Club also play indoor hockey, but there is no provision (court big enough) to play matches in the Mid Ulster area.</p>
Dungannon HC	<p>Club Development Plans to grow in numbers and be able to field another senior team and a veterans team to become a centre of excellence for hockey in Mid Ulster and host matches, coaching and umpiring courses to bring equality to sports players and club members. People from west of the province are continually disadvantaged by being selected for representative sport and being asked to travel over an hour to access training. To extend the opportunities for training and matches for our junior players. Current provision is hindered by lack of facilities and being limited to an overused pitch. To be able to develop coaching,</p>	<p>Dungannon Hockey Club have played within the MUC area since their formation. We have relocated and a previously promised AstroTurf pitch was then provided in conjunction with RSD. This relationship seems to break down when it was due for renewal. Promised funds to maintain and develop the pitch have not materialised. We now manage the key holding, opening and closing of pitch as well as paying more for the facilities as we did previously. With</p>

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
	<p>umpiring and players through link with our governing body and be able to host these events. We currently have no Sunday access to our pitch. To be able to create player pathways to lead to players representing Ulster and Ireland. Barriers to this at the minute are lack of high quality facilities including pitch, difficulty attracting coaches to Dungannon and losing players to other more attractive facilities. To be able to raise the profile of hockey in the Dungannon area through links with local schools and clubs. To build on the club's success and raise standards throughout the club including promotion for all teams and the 1st X1 competing in EHL. When our 1st X1 previously qualified for EHL we were unable to meet their criteria for pitch facilities.</p>	<p>the school having to use their school budget what we pay is still not enough to properly maintain the pitch. This situation is deteriorating year on year. The over usage is having a big impact as it has to provide ALL training and matches for the school and an ever growing club. As a hockey club who plays at the highest level in Ulster Hockey there is a specific requirement for a playing surface. We cannot play on rubber or 4G surfaces. However, other sports can play on sand based and water based surfaces. There are many examples of good practice on this throughout the country eg; Queens, Ballymena, Cookstown, Lisnagarvey. We are in an excellent location for being a hub for hockey in Mid Ulster and to bring success to Dungannon. Our national team have just qualified for the Olympics, we want to pursue playing All Ireland hockey and raise the profile of hockey and Dungannon throughout Ireland as other clubs have the opportunity to do so. We are happy to work with anyone to fulfil these aspirations.</p>
<p>Rainey HC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gateway to representation at Ulster and Ireland Hockey level. Pre Meadowbank 3 girls and since Meadowbank 23 Ulster and 7 Ireland players. Continue to provide the platform for females especially school age girls to participate in hockey and to achieve the recommended levels of exercise per day/week. Recent publication for NI Assembly quotes only 5% of girls are currently getting recommended exercise. ▪ Rainey Hockey Club began with 1 team in 2009 and in 2021 now has 3 senior teams playing in Premier League equivalent to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replacement surface which has currently gone beyond its life cycle and has been heavily and inappropriately used for non-sporting events. ▪ Possibility of a second pitch to fulfil the requirements of 3 teams on a Saturday for competitive matches. ▪ A second pitch would allow us to meet current club demands and achieve growth potential. The second pitch would additionally

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
	<p>football's Irish Premier League and Junior I which is the highest League for a 2 x 1 team to play in (in 10 years, promoted from Junior II League to Junior I).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received Mid Ulster Sporting Civic Award. Also provides participation for females of all ages and want to continue to do this by encouraging women back to hockey as well as continued provision for young girls. 2019 season introduced the boy's hockey which we plan to continue to develop. Provide inclusive sporting facilities for children of all physical needs. The club have a development plan in place to be able to provide/train/develop their own coaches and umpires by running a series of summer/holiday camps. This would take girls of 14/15 years of age and encourage them to become coaches and umpires for the sport in the future. RHC membership currently limited by lack of facilities. We aim to double our membership, building on the increasing popularity of hockey due to Ireland Women qualifying for the Olympics and the success we've had with members gaining Ulster & Ireland caps. We require a minimum renewed/updated surface on the multi-sports surface in Meadowbank to enable us to continue playing as a club, as we have nowhere else. We would like a further outdoor AstroTurf pitch with lights & VO system to facilitate plans to expand training offering number of teams home matches at one location. VO system would enable progression of skill beneficial feedback for both coaches & players. It would allow players the opportunity to improve progress further in the sport. Continue to provide cross-community membership. 	<p>provide a sporting surface for other sports as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to Meadowbank Arena the Council provided a dedicated hockey pitch for club use, All be it a shale pitch. Since Meadowbank has opened there is no longer a dedicated surface for hockey, which is causing us to restrict the clubs development.
Rainey Endowed School HC	We hope to get an Astro pitch at our school but this will replace the shale pitch which is currently used for B training sessions and	Meadowbank Sports Arena currently offers a playing surface that is inclusive to hockey, soccer, GAA and

Future Plans		Any Other Comment
	matches. This means the school will still need Meadowbank AstroTurf if we are to maintain our current levels of girls participation and number of teams.	even rugby for training. The surface has served the whole community well but has come to the end of its use and no longer provides the quality playing surface it once did. The current surface needs to be replaced with a similar playing surface and ideally the work needs to be done out of the hockey season as due to the pandemic our schoolgirls have already missed out on a year of their school hockey and we worry the impact this may have on them long term.

Summary

8.25 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work inform a number of key points at this audit stage:-

- ❖ *Adequacy of provision* shows the following result for Scenario 2 for matches at peak demand:

Mini-hockey	+3
Youth	+1
Adult	+1

- ❖ It is noted that there is only one Council owned synthetic AstroTurf hockey pitch; adequacy of provision therefore relies on the use of Cookstown High School synthetic hockey pitches and Dungannon Royal School, both these facilities support clubs.
- ❖ Hockey is a minority sport in the Council area, however all four clubs aspire to grow their membership. Participation is mostly female with just Cookstown HC with a male section.
- ❖ The condition of the playing surface at Meadowbank Arena is displaying signs of wear and tear and in need of an upgrade. Meadowbank pitch is heavily used by association and football teams for training; Rainey HC report it is difficult for the club to get suitable training slots especially to suit younger teams.
- ❖ Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary

school from which it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey-playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches

- ❖ As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport, however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches being replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports.

9. Lawn Bowls

Introduction

9.1 This section presents consultation with the Irish Bowling Federation followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for lawn bowls. An assessment of provision is made by reviewing the demand for ‘green time’ for training and matches and setting this against the total hours available for play. The principles of Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Model’ (PPM) are used to assess the condition of the Council’s lawn bowl facilities. There are five lawn bowls clubs in the Council area with a mix of male and female membership playing exclusively on natural grass greens. This section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

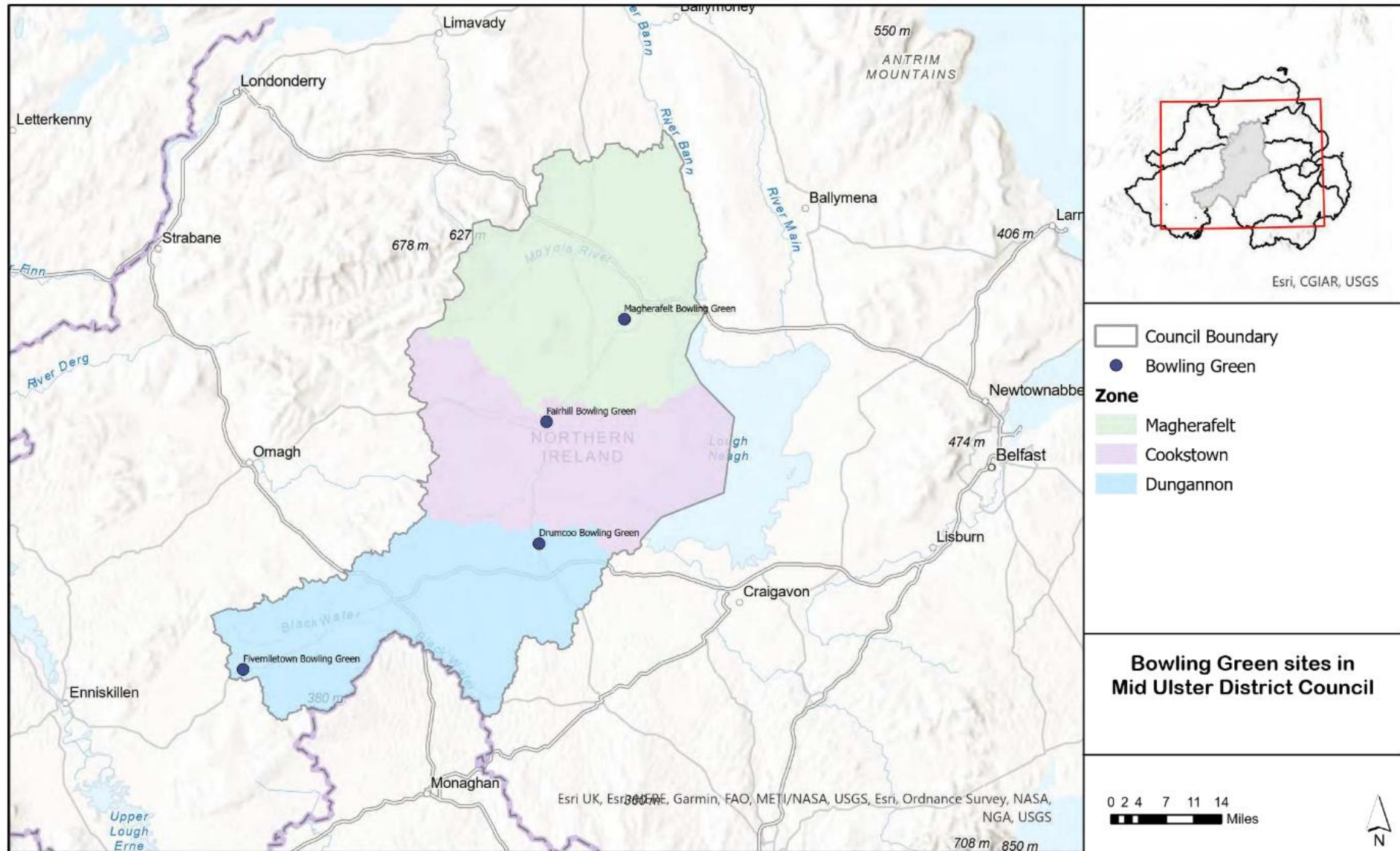
9.2 Lawn Bowls is usually played on a finely-laid, close-mown and rolled stretch of turf which requires considerable care and maintenance to maintain it to a high standard. In recent years synthetic bowling green surfaces have become more common allowing for use all year round and reduced maintenance regimes and costs, there is one synthetic green in the Council at King George V Playing Field, home base to Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation. An inventory of bowling greens in the Council area is presented in Table 9.1; here two types of green ‘ownership’ are identified:-

- **Club owned** – greens are owned and maintained by a bowling club
- **Council** – greens are owned and maintained by the Council

9.3 Table 9.1 presents a detailed inventory of bowling greens across the identified two types of ownership. Maps 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 accompany the inventory showing green location, ownership, and quality⁸⁴ respectively.

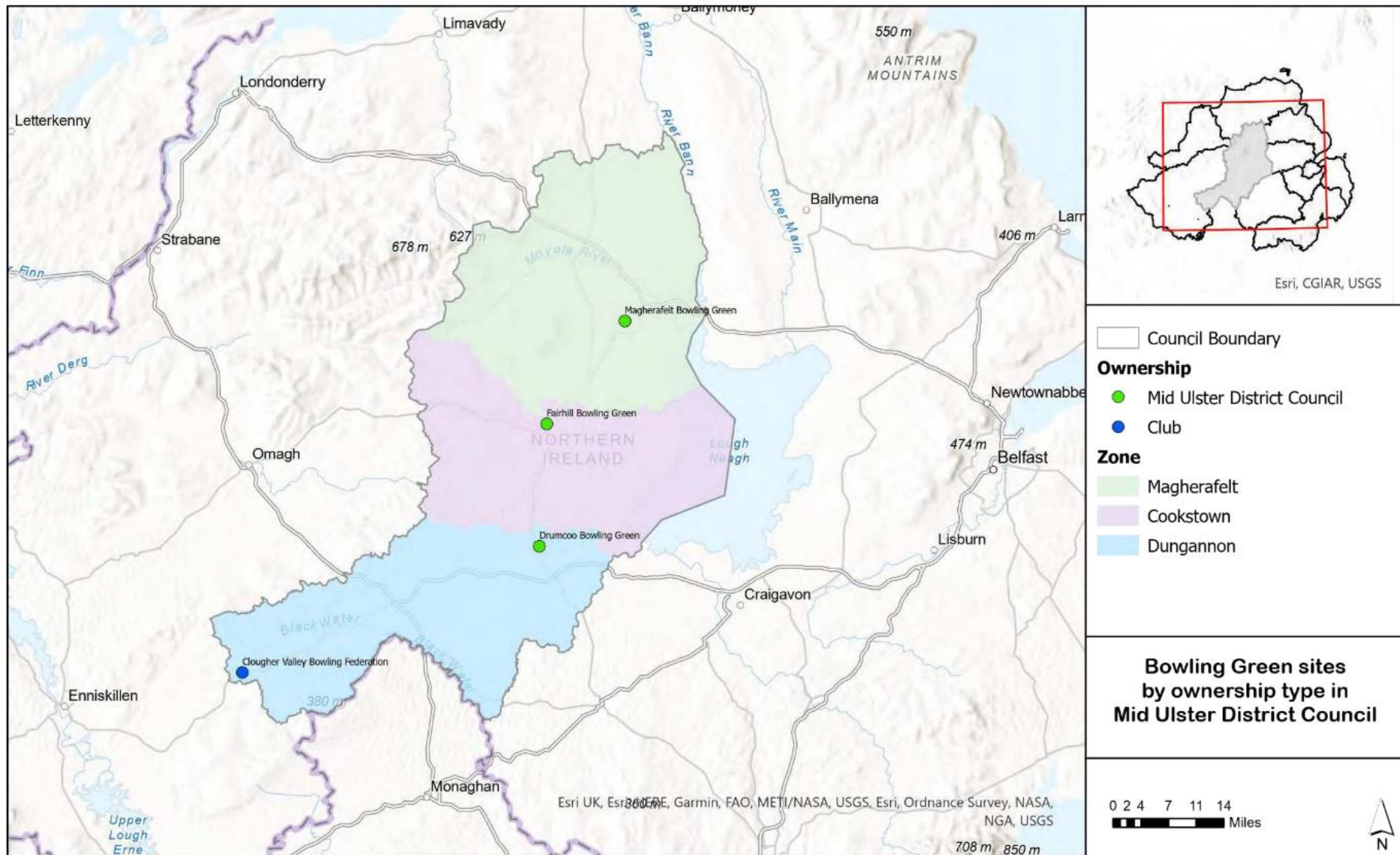
⁸⁴ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is ‘Good’, ‘Standard’ or ‘Poor’. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.

LAWN BOWLS



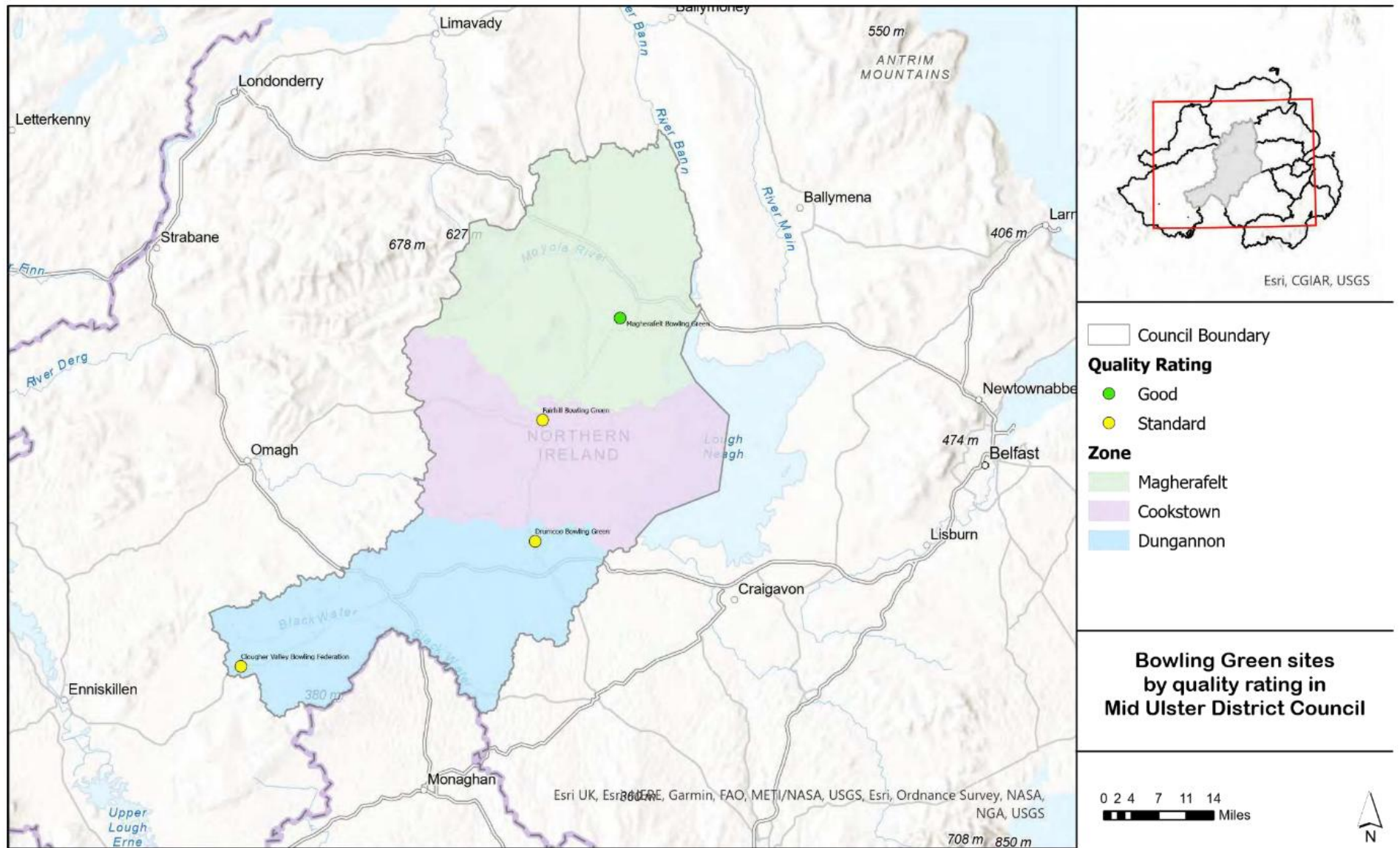
Map 9.1: Location – Bowling Greens

LAWN BOWLS



Map 9.2: Ownership – Bowling Greens

LAWN BOWLS



Map 9.3: Quality – Bowling Greens

Table 9.1: Lawn Bowls –Location, Quantity and Quality of Bowling Greens in Mid Ulster District Council and Club Ownership

Council				
Location		Quantity/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Drumcoo Bowling Green	Dungannon	1 x Grass Bowling Green – 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Home base for Dungannon Bowling Club, men's and ladies sections – the club reports that the bowling green is very 'slow', the preference is for the grass to be cut shorter making the green 'faster'.
Fairhill Bowling Green	Cookstown	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Home base for two clubs, Cookstown Bowling Club and Fairhill Bowling Club. Cookstown BC rated the green as 'Poor' in the club survey. Both clubs feel the Pavilion no longer serves their needs.
Magherafelt Bowling Green (Greenvale Leisure Centre)	Magherafelt	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Good	Home base to Magherafelt Ladies and Men's Outdoor Bowling Club. The club notes "Pavilion itself is quite dated and there are areas of damp especially in the ladies toilets." The green does not have floodlights limiting the number of playing months.
Totals 3 x Grass Bowling Greens				
Club				
Fivemiletown Bowling Green	Dungannon	1 x Synthetic Bowling Green - 5 rinks	1 x Standard	Home base to Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation, the club reports the synthetic green was installed in 2000 and should be replaced after 21 years. The Council owns and operates the pavilion; the bowling green is operated

				by Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation.
Totals 1 x Synthetic Bowling Green				

Summary of Quantity and Quality of Greens

- 9.4 A summary and breakdown of current bowling greens used for matches and training by ownership is given below.

Bowling Greens – Number and Quality				
Ownership	No of Greens	Good	Standard	Poor
Clubs	1	1	0	0
Council	3	1	2	0
Totals	4	2	2	0

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of 4 bowling greens under Council and club ownership.
- ❖ Just one of the Council's bowling greens is rated 'Good', the remaining two are rated 'Standard'.

Clubs, Teams and Players

- 9.5 To assess the impact of bowling green provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are five lawn bowling clubs in Mid Ulster District Council area. All five clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate picture of lawn bowling club playing membership, green use, club development plans and needs. The five clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- ❖ Home green is located within Mid Ulster District Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ❖ Use pitches within Mid Ulster District Council area for training.
- ❖ Over 50% of team members live within Mid Ulster District Council area.

- 9.6 All Council owned bowling greens have at least one 'rink' available for public use – a standard bowling green has 6 'rinks'. It is assumed that the clubs account for the majority of use, therefore public use of bowling greens is not considered.

- 9.7 The five clubs included in this audit are listed below, detailing playing membership for junior, youth, adult both male and female.

Table 9.2: Bowling Club Playing Membership

Club	Junior (12 to 18)		Adult		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Fairhill Bowling Club	0	0	17	1	18
Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation	0	0	27	13	40
Cookstown Bowling Club	3	2	38	3	46
Magherafelt Ladies and Men's Bowling Club	0	0	20	18	38
Dungannon Bowling Club Men's & Ladies Sections	0	0	30	0	30
Totals	3	2	132	35	172

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of 172 lawn bowls members across all age groups and both genders.
- ❖ Female participation is approximately one fifth (22%) of male participation.
- ❖ As expected, the number of members under 18 years old is very low.

Adequacy of Provision

- 9.8 The following assessment of need and demand analysis of bowling greens is presented where the total training and match time is compared to total hours available for bowling green club activities. The total training and match needs are a combination of team and individual practice that takes place throughout the day at most facilities. The total hours available for training and matches is based on bowling green opening hours⁸⁵ and the total number of greens at each facility. The total demand is based on the club survey.

Club	Total training hours per week (hrs)	Total match hours per week (hrs)	Total demand per week (hrs)	Supply minus Demand (hrs)
Fairhill Bowling Green	26	20	46	+26
Magherafelt Bowling Green (Greenvale Leisure Centre)	12	12	24	+36
Drumcoo Bowling Green	15	8	23	+37
Fivemiletown Bowling Green	12	8	20	+52

⁸⁵ If a green has floodlights – total available hours is 6 days x 12 hours = 72 hours – assumed, it is closed on Sundays.
If no floodlights – total available hours is 6 days x 10 hours = 60 hours.

- 9.9 From the quantitative analysis of *demand* for training and match green-time at each facility compared to *supply* as measured in available green-hours it is clear that supply comfortably meets demand. Most greens appear to be well used by members.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

- 9.10 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experience in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:-

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of clubs	Training Facilities No of clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	1
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	0
Can't get booking slot	0	0
Availability of floodlit greens		1
Condition of bowling greens	1	1
None	4	3

Comments

- ❖ One club notes that the condition of bowling greens is a barrier to training and matches. It is unclear if the condition of bowling greens is related to poor weather events or that the bowling greens drain slowly therefore delaying access for club activities.
- ❖ Magherafelt Bowling Club noted the lack of floodlit greens as a barrier to training and matches – their home green currently does not have floodlights.

Playing Surface

- 9.11 The increasing use of synthetic surfaces for the delivery of many sports including lawn bowls is an attractive option allowing increased use and reduction in maintenance. Bowling clubs' attitude to synthetic surfaces is presented in Table 9.3.

Table 9.3 - Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Grass	0	1	3	0	1	3
Synthetic	1	1	2	1	1	2

- 9.12** On balance it appears that grass is the slightly more preferred surface for both training and matches. However, there is also a level of acceptance of synthetic surfaces for both training and matches.

Maintenance of Greens

- 9.13** In response to three questions in the online survey relating to maintenance of club bowling greens the following is recorded by each club:-

Responses to three questions related to bowling green maintenance			
Club	Q1. Who is responsible for maintenance of your green?	Q2. How would you rate maintenance of your green?	Q3. Would your club be interested in taking over your club bowling green maintenance?
Magherafelt Ladies and Men's Bowling Club	Council	Standard	No
Dungannon Bowling Club	Council	Standard	No
Cookstown Bowling Club	Council	Poor	Not sure – <i>"this is a possibility but would need thorough discussion at whole club and committee levels following major consultation with Mid-Ulster Council."</i>
Fairhill Bowling Club	Council	Standard	No
Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation	Club	Standard	NA

Comments

- ❖ Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation is the only club in the district responsible for the maintenance of their green which is a synthetic carpet.

- ❖ Two clubs share the green at Fairhill; one club rates the green as ‘Standard’, the other club rates it as ‘Poor’.
- ❖ Three of the clubs who do not own their facility responded they are **not** interested in taking over maintenance of their bowling green. Cookstown BC replied, ‘Not sure’ to taking over maintenance.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

9.14 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey. Four of the clubs expect membership to increase in the next five years although it’s not clear how they will set about achieving this.

Club	Over the Next 5 years	Reason for expected membership change in the next 5 years
Fairhill Bowling Club	Stay the same	No comment
Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation	Increase	More new houses are being built in the area and our club has good cross community relations.
Cookstown Bowling Club	Increase	Improvement in club facilities. Continue to develop links with short-mat bowling clubs.
Dungannon Bowling Club	Stay the same	New members are mostly invited
Magherafelt BC - Ladies Section	Increase	We are always trying to encourage new members of all ages. Pre- Covid year we had an open afternoon which was well attended.
Magherafelt BC - Men’s Section	Increase	Population of Magherafelt continues to grow and with improved facilities i.e. floodlighting and a more determined drive to encourage local short mat bowlers particularly younger age bracket to join club would be of great benefit going forward.

9.15 Table 9.4 presents comments from the five bowling clubs on future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final survey question ‘Any Other Comments’.

Table 9.4: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Fairhill Bowling Club	We feel the kitchen and changing no longer works for the club.	We share the bowling green with Cookstown BC, this arrangement works well for us.
Clogher Valley Outdoor Bowling Federation	We have a synthetic green which was laid in 2000, it needs replacing after 21 years.	We are in need of more shelter facilities and refurbishment of path around green.
Cookstown Bowling Club	The bowling green needs to reach the standard of 15-20 years ago to match the success of the club during this time. Clubhouse facilities are of a very poor standard and currently do not meet Health & Safety standards. Changing rooms too small, toilets are embarrassing, no changing facilities for ladies, kitchen requires modernisation and committee room lacking for private meetings. If these changes were made, this would help recruitment of new members. In 2022, we have club reps who will be holding the offices of Northern Ireland Provincial Bowling Association President and Irish Bowling Association President. This will bring great honour to the bowling club and Mid-Ulster District. Major bowling dignitaries and top players will be present as the club will be hosting major events and championships. At present, the facilities do not meet the standard required to do this and frankly embarrassing to have to give up this opportunity as a result.	It is continually frustrating that some sports in the Mid-Ulster district have much better facilities than outdoor bowls. Since 1995 (when I joined the club) the clubhouse has not seen any major refurbishment. Consistently, members of the bowling club have achieved the highest accolades in the sport. Sadly, investment in the improvement of the bowling facilities has not been forthcoming to match the success on the green.
Magherafelt Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club	Continued maintenance of the green to a high playing standard is essential. Pavilion itself is quite dated and there are areas of damp especially in the ladies toilets. We are still using a free standing boiler placed on the kitchen worktop and this is a health hazard. We have access to a car parking area which is alongside	Changing facilities very basic could do with improvement which would help to attract younger players. The high fees we have to collect to cover club expenses coupled with the payment to The Council which

	the Greenvale leisure centre, however, members from away clubs do have difficulty in obtaining a parking space as spaces are already occupied.	this year equated to almost £50. Per member.
Dungannon Bowling Club	The club would be confident in gaining more members if the green was cut closer to make it faster i.e. shorter. We understand this is a fine balancing act, but we rarely play on a green as slow as that in Dungannon.	The bowling club is satisfied with provision given.

DRAFT ONLY - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

10. Rugby

Introduction

10.1 This section presents consultation with the Irish Rugby Football Union's Ulster Branch followed by an overview of supply of and demand for rugby pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM). There are three rugby clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and junior rugby. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

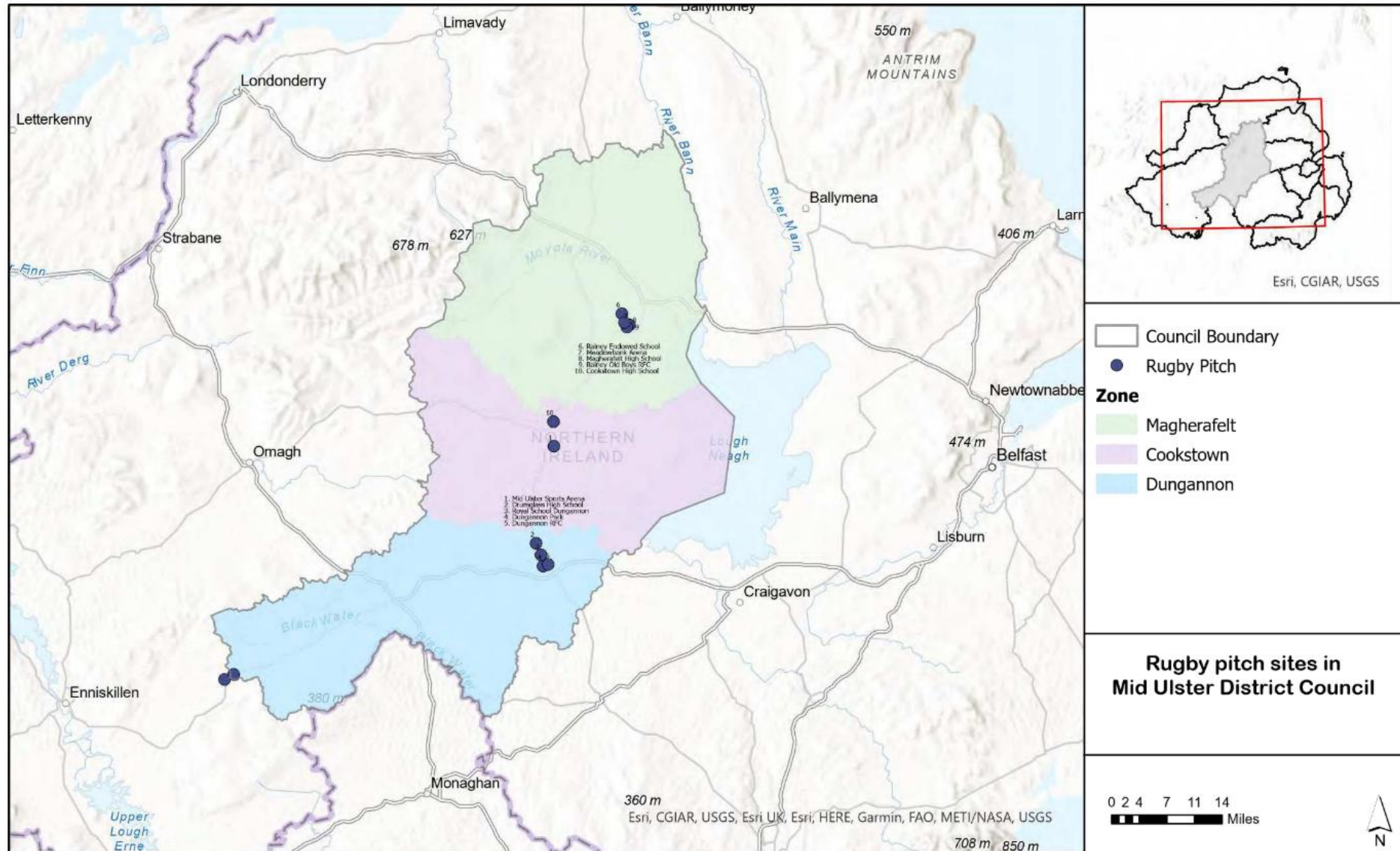
Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

Rugby is traditionally played on a grass pitch where the field of play does not exceed 100 metres in length and the in-goal does not exceed 22 metres in length. Whilst there appears no minimum width, the maximum width must not exceed 70 metres. There are just three rugby clubs in the Council area: Rainey Old Boys RFC, Dungannon RFC and Clogher Valley RFC. Although Clogher Valley RFC grounds lie just outside the Council boundary they are included in this report as the majority of their players live in Mid Ulster District Council area. All three clubs own their facilities. In addition, there are three full-size rugby pitches under Council ownership (1 x grass and 2 x 3G⁸⁶ multi-sports pitches). The inventory of rugby pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 10.1. under three different types of pitch 'ownership': -

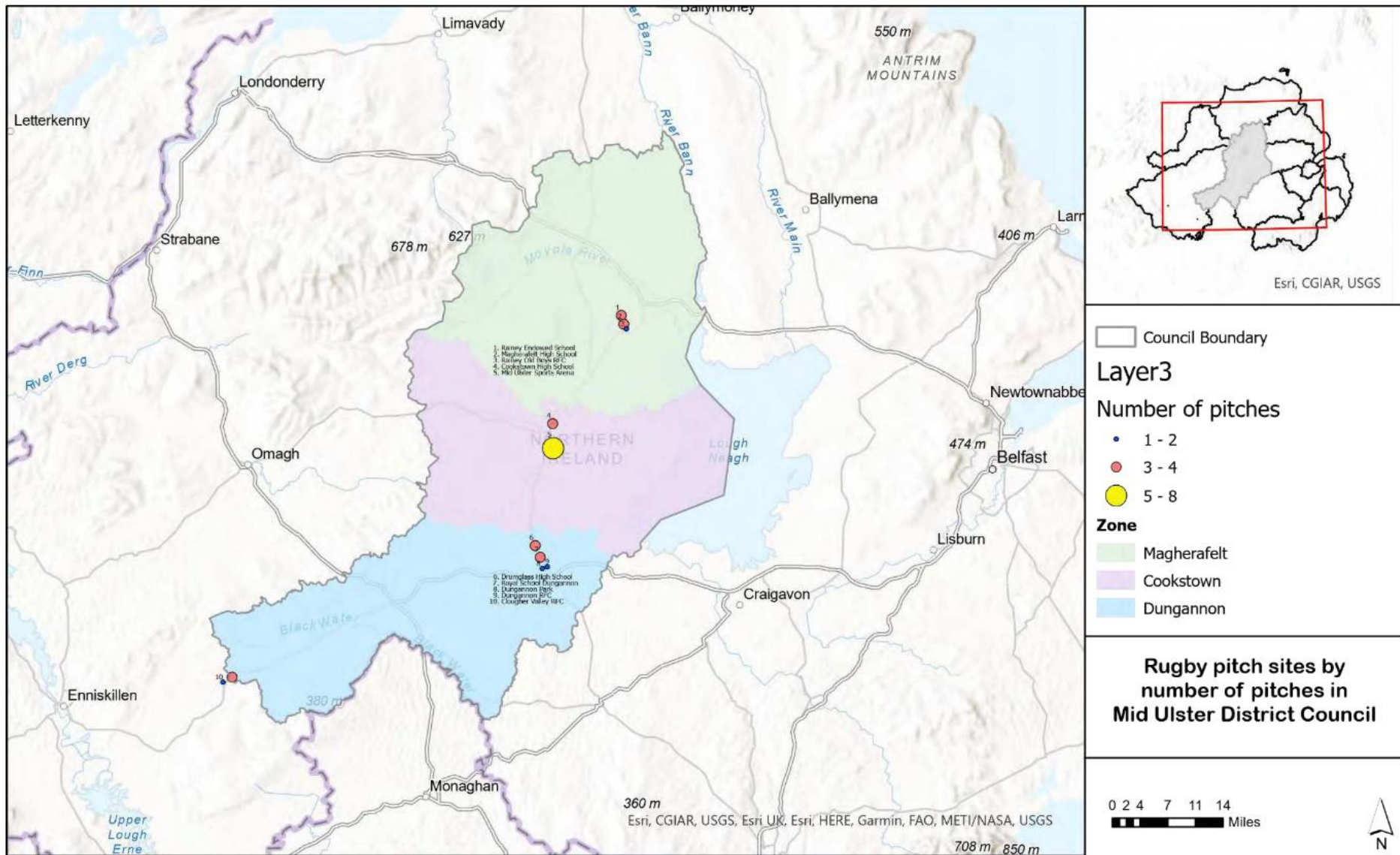
- ❖ **Mid Ulster District Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club owned/leased**– pitches owned and maintained by a rugby football club.

⁸⁶ Can accommodate rugby training and matches, specification is compliant with the Irish Rugby Football Union Artificial Turf Pitch guidelines.

RUGBY

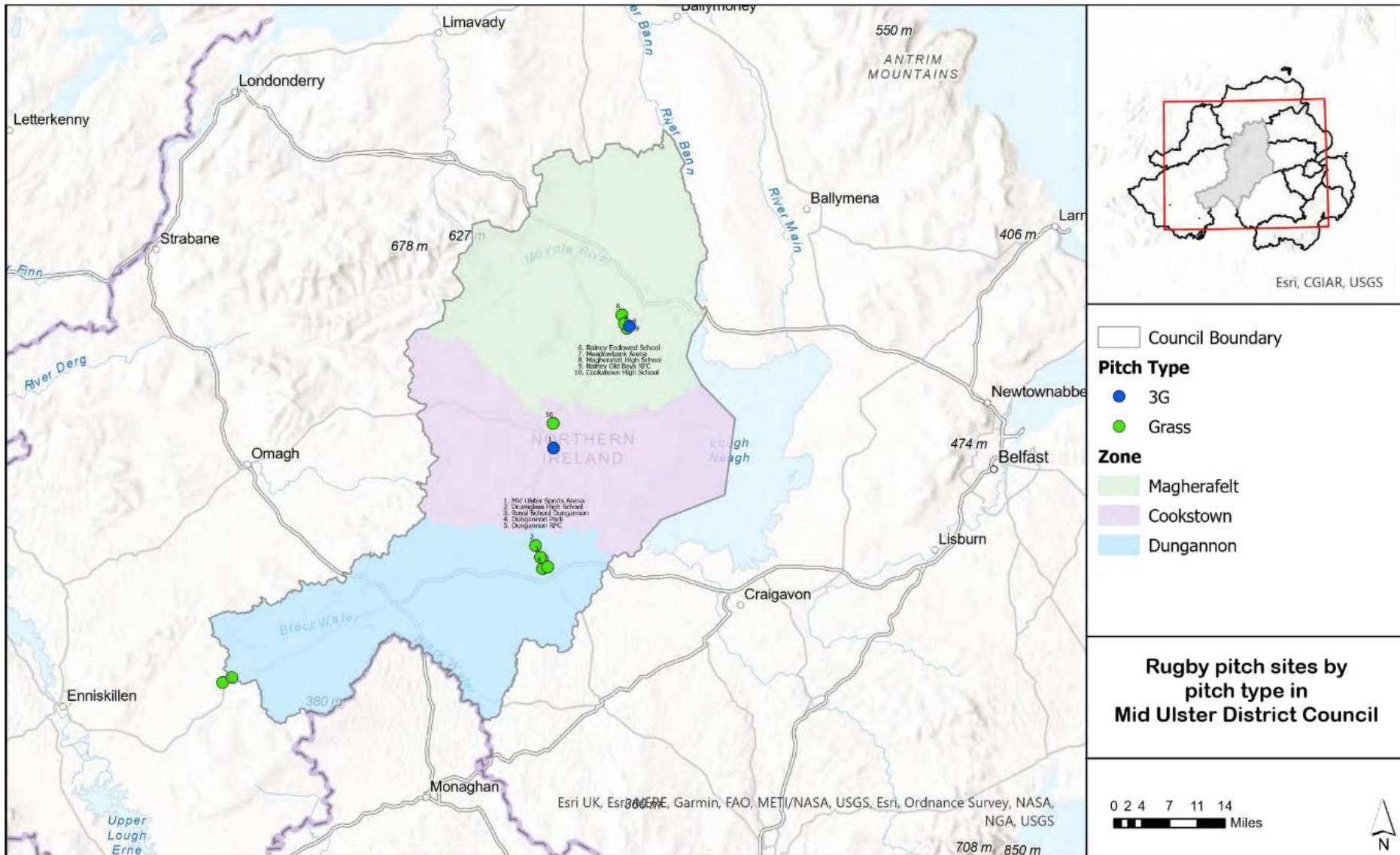


Map 10.1: Location & Ownership – Rugby Pitches

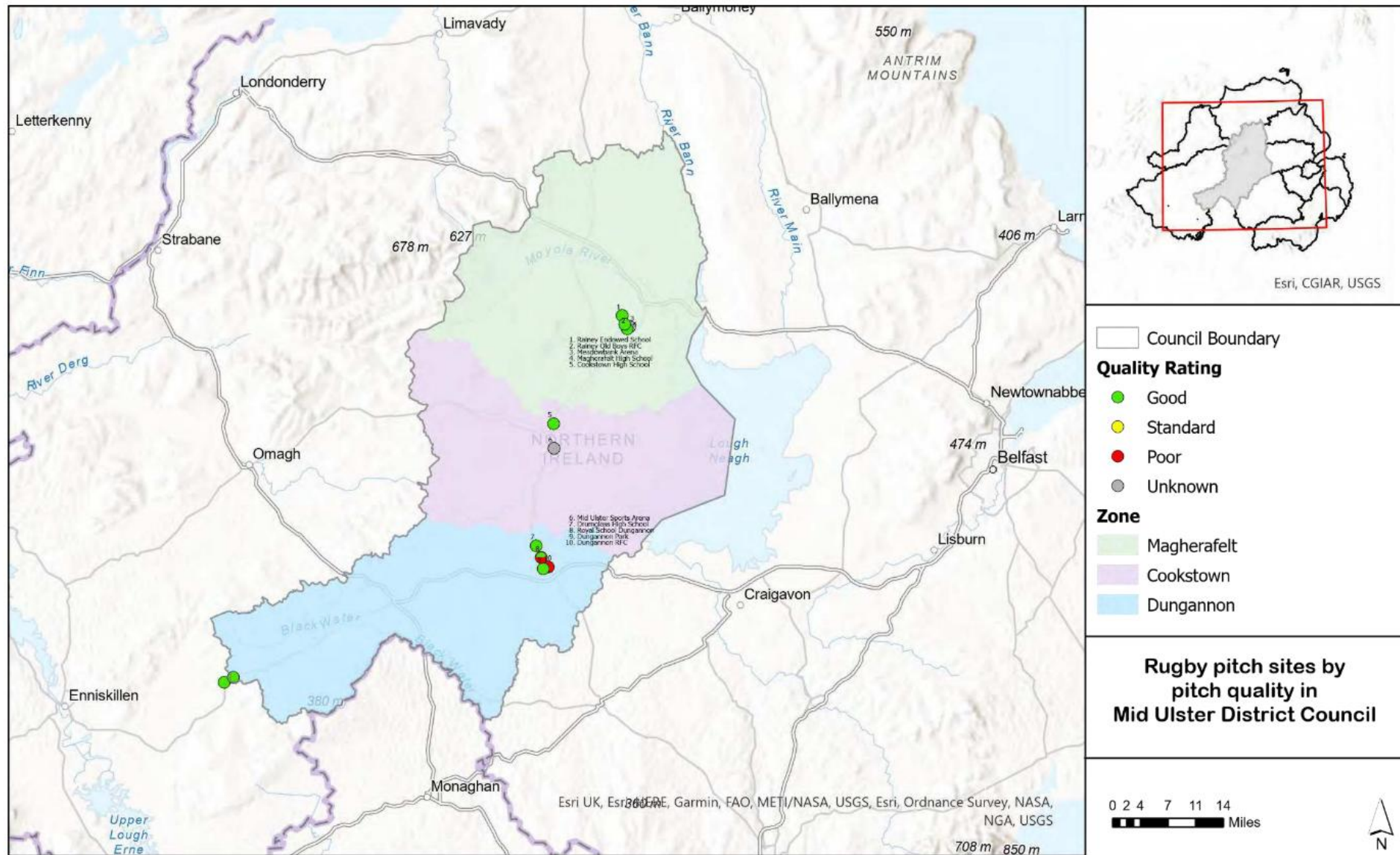


Map 10.2: Number – Rugby Pitches

RUGBY



Map 10.3: Surface Type – Rugby Pitches



Map 10.4: Quality – Rugby Pitches

10.2 Table 10.1 presents a detailed inventory of rugby pitches suitable for competitive matches and training. Two pitch categories are noted:-

- ❖ **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- ❖ **Youth** – pitches used for Youth only matches and training of all ages.

Table 10.1: Rugby – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches in Mid Ulster District Council area under Council, Education and Club Ownership

Clubs

Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Clogher Valley RFC The Cran	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Located on the Council's boundary with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Two of the full grass pitches are floodlit. The club has approximately 50 female youth players.
Dungannon RFC Stevenson Park	Dungannon	2 x Full Grass	2 x Poor	The club notes the quality of both club pitches is 'Poor'. The club reports with the growth of the women's rugby it is at capacity and requires a 3 rd pitch.
Rainey Old Boys RFC Hatrick Park	Magherafelt	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The club makes use of the Council's 3G multi-sports pitch at Meadowbank next to the club grounds for training. The club reports a rise in female playing membership.

Totals
6 x Full Grass Rugby Pitches

Council

Dungannon Park	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Used by Dungannon Rugby club
Meadowbank Arena	Magherafelt	1 x Full 3G multi-sports	NA	Shared used with association football and gaelic games for training and matches

Mid Ulster Sports Arena	Cookstown	1 x Full 3G multi-sports	NA	The pitch is floodlit and marked for both gaelic games and rugby. Local rugby club Cookstown RFC folded in 2019.
Total 1 x Full Grass Rugby Pitch 2 x 3G Multi- sports pitch marked for rugby				
Education				
Rainey Endowed School	Magherafelt	3 x Full grass	3 x Good	The rugby pitches are currently not available for community use.
Fivemiletown College	Dungannon	1 x Full grass	1 x Good	The rugby pitch is available for community use and used occasionally by Clogher Valley RFC 3 rd team for matches.
Magherafelt High School	Magherafelt	1 x Full grass	1 x Good	The rugby pitch is available for community use but not used.
Drumglass High School	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	No community use – facilities managed by an external consultancy
Cookstown High School	Cookstown	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	The rugby pitch is available for community use but not used.
Royal School Dungannon	Dungannon	1 x Full Grass 2 x Youth	1 x Poor 2 x Good	The pitches are available for community use and on occasions used by Dungannon RFC
Totals 8 x Full Grass Rugby Pitches 2 x Youth Grass Rugby Pitches				

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 10.3** Typically, rugby clubs train and play matches on the same pitch. Given that this is a winter sport, careful pitch maintenance is required to ensure pitch quality throughout the season. A summary and breakdown of current rugby pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below.

Summary of Rugby Pitches used for matches and training			
Ownership	Full Grass / 3G	Youth Grass	Training (3G association football)
Clubs	6	0	0
Education	8	2	1 x 3G
MUDC	3	0	0
Total	17	2	1

Summary of Quality of Pitches

10.4 A summary and breakdown of current full and youth match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	4	0	2	0	6
Education	8	0	0	0	8
Council	1	0	0	0	1
Total	13	0	2	0	15

Clubs, Teams and Players

10.5 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess current and future demand and need. There are three rugby clubs in Mid Ulster District Council area. All clubs completed questionnaires, producing an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations. The clubs satisfied the following criteria:

- a) Home match pitch is located within Mid Ulster District Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use pitches within Mid Ulster District Council area for training.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within Mid Ulster District Council area.

10.6 The three clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of adult, and youth teams.

Table 10.2: Rugby Club Team Profile

Club	Mini (U7 to U12)	Youth (U13 to U18)	Adult	Total No of Teams
Rainey RFC	21 x male	3 x male	5 x male	29
Clogher Valley RFC	5 x male	3 x male 3 x female	4 x male	15
Dungannon RFC	14 x male	3 x male 1 x female	5 x male 1 x female	24
Totals	40	13	15	68

10.7 There is a total of 68 rugby teams in the Council area from U7 to adult; these are predominantly male teams. However, both Clogher Valley RFC and Dungannon RFC have girls teams and Dungannon RFC has an adult female team. As is common with most other field sports rugby provides for small-sided games through the Rugby Mini programme. Here, matches are played on varying pitch sizes and team numbers depending on age group. Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the use of cones.

10.8 The profile of teams and player numbers in the two identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 10.3: Rugby – Profile of Membership and Teams based in MUDC

	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	374	76	450
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	249	48	297
Adult	310	27	337
Total Players	933	151	1084
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U7 to U11)	40	0	40
Youth (U12 to U18)	9	4	13
Adult	14	1	15
Total Teams	63	5	68

Adequacy of Provision

10.9 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	<p>Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.</p> <p>Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.</p> <p>Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.</p>
Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

10.10 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of rugby pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of rugby it is assumed that all adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used for competitive games.

Reference	Description	No of full size grass and 3G pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	15 x grass 2 x 3G
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	7 x grass 1 x 3G
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	1 x grass 1 x 3G

- 10.11** There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full-size grass pitches have been excluded – all education pitches are excluded as they generally reserved for school use.

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	8	Generally, not available for matches
Council	1 x 3G at MUSA	Currently not used for club matches

- 10.12** The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and mini games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Full Grass/3G	Full Grass/3G	Full Grass/3G
Clubs	6	6	0
Education	8	0	0
MUDC	3	2	0
Totals	17	8	0

Comments

- ❖ The above table records the number of full-size grass pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude 8 education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available, although Clogher Valley RFC use Fivemiletown College school pitch on occasions.
- ❖ The full size 3G pitch at Meadowbank Arena is included as it is used for competitive mini, youth and junior matches by Rainey Old Boys RFC.

Adequacy

Scenario 1

- 10.13** The picture of **rugby total demand and total supply for Scenario 1**, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 10.4: Rugby – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini (U7 to U12)	40	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. A min-game blitz/tournament takes 2-hours and can accommodate 20 teams
	Youth (U13 to U18)	13	
	Adult	14⁸⁷	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini (U7 to U11)	1 x blitz	Based on a home game/blitz every other week and accounting for teams playing in different leagues
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini (U7 to U11)	1 x blitz	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U11 to U18)	7	
	Adult	7	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini (U7 to U11) – Sat AM	71%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM	83%	
	Adult – Sat PM	85%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Rugby (U7 to U11) – Sat AM	2	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up – it is assumed a pitch can take 2 games a youth game and an adult game on the same day.
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM	6	
	Adult – Sat PM	6	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini	17	All club, Council and education owned pitches
	Youth	17	
	Adult	16	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁸⁸	Mini	17-2 = +15	Good Level of Supply
	Youth	17-6= +11	Supply meeting demand
	Adult	17-6 = +11	Good level of supply

⁸⁷ The one Ladies team is not included as Ladies matches are generally played on Sundays.

⁸⁸ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

10.14 The results show that the supply of rugby facilities meets demand with 11 pitches surplus for both junior and senior rugby demand. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming 1 rugby pitch can support mini rugby, a junior and senior match as calculated from the club survey.

Scenario 2

10.15 The picture for Scenario 2 for rugby in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where secondary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches: -

Table 10.5: Rugby – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 - All community pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini (U7 to U11)	40	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. It is assumed a mini-game blitz/tournament takes 2- hours and can accommodate 20 teams and occurs every 3 or 4 weeks.
	Youth (U12 to U18)	13	
	Adult	14	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini (U7 to U11)	1 x blitz	Based on a home game/blitz for youth and adult teams every other week, accounts for teams playing in different leagues.
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini (U7 to U11)	1 x blitz	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U11 to U18)	7	
	Adult	7	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini (U7 to U11) – Sat AM	71%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM	83%	
	Adult – Sat PM	85%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Rugby (U7 to U11) – Sat AM	2	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up – it is assumed a pitch can take 2 games a youth game and an adult game on the same day.
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM	6	
	Adult – Sat PM	6	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini	8	All club and Council owned pitches
	Youth	8	

	Adult	7	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁸⁹	Mini	8-2 = +6	Good Level of Supply
	Youth	8-6 = +2	Supply meeting demand
	Adult	7-6 = +1	Supply just meeting demand

10.16 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is just meeting demand for competitive games for youth with a surplus of two pitches, however supply is just meeting demand for adult matches with a small surplus of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that rugby pitch capacity is two games on a Saturday, a youth match in the morning and an adult game in the afternoon. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.
- ❖ Scenario 2 includes the use of Meadowbank 3G facility for mini and youth matches but not adult fixtures as recorded in the club survey.
- ❖ Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Dungannon RFC report that club growth is being constrained by the lack of training pitch facilities and they require a third pitch.
- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include the 3G pitch at MUSA as there is no club attached to the pitch, but it could be used for club matches in the event of club pitches not being available or playable.
- ❖ From the club survey it is noted that a number of youth and adult games are played mid-week; this will reduce the number of pitches required on Saturdays as modelled in Scenario 2.

10.17 A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are considered. As there is only one grass Council pitch and two 3G pitches suitable for rugby – demand clearly could not be met.

⁸⁹ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

10.18 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their two main pitches, are used for training and matches each week on average:-

Club	Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total usage Pitch 1 (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total usage Pitch 2 (hrs)
Rainey Old Boys RFC	10	3	13	0	2	2
Dungannon RFC	8	2	10	8	4	12
Clogher Valley RFC	6	6	12	3	3	6
Totals	24	11	Average = 11.6 hours weekly	11	9	Average = 6 hours weekly

Comments

- ❖ All three clubs use their pitches both for training and matches.
- ❖ Rainey Old Boys RFC pitch 2 is only used for matches.
- ❖ The average number of hours Pitch 1 is used for training and matches across the three clubs is 11.6 hours.

Community Impact

Match and Training Facility Barriers

10.19 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experience in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:-

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	2	1
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	1
Finding venues of suitable condition	3	1
Availability of floodlit venues	-	1
Can't get booking slot	2	3

Comments

- ❖ Dungannon RFC make the following comment with regard to training facilities: *"We want a facility close to our club, Dungannon Park would be the perfect site to use regularly if the price was right."*
- ❖ All three clubs selected 'Can't get a booking slot' with regards to training facilities.

Playing Surface

- 10.20** Competitive sport is increasingly being played on artificial surfaces and 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IRFU. From the club survey all three clubs indicated they are either *favourable or neutral* to using 3G surfaces for training but neutral for matches. One club notes that: -

"Rugby match preference for our club will always be natural grass but we really only have experience of using a 3G synthetic pitch for training."

Membership Growth and Future Plans

- 10.21** Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. All three clubs expect to grow further particularly for the female section of the club. Dungannon RFC notes the following observations which they expect to lead to increased membership:-

"Club is better organised with a reduction in the average age of the General Committee of more than 20 years from PRE-COVID levels. The introduction of a male U20s side in 2021 will increase youth and adult male membership. We have a housing development next door that is almost complete and another land parcel worth 2.5million adjacent to our club that's up for sale. The new development has already increased use of our pitches. The female membership is going to increase in line with the market trends for increased female sport participation."

- 10.22** Table 10.6 presents the three rugby clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 10.6: Comments in Relation to Future Plans and Needs

Club Name Home Venue	Development Plans	Final Comment	Need Theme
Rainey Old Boys RFC	No comment	We greatly appreciate the links and relationships which we have in place with MUDC and our use of the Meadowbank facility has been hugely beneficial to us as a club and we look forward to continuing that relationship.	None
Clogher Valley Rugby Football Club The Cran	We have purchased 9 acres of land adjoining the pitches, with the intention of developing a multi-sport, all weather, facility to allow other sports such as soccer, hockey, GAA along with rugby to use. The current pitches are used 5 days per week, with additional school use and Ulster Rugby training sessions for regional teams. During the winter and wet periods, the pitches become unusable and there must be a restriction of use imposed. A multi-sport, all weather, floodlit facility would reduce some of the use of the pitches and increase the use of the facility.	A joint venture to build a multi-sport facility on the adjoining land with Mid Ulster District Council and CVRFC would be considered.	Multi-sport facility
Dungannon RFC Stevenson Park	We only have 2 grass pitches which are deteriorating year on year based on increased usage. Our floodlights are halogen, +25 years and now very costly to repair. Any spare funds in future are going to be allocated to replacing these lights with LED and not on any significant pitch maintenance works. With the ladies game growing, a new U20s Men's league about to be launched and rugby now marketed at toddlers and above we are desperately in need of a 3rd pitch or a local 3G so our members don't feel as though they are being pushed out of the club. A new housing development bordering our pitches also means there is usage happening outside of	Dungannon RFC is not in a financial position to make any significant changes to its rugby playing facilities.	Third pitch

	members which is being monitored by community police and the development owners. Ideally, we want to accommodate our neighbours but we can't given how precious our pitch space has become. Our changing rooms are adequate however with only one set of 20 year old toilets for both male and female they are also now in need of a full refurbishment.		
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Summary

10.23 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. With just three clubs, rugby is a minority sport in the Council area; a total of 68 teams are fielded across the three clubs involving 1084 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 151 players are female. Dungannon RFC has an adult female team. As with association football the under representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes. Both Dungannon RFC and Clogher Valley RFC have female youth teams.
- ❖ Looking at adequacy of provision Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Mini's	+6 pitches	Supply meeting demand
Youth	+2 pitch	Supply just meeting demand
Adult	+1 pitch	Supply just meeting demand

- ❖ Dungannon RFC report they are in '*desperate need*' of a third pitch to cater for a growing club.
- ❖ Clogher Valley RFC has purchased 9 acres of land adjoining their site, the club states they are keen to explore:

"a joint venture to build a multi-sport facility on the adjoining land with Mid Ulster District Council and CVRFC."

- ❖ There is one dedicated Council-owned grass rugby pitch at Dungannon Park, and there are two multi-sport 3G pitches (Meadowbank and MUSA) suitable for rugby youth and adult fixtures.

11. Multi Use Games Areas

Introduction

- 11.1** Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are developed by local authorities to supplement play areas and complement training facilities for outdoor team sports such as association football and hockey. Depending on markings and equipment they may also facilitate basketball. There is no 'one size fits all' in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council's MUGA's are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are also capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities.
- 11.2** For the purposes of this audit each MUGA was visited and inspected. Appendix 2 presents a record of the visits with photographs. MUGAs tend to fall between two stools; on the one hand they are viewed primarily as play facilities, on the other hand they are viewed primarily as sports facilities. The Council does not presently define a MUGAs primary identity and purpose. Fields in Trust promotes a benchmark guideline of 0.3 hectares of MUGA provision per thousand population. For the district's population of 146,427, the Fields in Trust's benchmark suggests there should be 44 hectares of MUGA provision, however, the estimated actual provision, based on the consultant's inspections is 0.7 hectares. There are 14 MUGAs in the Mid Ulster District.
- 11.3** Sport England offers a classification for MUGAs.

Type Ref No	Description
1	Open textured porous macadam areas used for ball rebound sports where tennis is the priority and sports such as mini-tennis, netball, and basketball are secondary users. These areas are suitable for wheelchair sports although care is needed in warm weather during the first year of use.
2	Open textured porous macadam areas used for ball rebound sports where netball is the priority and sports such as tennis, mini-tennis, and basketball are secondary users. These areas are suitable for wheelchair sports although care is needed in warm weather during the first year of use.

3	Polymeric surface over macadam base areas used for ball rebound sports where netball is the priority and sports such as tennis, mini-tennis, and basketball are secondary users. These areas are suitable for wheelchair sports.
4	Polymeric surface over macadam base areas used for recreational football, basketball and general sports and recreational training and play. Due to their greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, these areas are not recommended for tennis or netball.
5	Artificial grass areas (MUGAs or AGPs) with a shock pad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb. These areas are used for sports such as hockey, five-a-side football, football, lacrosse, American football and training for activities such as athletics, rugby union and rugby league. '3G' artificial grass with long pile and rubber particulate pile filling is less suitable for hockey. Competitive (i.e. full contact) rugby union and rugby league must be played on pitches which have a high degree of shock absorbency as specified by the NGBs of those sports.

Location, Quantity, Quality

11.4 A total of seven inspection elements were devised by the consultants in order to inform a condition assessment, *good, satisfactory, poor*; they are:-



Whilst Appendix 2 presents the complete inspection report for each MUGA, summary points for each element help to create the overall picture.

Size

11.5 Size varies considerably, both in terms of dimensions and total area. In looking at size the question arises, '*What is the ideal size for a MUGA?*' Sport England's recommendation⁹⁰ is 36.6m x 21.35m for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA and 37m

⁹⁰ 'Design Guidance Note: Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport'; Sport England.

x 18.5m for a Type 4 or 5 MUGA. Of the Council's 14 MUGAs, only two achieve the footprint – 781m² – for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA, however, eleven match or exceed the length:width ratio of 1.7:1 for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA. Fields in Trust's recommendation for a MUGAs minimum size is 40m x 20m, that is, a footprint of 800m² and a length to width ratio of 2:1. Here's a summary of dimensions:-

MUGA	Dimension (metres)	Area m ²	L x W Ratio	Does MUGA meet Sport England m ² guidance for a Type 1, 2 or 3 MUGA
Blackhill	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Brocagh	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Caledon	37 x 20	740	1.8 : 1	No
Clogher	30 x 20	600	1.5 : 1	No
Donaghmore	38 x 20	760	1.9 : 1	No
Gortnalowry	20 x 12	240	1.7 : 1	No
Gortnasoor	30 x 14	420	2.1 : 1	No
Killymeron	18 x 10	180	1.8 : 1	No
Loup	15 x 12	180	1.3 : 1	No
Meadow View Park	22 x 15	330	1.5 : 1	No
Milltown	28 x 15	420	1.9 : 1	No
Moygashel	40 x 24	960	1.7 : 1	Yes
Ratheen	44 x 25	1,100	1.8 : 1	Yes
Upperlands	28 x 14	392	2.0 : 1	No

Access

- 11.6** With the exception of Gortnasoor, all of the MUGAs have open access, including those with surround fencing. At Gortnasoor the MUGA is within a larger play park facility which is fenced and the gate locked at night due to anti-social behaviour. During the winter months only those MUGAs with lighting in place – Brocagh and Meadow View Park are able to be used.

Fencing

- 11.7** MUGAs generally have surround fencing that is sturdy and high enough to contain ball play. Four MUGAs have high fencing that is topped off with netting to contain high balls. Six MUGAs have some fencing but not always on all four sides or only low level; the Moygashel MUGA, for example, is fenced on three sides whilst the Ratheen MUGA is surrounded only by a low wall with no fencing. The Clogher MUGA has low fencing at each end but none along the two sides. The MUGAs at Donaghmore and Gortnasoor have no fencing. A 'standard' height for MUGA fencing appears to be

between 3 to 4 metres to be effective in containing stray balls – six of the Council's MUGAs achieve this height as a minimum.

Surface

- 11.8** Twelve of the MUGAs have a tarmac/bitmac surface. Upperlands MUGA has a 3G synthetic surface and Loup MUGA has a sand filled AstroTurf synthetic surface. Sport England's Type 1 and 2 MUGAs have tarmac/bitmac surfaces whilst the Type 5 MUGA has an artificial grass surface, which Upperlands and Loup both have. None of the MUGAs have a polymeric/rubber crumb surface which is preferable to tarmac/bitmac.

Markings/Sports

- 11.9** Typically the MUGAs are marked to accommodate five-a-side association football and basketball. Most of the MUGAs have goals and basketball boards integrated into the fencing system. The two biggest MUGAs, at Ratheen and Moygashel are marked for seven-a-side/nine-a-side association football, with Moygashel also marked for tennis. Three of the MUGAs – Caledon, Donaghmore, Loup – have no markings but are equipped with basketball boards and integrated five-a-side goals. In some MUGAs the markings, painted on tarmac/bitmac, are somewhat faded.

Lighting

- 11.10** Lighting is absent in all but two MUGAs; Brocagh has floodlights which can be brought on by operating a meter attached to the fence; Meadow View Park's floodlights are on a timer system which is controlled by the Council's Parks staff. Lights were not tested during the inspection visits. A third MUGA, at Milltown in Dungannon has two streetlights located on one side, however, it's not known how effective they are in enabling use during the hours of darkness.

Issues/Hazards

- 11.11** MUGAs are designed to be safe for unsupervised use by individuals and small groups. High level steel mesh surround fencing reduces the risk of stray balls whilst the addition of roof netting removed the risk completely. However, some issues/hazards that risk compromising safety and the quality of users experience are noted:-
- ❖ Colouring of sports markings has faded in many examples. Whilst this is not a hazard, faded lines may reduce the appeal to potential users, eg, Ratheen.
 - ❖ Weed encroachment and/or moss growth is unsightly and may present a slip hazard in wet conditions, eg, Caledon.

- ❖ With some of the older MUGAs there is evidence of surface deterioration, perhaps posing a falling or tripping hazard, eg, Clogher.
- ❖ MUGAs are often used as gathering places for young people and for bonfire sites. The risk of anti-social behaviour and property damage is clear, eg, Gortnasoar, Moygashel.

Condition Assessment

11.12 In keeping with the Sport England non-technical assessment system for conventional pitches, the consultants have assessed each MUGA and classified condition, summarised as follows:-

Good	4 MUGA's
Satisfactory	7 MUGA's
Poor	3 MUGA's

The following table summarises the condition assessment.

MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

MUGA	Size (metres)	m ²	Access	Fencing	Surface	Markings	Lighting	Issues/Hazards	Condition Assessment
1. Blackhill	20 x 12	240	Open	Yes with net overhead	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	None	None	Good
2. Brocagh	18 x 10	180	Open	Yes with net overhead	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	Yes, meter	Ownership	Satisfactory
3. Caledon	37 x 20	740	Open	Partial	Shale/Tarmac	None, Basketball hoops	None	Moss, weeds	Poor
4. Clogher	30 x 20	600	Open	Low fencing at goal ends	Tarmac, light shale, uneven	5-a-side, (faded), Tennis, Basketball	None	No ball stop at main road	Poor
5. Donaghmore	38 x 20	760	Open	None	Tarmac, light shale	None, Basketball hoops	None	Glass on surface	Satisfactory
6. Gortnalowry	20 x 12	240	Open	Yes with net overhead	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	None	Uneven	Satisfactory
7. Gortnasoar	30 x 14	420	Locked (part of locked play park)	None (park area fenced)	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	None	Anti-social & under-age drinking	Poor
8. Killymeron	18 x 10	180	Open	Yes with net overhead	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	None	Bonfire, moss, uneven	Satisfactory
9. Loup	15 x 12	180	Open	Low fence	AstroTurf	No markings, goals & b'ball hoops	None	None	Good
10. Meadow View Park	22 x 15	330	Open	Surround high fence	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball, Tennis	Yes, timer controlled	None	Satisfactory
11. Milltown	28 x 15	420	Open	Low fence	Tarmac	5-a-side, Basketball	Streetlights x 2 on one side	None	Good
12. Moygashel	40 x 24	960	Open	3 sides only	Tarmac	Football, Tennis	None	Pallets on Basketball court	Satisfactory
13. Ratheen	44 x 25	1,100	Open	Small wall	Tarmac	Football, Basketball	None	Uneven sloping gradient	Satisfactory
14. Upperlands	28 x 14	392	Open	Fence	3G	5-a-side, Basketball	None		Good

Impact on Participation

11.13 A particular difficulty in assessing how the current stock of MUGA's impacts on the Council's aspiration to promote participation lies in the fact that there is no management information relating to their usage. This may be partly because their collective purpose appears to be a mix of play, recreational activity and sport; each MUGA may be viewed slightly differently depending on its design features and its location. The foregoing research and analysis informs a number of key observations relating to the MUGA's influence on participation.

- ❖ The design of the Council's MUGA's varies considerably. If it's necessary to identify each MUGA's key purpose (play or sport) then in accordance with Sport England guidance half belong to play, half to sport. For future developments it will be helpful to be clear about a MUGA's purpose and to design it accordingly. This would also assist with how a MUGA is marketed.
- ❖ Looking at Fields in Trust guidance there is a shortfall in provision. The scale of the shortfall suggests that many individuals and groups, regardless of where they live are not able to easily access a MUGA. It's noted that Fields in Trust guidance recommends a maximum walking distance from dwellings to the nearest MUGA of 700m.
- ❖ In communities where they are available, MUGA's clearly encourage participation in play and/or sport by individuals and groups. However, their 'catchment' is likely to be fairly limited, generally drawing users only from within walking distance. So gaps in provision will tend to constrain participation, especially if local alternatives are not available.

Report on	Funding offer from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2022-2023
Date of Meeting	16th February 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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 inform Council of a potential funding opportunity for the Environmental Health service area from the OPSS for 'The Capacity & Capability Building Programme in Northern Ireland: Non-Food Products 2022'. Funding is for the period 1 st July 2022 – 31 st March 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity, and growth. They are the overarching body for all aspects of Product Safety for which the Councils Environmental Health service has enforcement responsibility.
2.2	From 2018, OPSS, the national regulator for all consumer products, has worked with district councils in Northern Ireland to enable them to undertake market surveillance (sampling, complaint investigation etc.) and provide advice and support to local businesses regarding product safety responsibilities. This has included a grant funding arrangement either made directly to Council or through a Service Level Agreement with a lead Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In December 2022, the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) issued an offer of grant funding to each individual District Council up until the end of March 2023.
3.2	The purpose of the grant programme is to support District Councils in Northern Ireland to build capacity and capability to ensure the safety of consumers. It funds targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer products as part of the OPSS's approach to ensuring there is robust market surveillance across the UK.
3.3	<p>The funding may be used for a range of activity on non-food products, and includes work to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build on previous product safety capacity and capability building work. • ensure access to enforcement equipment and facilities • provide advice and support to local businesses to meet their obligations under product safety legislation for importing and appropriate labelling/marketing of goods • define work processes • develop officers' understanding of local supply chains and their associated risks • ensure adequate prioritisation of effort and resource against OPSS policy and national regulatory interests • ad hoc requests for case studies or other additional information.

3.4	There has been a delay in awarding OPSS grants for the current financial year, however, the grant funding agreement (offering a maximum amount of £55,000) can be used for eligible expenditure from the 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Appendix A). The funding for relevant activities undertaken during the financial year ending up to 31st March 2023, will be paid directly to Council.
3.5	It is expected that District Councils will report to the OPSS on delivery of the activities, through for example, the provision of information on inputs to relevant databases; engagement with businesses and outcomes; submission of records of activity; and review meetings at the end of the grant funding year.
3.6	If accepted, the funding will be drawn down based on the resource allocated to complete the specified activities. This would include areas of work included with the Council's Consumer Protection 2022/2023 work-plan including a focus on ensuring that consumer goods produced and/or on sale in the District are safe and also to provide advice and guidance to manufacturers, distributors and retailer to comply with the relevant legislation and guidance. The funding is up to a maximum of £55,000 and will be utilised in the main to offset the salary associated with additional Environmental Health Officer time allocated to the Consumer Protection function during 2022/2023.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Up to a maximum of £55,000 in grant to be received by MUDC subject to eligible claim expenditure before deadline of 31 st March 2023
	Human: Officer time to undertake required activities.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: No impact
	Rural Needs Implications: No impact
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Council accepts the offer of funding from OPPS (up to a maximum of £55,000) in relation to activities undertaken in 2022/2023, and if accepted, that it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to sign and return the funding agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A - Grant funding agreement from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Office for Product Safety and Standards



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Fiona McClements
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Date: 13 December 2022

Dear Fiona

CAPACITY & CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND: NON-FOOD PRODUCTS — 2022/23

1. I am pleased to inform you that Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (referred to in this letter as **"We"/ "Us"/ "Our"**), offers Mid Ulster District Council (referred to in this letter as **"You"/ "Your"**) a grant (**"Grant"**) subject to Your agreement to, and compliance with, the terms and conditions set out in this agreement (the **"Grant Funding Agreement"**).

The Grant Funding Agreement includes and incorporates this letter along with the following documents:

ANNEX 1: The standard **Terms and Conditions**;
ANNEX 2: The description of the **Funded Activities**;
ANNEX 3: The **Payments Schedule**;
ANNEX 4: Your **Bank details**;
ANNEX 5: The **Eligible Expenditure**;
ANNEX 6: The **Grant Claim Form requirements**
ANNEX 7: The **Contact details**

2. The Grant is offered under s.274(a) of the Enterprise Act 2002.

Amount of Grant

3. The maximum amount of Grant offered is up to £55,000 (fifty thousand pounds) and is provided to Mid Ulster District Council for the project outlined in Annex 2. This is the total amount of Grant that We may pay, and this amount will not be increased because of any overspend. This will be paid in financial year ending on 31st March 2023.

Purpose of Grant

4. The Grant is offered to You to contribute to certain expenditure (see paragraph 5, **"Eligible Expenditure"**) where that expenditure is reasonably incurred by You in undertaking (**"the Funded Activities"**).
5. A description of the Funded Activities is set out in **Annex 2** to this letter.

Eligible Expenditure

6. Subject to paragraphs 7 and 8, the Eligible Expenditure is limited to the costs specified in **Annex 5** to this letter.
7. Under no circumstances may the Grant be claimed or used to cover any Ineligible Expenditure listed in paragraph 5.3 of **Annex 1** to this Grant Funding Agreement or to cover costs incurred for those purposes (and any such costs do not constitute Eligible Expenditure for the purposes of this Grant Funding Agreement). The Eligible Expenditure must be kept to the minimum for the efficient conduct of the Funded Activities, and expenditure that We reasonably determine to be in excess of that amount does not constitute Eligible Expenditure.

Funding Period

8. The Eligible Expenditure for which the Grant is awarded is expenditure limited to costs which are incurred between **1st July 2022** and **31st March 2023**.

Payment of Grant

9. The Grant will be paid in arrears, on a reimbursement basis upon receipt from You of an invoice in the form set out in **Annex 6** to this Grant Funding Agreement.

Accountable Officer

- 10.1 You must appoint a person (the “**Accountable Officer**”) responsible for ensuring that You use the Grant in compliance with the Grant Funding Agreement and notify Us of the identity of the Accountable Officer.
- 10.2 The Accountable Officer must maintain oversight of Your use of the Grant and:
 - a) safeguard, control and ensure the efficient, economical and effective management of the Grant;
 - b) advise You on the discharge of Your responsibilities under the Agreement and under any subsequent terms and conditions agreed by You and Us, or any guidance or other information notified by Us;
 - c) ensure that principles of probity, robust governance, transparency and value for money are maintained at all times in relation to the Grant;
 - d) be responsible for signing the accounts relating to the Grant, ensuring that they are properly prepared and presented and that proper accounting records are maintained in a form that complies with generally accepted accounting practices to which You are subject; and
 - e) ensure that conflicts of interest are avoided.

Grant Claims

11. Your Grant claim[s] must include the following:
 - a) the information and evidence required for the relevant instalment in Condition 4 in **Annex 1**; and

- b) accompanying that information and evidence, the appropriate assurance required by Condition 7 in **Annex 1**.

Reasonable assurance report

Not required.

Conditions Precedent

- 12. The offer of Grant is conditional on You providing Us with the following:
 - a) the completed and signed form in **Annex 4** confirming Your bank details and the details of Your signatories.
 - b) evidence showing that an Accountable Officer has been appointed.
- 13. You must ensure that We receive the information and evidence required above within one month of the date of this Grant Funding Agreement. Should You fail to do so, or should We reasonably conclude that the information and evidence provided prior to that deadline is unsatisfactory, We shall be entitled to withdraw the Grant (and any Grant already paid by then will be repayable with interest).

Assets

Not applicable

Warranties

- 14. By signing this Grant Funding Agreement, you warrant and represent that:
 - a) Your obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement are legal, valid, binding and enforceable;
 - b) all authorisations and consents necessary to enable You to enter into and perform the obligations in the Grant Funding Agreement have been obtained; and
 - c) the person signing this Grant Funding Agreement is duly authorised to sign on your behalf.
- 15. Nothing in the Grant Funding Agreement or the provision of Grant gives or is intended to give rise to contractual relations.

Notices and contact

- 16. In communicating with Us, Your contact within the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is Debra Macleod (debra.macleod@BEIS.gov.uk)

Acceptance

- 17. If You wish to accept this offer, You must sign and date the duplicate copy of this Grant Funding Agreement as indicated below and return one signed copy to Us. It must be signed by someone who is authorised to sign on behalf of your organisation. Please provide evidence of their

authority to sign and bind your organisation. Please also provide a day-to-day contact name and email address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'A'.

Sarah Smith
Deputy Chief Executive
Office for Product Safety & Standards

Agreement

I confirm, for and on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council, the agreement of Mid Ulster District Council to the terms and conditions set out or referred to in this Grant Funding Agreement.

Signed:

Printed Name:

Position:

Date:

Day to day contact for the Grant:

Name:

Position:

Email address:

Accountable Officer for the Grant:

Name:

Email address:

ANNEX 1

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These are the conditions collectively (“the Conditions”) which apply to the Grant Recipient receiving the Grant from the Authority up to the Maximum Sum.
- 1.2 The parties confirm that it is their intention to be legally bound by this Grant Funding Agreement. Nothing in the Agreement or the provision of Grant gives or is intended to give rise to contractual relations.
- 1.3 The Authority makes this Grant to the Grant Recipient to build capacity and capability to ensure there is a robust consumer product and construction product safety system UK-wide. The criteria and deliverables requested are set out in **Annex 2**.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Where they appear in these Conditions:

Annex means the annexes attached to these Conditions which form part of the Grant Funding Agreement;

Asset means any assets that are to be purchased or developed using the Grant including equipment or any other assets which may be a Fixed Asset or Major Asset as appropriate in the relevant context, and **Assets** will be construed accordingly;

Asset Owning Period means the period during which the Assets are recorded as Assets in the Grant Recipient’s accounts;

Authority means the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;

Authority Personal Data means any Personal Data supplied for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Grant Funding Agreement by the Authority to the Grant Recipient;

Bribery Act means the Bribery Act 2010 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning this legislation;

Code of Conduct means the Code of Conduct for Recipients of Government General Grants published by the Cabinet Office in November 2018 which is available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754555/2018-11-06_Code_of_Conduct_for_Grant_Recipients.pdf, including any subsequent updates from time to time;

Commencement Date means the date on which the Grant Funding Agreement comes into effect, being the **1st July 2022**.

Confidential Information means any information (however conveyed, recorded or preserved) disclosed by a Party or its personnel to another Party (and/or that Party’s personnel) whether before or after the date of the Grant Funding Agreement, including but not limited to:

- (a) any information that ought reasonably to be considered to be confidential (whether or not it is so marked) relating to:
 - (i) the business, affairs, customers, clients, suppliers or plans of the disclosing Party; and

- (ii) the operations, processes, product information, know-how, designs, trade secrets or software of the disclosing Party; and
- (b) any information developed by the Parties in the course of delivering the Funded Activities;
- (c) the Authority Personal Data;
- (d) any information derived from any of the above.

Confidential Information shall not include information which:

- (a) was public knowledge at the time of disclosure (otherwise than by breach of paragraph 10 of these Conditions;
- (b) was in the possession of the receiving Party, without restriction as to its disclosure, before receiving it from the disclosing Party;
- (c) is received from a Third Party (who lawfully acquired it) without restriction as to its disclosure; or
- (d) is independently developed without access to the Confidential Information.

Contracting Authority means any contracting authority (other than the Authority) as defined in regulation 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended);

Controller and Processor take the meaning given in the UK GDPR;

Change of Control means the sale of all or substantially all the assets of a Party; any merger, consolidation or acquisition of a Party with, by or into another corporation, entity or person, or any change in the ownership of more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting capital stock of a Party in one or more related transaction;

Crown Body means the government of the United Kingdom (including the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales), including, but not limited to, government ministers and government departments and particular bodies, persons, commissions or agencies from time to time carrying out functions on its behalf;

Data Protection Legislation means (i) the UK GDPR, and any applicable implementing Law as amended from time to time; (ii) the Data Protection Act 2018 to the extent that it relates to the processing of Personal Data and privacy; and (iii) all applicable Law relating to the processing of Personal Data and privacy;

Disposal means the disposal, sale, transfer of an Asset or any interest in any Asset and includes any contract for disposal;

Domestic Law means an applicable law, statute, bye-law, regulation, order, regulatory policy, guidance or industry code, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body, delegated or subordinate legislation which replaces EU law as a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union;

Domestic Successor means, as the context requires, either:

- (a) a body that takes over the functions of the European Commission in the United Kingdom on the date it withdraws from the European Union; or
- (b) the relevant court in the United Kingdom which takes over the functions of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the date the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union;

Duplicate Funding means funding provided by a Third Party to the Grant Recipient, which is for the same purpose for which the Grant was made, but has not been declared to the Authority;

Eligibility Criteria mean the Authority's selection criteria used to determine who should be grant recipients including the Grant Recipient;

Eligible Expenditure means the expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient during the Funding Period for the purposes of delivering the Funded Activities which comply in all respects with the eligibility rules set out in paragraph 5 of these Conditions;

EIR means the Environmental Information Regulations 2004;

Event of Default means an event or circumstance set out in paragraph 24.1;

Financial Year means from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023;

Fixed Assets means any Asset which consists of land, buildings, plant and equipment acquired, developed, enhanced, constructed in connection with the Funded Activities;

FOIA means the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning the legislation;

Funded Activities means the activities set out in **Annex 2**;

Funding Period means the period for which the Grant is awarded starting on the **1st July 2022** and ending on **31st March 2023**.

UK General Data Protection Regulation and **UK GDPR** means the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018;

Grant means the sum or sums the Authority will pay to the Grant Recipient in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement including but not limited to paragraph 4 of the Conditions and subject to the provisions set out at paragraph 24;

Grant Claim means the payment request invoice or documentation accompanying the invoice submitted by the Grant Recipient to the Authority for payment of the Grant in form specified by **Annex 6**;

Grant Funding Agreement means the Grant Funding Letter together with its Annexes, including but not limited to this **Annex 1**;

Grant Funding Letter means the letter the Authority issued to the Grant Recipient dated **13 December 2022**.

Grant Manager means the individual who has been nominated by the Authority to be the single point of contact for the Grant Recipient in relation to the Grant

HRA means the Human Rights Act 1998 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning the legislation;

Ineligible Expenditure means expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient which is not Eligible Expenditure and as set out in paragraph 5 of these Conditions;

Information Acts means the Data Protection Legislation, FOIA and the EIR, as amended from time to time;

Intellectual Property Rights or **IPRs** means copyright, rights related to or affording protection similar to copyright, rights in databases, patents and rights in inventions semi-conductor topography rights, trade marks, rights in internet domain names and website addresses and other rights in trade names, designs, know-how, trade secrets and any modifications, amendments, updates and new releases of the same and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world;

IPR Material means all material produced by the Grant Recipient or its Representatives in relation to the Funded Activities during the Funding Period (including but not limited to, materials expressed in any form of report, database, design, document, technology, information, know how, system or process);

Instalment Period means the intervals set out in **Annex 3** when the Authority will release payment of the Grant to the Grant Recipient during the Funding Period;

Joint Controllers means where two or more Controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing;

Law means any applicable law, statute, byelaw, regulation, order, regulatory policy, guidance or industry code, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body, delegated or subordinate legislation;

Losses means all losses, liabilities, damages, costs, expenses (including legal fees), disbursements, costs of investigation, litigation, settlement, judgment, interest and penalties whether arising in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty, misrepresentation or otherwise and **Loss** will be interpreted accordingly;

Match Funding means any contribution to the Funded Activities from a Third Party to the Grant Recipient to meet the balance of the Eligible Expenditure not supported by the Grant;

Maximum Sum means the maximum amount of the Grant the Authority will provide to the Grant Recipient for the Funded Activities subject to paragraph 24;

Party means the Authority or Grant Recipient and **Parties** shall be each Party together;

Personal Data has the meaning given to it in the Data Protection Legislation as amended from time to time;

Procurement Regulations means the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Concession Contracts Regulations 2016, Defence Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 and the Utilities and Contracts Regulations 2016 together with their amendments, updates and replacements from time to time;

Prohibited Act means:

- (a) directly or indirectly offering, giving or agreeing to give to any servant of the Authority or the Crown any gift or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for:
 - (i) doing or not doing (or for having done or not having done) any act in relation to the obtaining or performance of the Funding Agreement; or
 - (ii) showing or not showing favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Funding Agreement.
- (b) committing any offence:
 - (i) under the Bribery Act;
 - (ii) under legislation creating offences in respect of fraudulent acts; or
 - (iii) at common law in respect of fraudulent acts in relation to the Funding Agreement; or
- (c) defrauding or attempting to defraud or conspiring to defraud the Authority or the Crown;

Publication means any announcement, comment or publication of any publicity material by the Grant Recipient concerning the Funded Activities or the Authority;

Remedial Action Plan means the plan of action submitted by the Grant Recipient to the Authority following an Event of Default pursuant to the Rectification Plan process set out in paragraphs 24.4

Representatives means any of the Parties' duly authorised directors, employees, officers, agents, professional advisors and consultants;

Special Payments means ex gratia expenditure **by the Grant Recipient to a third party** where no legal obligations exists for the payment and/or other extra-contractual expenditure. Special Payments may include, but is not limited to, out-of-court settlements, compensation or additional severance payments to the Grant Recipient's employees;

Third Party means any person or organisation other than the Grant Recipient or the Authority;

Unspent Monies means any monies paid to the Grant Recipient in advance of its Eligible Expenditure, which remains unspent and uncommitted at the end of the Financial Year, the Funding Period or because of termination or breach of these Conditions;

VAT means value added tax chargeable in the UK;

Working Day means any day from Monday to Friday (inclusive) which is not specified or proclaimed as a bank holiday in England and Wales pursuant to section 1 of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 including Christmas Day and Good Friday.

2.2 In these Conditions, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (2) reference to a gender includes the other gender and the neuter;

- (3) references to a person include an individual, company, body corporate, corporation, unincorporated association, firm, partnership or other legal entity or Crown Body;
- (4) a reference to any Law includes a reference to that Law as amended, extended, consolidated or re-enacted from time to time;
- (5) the words "including", "other", "in particular", "for example" and similar words will not limit the generality of the preceding words and will be construed as if they were immediately followed by the words "without limitation";
- (6) references to "writing" include typing, printing, lithography, photography, display on a screen, electronic and facsimile transmission and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, and expressions referring to writing will be construed accordingly;
- (7) references to "representations" will be construed as references to present facts, to "warranties" as references to present and future facts and to "undertakings" as references to obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement;
- (8) references to "paragraphs" and "Annexes" are, unless otherwise provided, references to the paragraphs and annexes of these Conditions and references in any Annex to parts, paragraphs and tables are, unless otherwise provided, references to the parts, paragraphs and tables of the Annex in which these references appear; and
- (9) the headings in these Conditions are for ease of reference only and will not affect the interpretation or construction of these Conditions.

2.3 Where there is any conflict between the documents that make up this Grant Funding Agreement the conflict shall be resolved in accordance with the following order of precedence:

- 2.3.1 The Grant Funding Letter;
- 2.3.2 The Annexes to the Grant Funding Letter except Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions); and
- 2.3.3 Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions).

CONDITIONS

3. DURATION AND PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

- 3.1 The Funding Period starts on 1st July 2022 (the **Commencement Date**) and ends on 31st March 2023 unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Grant Funding Agreement.
- 3.2 The Grant Recipient will ensure that the Funded Activities start on 1st April 2022 but where this has not been possible, that they start no later than one month after the Commencement Date.
- 3.3 The Grant Recipient shall use the Grant solely for the delivery of the Funded Activities. The Grant Recipient may not make any changes to the Funded Activities.
- 3.4 If the Authority wants to make a change to the Funded Activities (including for example reducing the Grant or removing some of the Funded Activities from the Grant) it may do so on one month's written notice to the Grant Recipient.

4. PAYMENT OF GRANT

- 4.1 Subject to the remainder of this paragraph, the Authority shall pay the Grant Recipient an amount not exceeding £55,000 (fifty-five thousand pounds). The Authority shall pay the Grant in pound sterling (GBP) and into a bank located in the UK.
- 4.2 The Grant Recipient must complete and sign the Confirmation of Bank Details and Signatories (**Annex 4**) as part of their acceptance of the Grant. No payment can be made in advance of receipt of a correctly completed and signed form.
- 4.3 The signatory must be the chief finance officer or someone with proper delegated authority. Any change of bank details must be notified immediately on the same form and signed by an approved signatory. Any change of signatory must be notified to the Authority for approval, as soon as known.
- 4.4 The Grant represents the Maximum Sum the Authority will pay to the Grant Recipient under the Funding Agreement. The Maximum Sum will not be increased in the event of any overspend by the Grant Recipient in its delivery of the Funded Activities
- 4.5 The Authority will only pay the Grant to the Grant Recipient in respect of Eligible Expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient to deliver the Funded Activities. The Authority will not pay the Grant until it is satisfied that the Grant Recipient has paid for the Funded Activities in full and the Funded Activities have been delivered during the Funding Period.
- 4.6 The Grant Recipient will provide the Authority with evidence of the costs/payments, which are classified as Eligible Expenditure in paragraph 5.2 which may include (but will not be limited to) receipts and invoices or any other documentary evidence specified by the Authority.
- 4.7 The Grant Recipient shall declare to the Authority any Match Funding which been approved or received, before the Commencement Date. If the Grant Recipient intends to apply for, is offered or receives any further Match Funding during the Funding Period, the Grant Recipient shall notify the Authority before accepting or using any such Match Funding. On notifying the Authority of the Match Funding the Grant Recipient shall confirm the amount, purpose and source of the Match Funding and the Authority shall confirm whether it is agreeable to the Grant Recipient accepting the Match Funding. If the Authority does not agree to the use of Match Funding the Authority shall be entitled to terminate the Grant Funding Agreement in accordance with paragraph 24.1.9 and where applicable, require all or part of the Grant to be repaid.
- 4.8 Where the use of Match Funding is permitted the Grant Recipient shall set out any Match Funding it receives in the format required by Annex 2 and send that to the Authority. This is so the Authority knows the total funding the Grant Recipient has received for the Funded Activities.
- 4.9 The Grant Recipient agrees that:
 - 4.9.1 it will not apply for, or obtain, Duplicate Funding in respect of any part of the Funded Activities which have been paid for in full using the Grant;
 - 4.9.2 the Authority may refer the Grant Recipient to the police should it dishonestly and intentionally obtain Duplicate Funding for the Funded Activities;

4.9.3 The Authority will not make the first payment of the Grant and/or any subsequent payments of the Grant unless or until, the Authority is satisfied that:

- (i) the Grant will be used for Eligible Expenditure only; and
- (ii) if applicable, any previous Grant payments have been used for the Funded Activities or, where there are Unspent Monies, have been repaid to the Authority.

4.10 The Grant Recipient shall submit by the **31st May 2023** the Grant Claim together with a copy of Annex 5 of these Conditions (Eligible Expenditure) and any other documentation as prescribed by the Authority, from time to time.

4.11 Unless otherwise stated in these Conditions, payment of the Grant will be made within 30 days of the Authority approving the Grant Recipient's Grant Claim.

4.12 The Authority will have no liability to the Grant Recipient for any Losses caused by a delay in the payment of a Grant Claim howsoever arising.

4.13 The Authority reserves the right not to pay any Grant Claims, which are not submitted within the period set out in paragraph 4.10 or Grant Claims, which are incomplete, incorrect or submitted without the full supporting documentation.

4.14 The Grant Recipient shall promptly notify and repay immediately to the Authority any money incorrectly paid to it either as a result of an administrative error or otherwise. This includes (without limitation) situations where the Grant Recipient is paid in error before it has complied with its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement. Any sum, which falls due under this paragraph 4.14, shall fall due immediately. If the Grant Recipient fails to repay the due sum immediately the sum will be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

4.15 The Grant will be paid into a bank account in the name of the Grant Recipient which must be an ordinary business bank account. All cheques from the bank account must be signed by at least two individual Representatives of the Grant Recipient.

4.16 Where the Grant Recipient enters into a contract with a Third Party in connection with the Funded Activities, the Grant Recipient will remain responsible for paying that Third Party. The Authority has no responsibility for paying Third Party invoices.

4.17 Onward payment of the Grant and the use of sub-contractors shall not relieve the Grant Recipient of any of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, including any obligation to repay the Grant.

4.18 The Grant Recipient may not retain any Unspent Monies without the Authority's prior written permission.

4.19 If at the end of the relevant Financial Year there are Unspent Monies, the Grant Recipient shall repay such Unspent Monies to the Authority no later than 30 days of the Authority's request for repayment.

5. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

5.1 The Authority will only pay the Grant in respect of Eligible Expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient to deliver the Funded Activities and the Grant Recipient will use the Grant solely for delivery of the Funded Activities (as set out in Annex 2 of these Conditions).

- 5.2 The following costs/payments will be classified as Eligible Expenditure if incurred for the purposes of the Funded Activities:
- 5.2.1 giving evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees;
 - 5.2.2 attending meetings with government ministers or civil servants to discuss the progress of a taxpayer funded grant scheme;
 - 5.2.3 responding to public consultations, where the topic is relevant to the objectives of the Funded Activities. To avoid doubt, Eligible Expenditure does not include the Grant Recipient spending the Grant on lobbying other people to respond to any such consultation (unless explicitly permitted in the Grant Funding Agreement);
 - 5.2.4 providing independent, evidence based policy recommendations to local government, departments or government ministers, where that is the objective of a taxpayer funded grant scheme, for example, 'What Works Centres'; and
 - 5.2.5 providing independent evidence based advice to local or national government as part of the general policy debate, where that is in line with the objectives of the Grant.
- 5.3 The Grant Recipient may not in any circumstances claim the following non-exhaustive list as Eligible Expenditure. The list below does not override activities which are deemed eligible in these Conditions:
- 5.3.1 Paid for lobbying, which means using the Grant to fund lobbying (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action;
 - 5.3.2 using the Grant to directly enable one part of government to challenge another on topics unrelated to the agreed purpose of the grant;
 - 5.3.3 using the Grant to petition for additional funding;
 - 5.3.4 expenses such as for entertaining, specifically aimed at exerting undue influence to change government policy;
 - 5.3.5 input VAT reclaimable by the grant recipient from HMRC;
 - 5.3.6 payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature;
- 5.4 Other examples of expenditure, which are prohibited, include the following:
- 5.4.1 contributions in kind;
 - 5.4.2 interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases;
 - 5.4.3 gifts;
 - 5.4.4 statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties civil penalties, damages or any associated legal costs;
 - 5.4.5 payments for works or activities which the grant recipient, or any member of their Partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources;

- 5.4.6 bad debts to related parties;
- 5.4.7 Payments for unfair dismissal or other compensation;
- 5.4.8 depreciation, amortisation or impairment of assets owned by the Grant Recipient;
- 5.4.9 the acquisition or improvement of Assets by the Grant Recipient (unless the Grant is explicitly for capital use – this will be stipulated in the Grant Funding Letter); and
- 5.4.10 liabilities incurred before the commencement of the Grant Funding Agreement unless agreed in writing by the Authority.

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 6.1 The Grant Recipient shall closely monitor the delivery and success of the Funded Activities throughout the Funding Period to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Funded Activities are achieved.
- 6.2 The Grant Recipient shall provide the Authority with all reasonable assistance and co-operation in relation to any ad-hoc information, explanations and documents as the Authority may require, from time to time, so the Authority may establish if the Grant Recipient has used the Grant in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 6.3 As a condition of the grant funding, the Authority will have an annual review meeting with the recipient, which will include a review of outcomes delivered.
- 6.4 The Grant Recipient will provide a quarterly report as specified in Annex 2 – the Funded Activities
- 6.5 The Grant Recipient will permit any person authorised by the Authority reasonable access, with or without notice, to its employees, agents, premises, facilities and records, for the purpose of discussing, monitoring and evaluating the Grant Recipient's fulfilment of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement and will, if so required, provide appropriate oral or written explanations to such authorised persons as required during the Funding Period.
- 6.6 The Grant Recipient will record in its financial reports the amount of Match Funding it receives together with details of what it has used that Match Funding for.
- 6.7 The Grant Recipient will notify the Authority as soon as reasonably practicable of:
 - 6.7.1 any actual or potential failure to comply with any of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, which includes those caused by any administrative, financial or managerial difficulties; and
 - 6.7.2 actual or potential variations to the Eligible Expenditure set out in Annex 5 of these Conditions and/or any event which materially affects the continued accuracy of such information.
- 6.8 The Grant recipient represents and undertakes (and shall repeat such representations delivery of its report:
 - 6.8.1 that the reports and information it gives pursuant to this paragraph 6 are accurate;

- 6.8.2 that it has diligently made full and proper enquiry of the matter pertaining to the reports and information given; and
- 6.8.3 that any data it provided pursuant to an application for the Grant may be shared within the powers conferred by legislation with other organisations for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime.

7. AUDITING AND ASSURANCE

- 7.1 Not used
- 7.2 The Grant Recipient will produce quarterly assurance data to the Authority covering; irregular payments (e.g. error, fraud and non-compliance), prevented fraud and recoveries. A sample dashboard, or summary of the consolidated results could be shown to demonstrate how this Grant is monitored.
- 7.3 The Authority may, at any time during and up to one year after the end of the Grant Funding Agreement, conduct additional audits or ascertain additional information where the Authority considers it necessary. The Grant Recipient agrees to grant the Authority or its Representatives access, as required, to all Funded Activities sites and relevant records. The Grant Recipient will ensure that necessary information and access rights are explicitly included within all arrangements with sub-contractors.
- 7.4 If the Authority requires further information, explanations and documents, in order for the Authority to establish that the Grant has been used properly in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement, the Grant Recipient will, within 5 Working Days of a request by the Authority, provide the Authority, free of charge, with the requested information.
- 7.5 The Grant Recipient shall:
 - 7.5.1 identify separately the value and purpose of the Grant Funding in its audited accounts and its annual report; and
 - 7.5.2 maintain a record of internal financial controls and procedures and provide the Authority with a copy if requested.

Retention of documents

- 7.6 The Grant Recipient shall retain all invoices, receipts, accounting records and any other documentation (including but not limited to, correspondence) relating to the Eligible Expenditure; income generated by the Funded Activities during the Funding Period for a period of one year from the date on which the Funding Period ends.
- 7.7 The Grant Recipient shall ensure that all its sub-contractors retain each record, item of data and document relating to the Funded Activities for a period of one year -from the date on which the Funding Period ends.
- 7.8 The Grant Recipient will promptly provide revised forecasts of income and expenditure:
 - 7.8.1 when these forecasts increase or decrease by more than 5% of the original expenditure forecasts; and/or
 - 7.8.2 at the request of the Authority.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, FRAUD AND OTHER IRREGULARITY

- 8.1. The Grant Recipient will at all times comply with all applicable Laws, statutes and regulations relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption, including but not limited to the Bribery Act.
- 8.2. The Grant Recipient must have a sound administration and audit process, including internal financial controls to safeguard against fraud, theft, money laundering, counter terrorist financing or any other impropriety, or mismanagement in connection with the administration of the Grant. The Grant Recipient shall require that the internal/external auditors report on the adequacy or otherwise of that system.
- 8.3. All cases of fraud or theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the Funded Activities must be notified to the Authority as soon as they are identified. The Grant Recipient shall explain to the Authority what steps are being taken to investigate the irregularity and shall keep the Authority informed about the progress of any such investigation. The Authority may however request that the matter referred (which the Grant Recipient is obliged to carry out) to external auditors or other Third Party as required.
- 8.4. The Authority will have the right, at its absolute discretion, to insist that the Grant Recipient address any actual or suspected fraud, theft or other financial irregularity and/or to suspend future payment of the Grant to the Grant Recipient. Any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity includes what the Grant Recipient, acting with due care, should have suspected as well as what is actually proven.
- 8.5. The Grant Recipient agrees and accepts that it may become ineligible for Grant support and may be required to repay all or part of the Grant if it engages in tax evasion or aggressive tax avoidance in the opinion of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- 8.6. For the purposes of paragraph 8.4 "financial irregularity" includes (but is not limited to) potential fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of the Grant for any purpose other than those stipulated in the Grant Funding Agreement. The Grant Recipient may be required to provide statements and evidence to the Authority or the appropriate organisation as part of pursuing sanctions, criminal or civil proceedings.

9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 9.1. Neither the Grant Recipient nor its Representatives shall engage in any personal, business or professional activity which conflicts or could conflict with any of their obligations in relation to the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 9.2. The Grant Recipient must have and will keep in place adequate procedures to manage and monitor any actual or perceived bias or conflicts of interest.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 10.1. Except to the extent set out in this paragraph 10 or where disclosure is expressly permitted, the Grant Recipient shall treat all Confidential Information belonging to the Authority as confidential and shall not disclose any Confidential Information belonging to the Authority to any other person without the prior written consent of the Authority, except to such persons who are directly involved in the provision of the Funded Activities and who need to know the information.
- 10.2. The Grant Recipient gives its consent for the Authority to publish the Grant Funding Agreement in any medium in its entirety (but with any information which is Confidential Information

belonging to the Authority or the Grant Recipient redacted), including from time-to-time agreed changes to the Grant Funding Agreement.

10.3. Nothing in this paragraph 10 shall prevent the Authority disclosing any Confidential Information obtained from the Grant Recipient:

10.3.1. for the purpose of the examination and certification of the Authority's accounts; or pursuant to section 6(1) of the National Audit Act 1983 of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Authority has used its resources; or

10.3.2. to any government department, consultant, contractor or other person engaged by the Authority, provided that in disclosing information under the Authority only discloses the information which is necessary for the purpose concerned and requests that the information is treated in confidence and that a confidentiality undertaking is given where appropriate;

10.3.3. where disclosure is required by Law, including under the Information Acts.

10.4. Nothing in this paragraph 10 shall prevent either Party from using any techniques, ideas or know-how gained during the performance of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement in the course of its normal business, to the extent that this does not result in a disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information or an infringement of the other Party's Intellectual Property Rights.

11. TRANSPARENCY

11.1. The Authority and the Grant Recipient acknowledge that, except for any information, which is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the Information Acts, the content of the Grant Funding Agreement is not confidential.

12. STATUTORY DUTIES

12.1. The Grant Recipient agrees to adhere to its obligations under the Law including but not limited to the Information Acts and the HRA.

12.2. Where requested by the Authority, the Grant Recipient will provide reasonable assistance and cooperation to enable the Authority to comply with its information disclosure obligations under the Information Acts.

12.3. On request from the Authority, the Grant Recipient will provide the Authority with all such relevant documents and information relating to the Grant Recipient's data protection policies and procedures as the Authority may reasonably require.

12.4. The Grant Recipient acknowledges that the Authority, acting in accordance with the codes of practice issued and revised from time to time under the Information Acts, may disclose information concerning the Grant Recipient and the Grant Funding Agreement without consulting the Grant Recipient.

12.5. The Authority will take reasonable steps to notify the Grant Recipient of a request for information to the extent that it is permissible and reasonably practical for it to do so. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Grant Funding Agreement, the Authority will be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion whether any information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the Information Acts.

13. DATA PROTECTION AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Data Protection

- 13.1 The Grant Recipient and the Authority will comply at all times with its respective obligations under Data Protection Legislation.
- 13.2 The Parties agree to enter into a separate Memorandum of Understanding (annexed hereto at **Annex 8** in respect of the processing activities that the Grant Recipient and any further beneficiaries of the Grant will carry out.
- 13.3 To the extent that the Grant Recipient and the Authority share any Personal Data for the purposes of this Grant Funding Agreement, the Parties accept that they are each a separate independent Controller in respect of such Personal Data. Each Party:
- (i) shall comply with the applicable Data Protection Legislation in respect of their processing of such Personal Data
 - (ii) will be individually and separately responsible for its own compliance; and
 - (iii) do not and will not Process any Personal Data as Joint Controllers
- 13.4 Each Party shall, with respect to its processing of Personal Data as independent Controller, implement and maintain appropriate technical and organisation measures to ensure a level of security appropriate to that risk, including, as appropriate, the measures referred to in Article 32(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the UK GDPR, and the measures shall, at a minimum, comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Legislation, including Article 32 of the UK GDPR.

Public Procurement

- 13.5 The Grant Recipient will ensure that any of its Representatives involved in the Funded Activities will adopt such policies and procedures that are required in order to ensure that value for money has been obtained in the procurement of goods or services funded by the Grant.
- 13.6 Where the Grant Recipient is a Contracting Authority within the meaning of the Procurement Regulations the Grant Recipient will comply, as necessary, with the Procurement Regulations when procuring goods and services in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement and the Authority shall not be liable for the Grant Recipient's failure to comply with its obligations under the Procurement Regulations.

14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 14.1 Intellectual Property in all IPR Material will be the property of the Grant Recipient. Other than as expressly set out in these Conditions, neither Party will have any right to use any of the other Party's names, logos or trademarks on any of its products or services without the other Party's prior written consent.
- 14.2 The Grant Recipient grants to the Authority a non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free, sub-licensable, worldwide licence to use all the IPR Material for the purpose of supporting other projects.
- 14.3 Ownership of Third-Party software or other IPR necessary to deliver Funded Activities will remain with the relevant Third Party.
- 14.4 The Grant Recipient must ensure that they have obtained the relevant agreement from the Third-Party proprietor before any additions or variations are made to the standard 'off-the-shelf'

versions of any Third Party software and other IPR. The Grant Recipient will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining all appropriate licences to use the Third Party software.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- 15.1 The Grant Recipient shall perform the Funded Activities in accordance with the Authority's environmental policy, which is to conserve energy, water, wood, paper and other resources, reduce waste and phase out the use of ozone depleting substances and minimise the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds and other substances damaging to health and the environment.
- 15.2 The Grant Recipient shall pay due regard to the use of recycled products, so long as they are not detrimental to the provision of the Funded Activities or the environment, to include the use of all packaging, which should be capable of recovery for re-use or recycling.
- 15.3 The Grant Recipient shall take all possible precautions to ensure that any equipment and materials used in the provision of the Funded Activities do not contain chlorofluorocarbons, halons or any other damaging substances, unless unavoidable, in which case the Authority shall be notified in advance of their use. The Grant Recipient shall endeavour to reduce fuel emissions wherever possible.

16. ASSETS

Not applicable.

17. INSURANCE

- 17.1 The Grant Recipient will during the term of the Funding Period and for three years after termination or expiry of these Conditions, ensure that it has and maintains, at all times adequate insurance with an insurer of good repute to cover claims under the Grant Funding Agreement or any other claims or demands which may be brought or made against it by any person suffering any injury damage or loss in connection with the Funded Activities or the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 17.2 The Grant Recipient will upon request produce to the Authority its policy or policies of insurance or where this is not possible, a certificate of insurance issued by the Grant Recipient's insurance brokers confirming the insurances are in full force and effect together with confirmation that the relevant premiums have been paid.

18. ASSIGNMENT

- 18.1 The Grant Recipient will not transfer, assign, novate or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of the Grant Funding Agreement or any rights under it, to another organisation or individual, without the Authority's prior approval.
- 18.2 Any approval given by the Authority will be subject to a condition that the Grant Recipient has first entered into a Grant Funding Agreement, authorised by the Authority, requiring the Grant Recipient to work with another organisation in delivering the Funded Activities.

19. SPENDING CONTROLS – MARKETING, ADVERTISING, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTANCY

- 19.1 The Grant Recipient must seek permission from the Authority prior to any proposed expenditure on advertising, communications, consultancy or marketing either in connection with, or using the Grant.
- 19.2 The Grant Recipient should provide evidence that any marketing, advertising, communications and consultancy expenditure carried out in connection with, or using the Grant will deliver measurable outcomes that meet government objective to secure value for money.

20. LOSSES, GIFTS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

- 20.1 The Grant Recipient must obtain prior written consent from the Authority before:
- 20.1.1 writing off any debts or liabilities.
 - 20.1.2 offering to make any Special Payments; and
 - 20.1.3 giving any gifts.
- in connection with this Grant Funding Agreement.
- 20.2 The Grant Recipient will keep a record of all gifts, both given and received, in connection with the Grant or any Funded Activities.

21. BORROWING

- 21.1 The Grant Recipient must obtain prior written consent from the Authority before:
- 21.1.1 borrowing or lending money from any source in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement; and
 - 21.1.2 giving any guarantee, indemnities or letters of comfort that relate to the Grant Funding Agreement or have any impact on the Grant Recipient's ability to deliver the Funded Activities set out in the Grant Funding Agreement.

22. PUBLICITY

- 22.1 The Grant Recipient gives consents to the Authority to publicise in the press or any other medium the Grant and details of the Funded Activities using any information gathered from the Grant Recipient's initial Grant application or any monitoring reports submitted to the Authority in accordance with paragraph 6.2 of these Conditions.
- 22.2 The Grant Recipient will comply with all reasonable requests from the Authority to facilitate visits, provide reports, statistics, photographs and case studies that will assist the Authority in its promotional and fundraising activities relating to the Funded Activities.

23. CHANGES TO THE AUTHORITY'S REQUIREMENTS

- 23.1 The Authority will notify the Grant Recipient of any changes to their activities, which are supported by the Grant.
- 23.2 The Grant Recipient will accommodate any changes to the Authority's needs and requirements under these Conditions.

24. CLAWBACK, EVENTS OF DEFAULT, TERMINATION AND RIGHTS RESERVED FOR BREACH AND TERMINATION

Events of Default

- 24.1 The Authority may exercise its rights set out in paragraph 24.2 if any of the following events occur:
- 24.1.1 the Grant Recipient uses the Grant for a purpose other than the Funded Activities;
 - 24.1.2 the Grant Recipient fails to comply with its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, which is material in the opinion of the Authority.
 - 24.1.3 where delivery of the Funded Activities does not start within three months of the Commencement Date and the Grant Recipient fails to provide the Authority with a satisfactory explanation for the delay, or failed to agree a new date on which the Funded Activities shall start with the Authority;
 - 24.1.4 the Grant Recipient uses the Grant for Ineligible Expenditure.
 - 24.1.5 the Grant Recipient fails, in the Authority's opinion, to make satisfactory progress with the Funded Activities and, with meeting the Agreed Outputs set out in Annex 2 of these Conditions.
 - 24.1.6 the Grant Recipient fails to:
 - (i) submit an adequate Remedial Action Plan to the Authority following a request by the Authority pursuant to paragraph 24.3.4, or
 - (ii) improve delivery of the Funded Activities in accordance with the Remedial Action Plan approved by the Authority.
 - 24.1.7 the Grant Recipient is, in the opinion of the Authority, delivering the Funded Activities in a negligent manner (in this context negligence includes but is not limited to failing to prevent or report actual or anticipated fraud or corruption).
 - 24.1.8 the Grant Recipient fails to declare Duplicate Funding.
 - 24.1.9 the Grant Recipient fails to declare any Match Funding in accordance with paragraph 4.7;
 - 24.1.10 the Grant Recipient receives funding from a Third Party which, in the opinion of the Authority, undertakes activities that are likely to bring the reputation of the Funded Activities or the Authority into disrepute.
 - 24.1.11 the Grant Recipient provides the Authority with any materially misleading or inaccurate information and/or any of the information provided in their grant application or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be incorrect or incomplete to an extent which the Authority considers to be significant.
 - 24.1.12 the Grant Recipient commits or has committed a Prohibited Act or fails to report a Prohibited Act to the Authority, whether committed by the Grant Recipient, its Representatives or a Third Party, as soon as they become aware of it;

- 24.1.13 the Authority determines (acting reasonably) that the Grant Recipient or any of its Representatives has:
- (i) acted dishonestly or negligently at any time during the term of the Grant Funding Agreement and to the detriment of the Authority; or
 - (ii) taken any actions which unfairly bring or are likely to unfairly bring the Authority's name or reputation and/or the Authority into disrepute. Actions include omissions in this context.
 - (iii) transferred, assigns or novates the Grant to any Third Party without the Authority's consent.
 - (iv) failed to act in accordance with the Law; howsoever arising, including incurring expenditure on unlawful activities.
- 24.1.14 the Grant Recipient ceases to operate for any reason, or it passes a resolution (or any court of competent jurisdiction makes an order) that it be wound up or dissolved (other than for the purpose of a bona fide and solvent reconstruction or amalgamation).
- 24.1.15 the Grant Recipient becomes insolvent as defined by section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or it is declared bankrupt, or it is placed into receivership, administration or liquidation, or a petition has been presented for its winding up, or it enters into any arrangement or composition for the benefit of its creditors, or it is unable to pay its debts as they fall due.
- 24.1.16 The Grant Recipient breaches the Code of Conduct and/or fails to report an actual or suspected breach of the Code of Conduct by the Grant Recipient or its Representatives in accordance with paragraph 29.2.
- 24.1.17 The Grant Recipient undergoes a Change of Control which the Authority, acting reasonably, considers:
- (i) will be materially detrimental to the Funded Activities and/or.
 - (ii) the new body corporate cannot continue to receive the Grant because they do not meet the Eligibility Criteria used to award the Grant to the Grant Recipient.
 - (iii) the Authority believes that the Change of Control would raise national security concerns and/or.
 - (iv) the new body corporate intends to make fundamental change(s) to the purpose for which the Grant was given.

24.2 Where, the Authority determines that an Event of Default has or may have occurred, the Authority shall notify the Grant Recipient to that effect in writing, setting out any relevant details, of the failure to comply with these Conditions or pertaining the Event of Default, and details of any action that the Authority intends to take or has taken.

Rights reserved for the Authority in relation to an Event of Default

- 24.3 Where, the Authority determines that an Event of Default has or may have occurred, the Authority shall take any one or more of the following actions:
- 24.3.1 suspend or terminate the payment of all or part of the Grant for such period as the Authority shall determine; and/or
 - 24.3.2 reduce the Maximum Sum in which case the payment of Grant shall thereafter be made in accordance with the reduction and notified to the Grant Recipient; and/or
 - 24.3.3 require the Grant Recipient to repay the Authority the whole or any part of the amount of Grant previously paid to the Grant Recipient. Such sums shall be recovered as a civil debt; and/or
 - 24.3.4 give the Grant Recipient an opportunity to remedy the Event of Default (if remediable) in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 24.4 and/or
 - 24.3.5 terminate the Grant Funding Agreement.

Opportunity for the Grant Recipient to remedy an Event of Default

- 24.4 Where the Grant Recipient is provided with an opportunity to submit a draft Remedial Action Plan in accordance with paragraph 24.3.4, the draft Remedial Action Plan shall be submitted to the Authority for approval, within 5 Working Days of the Grant Recipient receiving notice from the Authority.
- 24.5 The draft Remedial Action Plan shall set out:
- 24.5.1 full details of the Event of Default; and
 - 24.5.2 the steps which the Grant Recipient proposes to take to rectify the Event of Default including timescales.
- 24.6 On receipt of the draft Remedial Action Plan and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Authority will submit its comments on the draft Remedial Action Plan to the Grant Recipient.
- 24.7 The Authority shall have the right to accept or reject the draft Remedial Action Plan. If the Authority rejects the draft Remedial Action Plan, the Authority shall confirm, in writing, the reasons why they have rejected the draft Remedial Action Plan and will confirm whether the Grant Recipient is required to submit an amended Remedial Action Plan to the Authority.
- 24.8 If the Authority directs the Grant Recipient to submit an amended draft Remedial Action Plan, the Parties shall agree a timescale for the Grant Recipient to amend the draft Remedial Action Plan to take into account the Authority's comments.
- 24.9 If the Authority does not approve the draft Remedial Action Plan the Authority may, at its absolute discretion, terminate the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 24.10 The Authority shall not by reason of the occurrence of an Event of Default which is, in the opinion of the Authority, capable of remedy, exercise its rights under either paragraph 24.3.3 or 24.3.4 unless the Grant Recipient has failed to rectify the default to the reasonable satisfaction of the Authority.

General Termination rights – Termination for Convenience

- 24.11 Notwithstanding the Authority's right to terminate the Grant Funding Agreement pursuant to paragraph 24.3.4 above, either Party may terminate the Grant Funding Agreement at any time by giving at least three months written notice to the other Party.
- 24.12 If applicable, all Unspent Monies (other than those irrevocably committed in good faith before the date of termination, in line with the Grant Funding Agreement and approved by the Authority as being required to finalise the Funded Activities) shall be returned to the Authority within 30 days of the date of receipt of a written notice of termination from the Authority.
- 24.13 If the Authority terminates the Grant Funding Agreement in accordance with paragraph 24.11 the Authority may choose to pay the Grant Recipient's reasonable costs in respect of the delivery of the Funded Activities performed up to the termination date. Reasonable costs will be identified by the Grant Recipient and will be subject to the Grant Recipient demonstrating that they have taken adequate steps to mitigate their costs. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of reasonable costs payable will be determined solely by the Authority.
- 24.14 The Authority will not be liable to pay any of the Grant Recipient's costs or those of any contractor/supplier of the Grant Recipient related to any transfer or termination of employment of any employees engaged in the provision of the Funded Activities.
- 24.15 Nothing in the Grant Funding Agreement will affect any provision which is expressly or by implication intended to apply or continue to apply for any reason following termination of this Agreement.

Change of Control

- 24.16 The Grant Recipient shall notify the Authority immediately in writing and as soon as the Grant Recipient is aware (or ought reasonably to be aware) that it is anticipating, undergoing, undergoes or has undergone a Change of Control, provided such notification does not contravene any Law.
- 24.17 The Grant Recipient shall ensure that any notification made pursuant to paragraph 24.16 shall set out full details of the Change of Control including the circumstances suggesting and/or explaining the Change of Control.
- 24.18 Where the Grant Recipient has been awarded to a consortium and the Grant Recipient has entered into a collaboration agreement, the notification required under paragraph 24.16 shall include any changes to the consortium members as well as the lead Grant Recipient.
- 24.19 Following notification of a Change of Control the Authority shall be entitled to exercise its rights under paragraph 24.1 of these Conditions by providing the Grant Recipient with notification of its proposed action in writing within three months of:
- (i) being notified in writing that a Change of Control is anticipated or is in contemplation or has occurred; or
 - (ii) where no notification has been made, the date that the Authority becomes aware that a Change of Control is anticipated or is in contemplation or has occurred,
- 24.20 The Authority shall not be entitled to terminate where an approval was granted prior to the Change of Control.

25. EXIT PLAN

- 25.1 Where the Authority requires the Grant Recipient to prepare an Exit Plan to allow the cessation or seamless transfer of the Funded Activities, the Grant Recipient shall prepare the Exit Plan within three months of the signing of the Grant Funding Agreement.

26. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 26.1 The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to negotiate in good faith, and settle amicably, any dispute that arises during the continuance of the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 26.2 All disputes and complaints (except for those which relate to the Authority's right to withhold funds or terminates the Grant Funding Agreement) shall be referred in the first instance to the Parties Representatives.
- 26.3 If the dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties Representatives within a maximum of 30 days, then the matter will be escalated to formal meeting between the Grant Manager and the Grant Recipient's chief executive (or equivalent).

27. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 27.1 The Authority accepts no liability for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, that may come about from the Grant Recipient delivering/running the Funded Activities, the use of the Grant or from withdrawal, withholding or suspension of the Grant. The Recipient shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority, its Representatives with respect to all actions, claims, charges, demands Losses and proceedings arising from or incurred by reason of the actions and/or omissions of the Grant Recipient in relation to the Funded Activities, the non-fulfilment of obligations of the Grant Recipient under this Grant Funding Agreement or its obligations to Third Parties.
- 27.2 Subject to this paragraph 27, the Authority's liability under this Grant Funding Agreement is limited to the amount of Grant outstanding.

28. VAT

- 28.1 If VAT is held to be chargeable in respect of the Grant Funding Agreement, all payments shall be deemed to be inclusive of all VAT and the Authority shall not be obliged to pay any additional amount by way of VAT.
- 28.2 All sums or other consideration payable to or provided by the Grant Recipient to the Authority at any time shall be deemed to be exclusive of all VAT payable and where any such sums become payable or due or other consideration is provided, the Grant Recipient shall at the same time or as the case may be on demand by HMRC in addition to such sums, or other consideration, pay to HMRC all the VAT so payable upon the receipt of a valid VAT invoice.

29. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

- 29.1 The Grant Recipients acknowledges that by signing the Grant Funding Agreement it agrees to take account of the Code of Conduct, which includes ensuring that its Representatives undertake their duties in a manner consistent with the principles set out in the Code of Conduct.
- 29.2 The Grant Recipient shall immediately notify the Authority if it becomes aware of any actual or suspected breaches of the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- 29.3 The Grant Recipient acknowledges that a failure to notify the Authority of an actual or suspected breach of the Code of Conduct may result in the Authority immediately suspending the Grant funding, terminating the Grant Funding Agreement and taking action to recover some

or all of the funds paid to the Grant Recipient as a civil debt in accordance with paragraph 24.1.7.

30. NOTICES

- 30.1 All notices and other communications in relation to this Grant Funding Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if personally delivered, e-mailed, or mailed (first class postage prepaid) to the address of the relevant party, as referred to in Annex 7 or otherwise notified in writing. All notices and other communications must be marked for the attention of the contact specified in Annex 7 (Contact Details). If personally delivered or if e-mailed all such communications shall be deemed to have been given when received (except that if received on a non-working day or after 5.00 pm on any Working Day they shall be deemed received on the next Working Day) and if mailed all such communications shall be deemed to have been given and received on the second Working Day following such mailing.

31. GOVERNING LAW

- 31.1 These Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales and the Parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts.

ANNEX 2 – THE FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the grant programme is to support District Councils in Northern Ireland to build capacity and capability to ensure the safety of consumers. It funds targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer products. This is part of our approach to ensure we have robust market surveillance across the UK.

Background

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is the national regulator for product safety. It was established to lead and co-ordinate the UK product safety system to deliver improved protections for consumers and better support for industry across the UK. It is responsible for developing and building national capacity and capability for product safety that is consistent and applied uniformly across the UK.

Aims and Objectives of the Funded Activities

The Grant is provided to District Councils in Northern Ireland to enhance enforcement capacity and capability to support their development of effective mechanisms to protect consumers and the UK internal market.

The funding may be used for a range of activity on non-food products, including to:-

- build on previous product safety capacity and capability building work
- ensure access to enforcement equipment and facilities;
- provide advice and support to local businesses to meet their obligations under product safety legislation for importing and appropriate labelling/marketing of goods;
- define work processes;
- develop officers' understanding of local supply chains and their associated risks; and
- ensure adequate prioritisation of effort and resource against OPSS policy and national regulatory interests
- ad hoc requests for case studies or other additional information.

Reporting Arrangements

These are expected to include: inputs to relevant databases; quarterly submission of records of activity (format to be agreed); and a review meeting at the end of the grant funding year.

During the year OPSS may seek information about operational methods, activities, engagement with businesses and outcomes.

ANNEX 3 – PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Authority will pay the grant on receipt of eligible expenditure claims. Payment will be made in arrears (December 2022 and March 2023).

All invoices to be submitted quarterly through the LAU.OPSS@beis.gov.uk email address. All claims should be submitted by 31st May 2023.

When making a Grant claim, as set out in the standard terms and conditions in the Grant Funding Agreement, we may request, and you must supply proof of expenditure and any other supporting documentation as we may require.

ANNEX 4 – GRANT RECIPIENT’S BANK DETAILS

Guidance: The Grant Recipient must complete parts 1 to 5. Part 5 must only be completed by the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement with the Authority, or their replacement.

The Grant Recipient should take a photocopy of the form for their records and return the original along with the signed Grant Funding Agreement to the address indicated in the Grant Funding Agreement.

Part 1: Grant recipient details

Name of Main Grant Holder

Grant Determination number

Grant name

Address of Grant Holder

Postcode:

Contact telephone number

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Part 2: Bank details

Bank / Building Society name

Branch name

Bank sort code

			–				–			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Building Society roll number

Account name

Account number

Account type

Branch address

Postcode:

Part 3: Address for remittance advice

Choose one method only

Send our remittance advice by post

☐ 

Postal address (if different from Part 1)

Send our remittance advice via email

Postcode

Part 4: Authorised signatories

The names and specimen signatures of people authorised to sign claim forms on behalf of the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement are shown below. These signatures are binding on this organisation in respect of the Agreement.

Name	Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Position in the organisation	Position in the organisation
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature	Signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Part 5: Grant recipient declaration

To be completed by the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement

- I certify that the information given on this form is correct.
- I agree that following discussions, any overpayments can be automatically recovered from future payments.

Name	Signature (<i>the person who signed the agreement</i>)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date	
<input type="text"/>	

Return this form to the address indicated in the Grant letter, alongside a signed Grant Funding Agreement.

General Data Protection Regulation (2018): The information on this form will be recorded on the Authority's computer system. The information provided will be used for paying your fees and will not be passed to anyone outside of the Authority without the permission of the Grant Recipient.

ANNEX 5 – ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE

(breakdown of forecast grant expenditure)

[Guidance: Details of eligible expenditure must be included in all funding agreements, including items of expenditure that are expressly ineligible. Grant recipients are required to provide evidence of their grant expenditure]

Item of Expenditure	Budget (in UK Sterling)/forecast expenditure

ANNEX 7 – CONTACT DETAILS

The main departmental contact in connection with the Grant is:

Name of contact	Debra MacLeod
Position in organisation	Head of Local Authority Unit - Engagement (LAU)
Email address	debra.macleod@beis.gov.uk
LAU Email address	LAU.opss@beis.gov.uk
Telephone number	020 7215 0973
Fax number	
Postal address	1 Victoria St, London SW1H 0ET

This information is correct at the date of the Grant Funding Agreement. The Authority will send you a revised contact sheet if any of the details change.

The Grant Recipient's main contact in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement is:

Reference	
Organisation	
Name of contact	
Position in organisation	
Email address	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Postal address	

Please inform the Authority if the Grant Recipient's main contact changes.

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal 2. Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes 3. Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Draft Service Level Agreement 4. Sperrins Partnership Agreement 5. Tourism Spring Campaign 2023
Date of Meeting	16 February 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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 key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal</p> <p>The Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) is a respected voice for town and city management at both a European and wider global level. They are a not-for-profit organisation with members that come from the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and thought leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.</p>
2.2	<p>Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes</p> <p>In 2018/19, following the submission of four successful applications from the Council to the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for the provision of 4 business support programmes (2018-22), Council accepted four Letters of Offer from Invest NI for the delivery to the value of up to £1.1m of: 'Gearing for Growth', 'Tender Ready', 'Transform' and Digital First'.</p>

	<p>These were part funded by Invest Northern Ireland (20%) and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth and Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme (60%) and Mid Ulster District Council (20%).</p> <p>Included within each Letter of Offer's 'Project Key Actions' is a requirement for Council 'To produce a final Evaluation Report' to assess each programme's performance and impact in terms of achieving their targets. All four programmes complete their delivery of support to business participants by February 2023.</p>
2.3	<p>Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Draft Service Level Agreement</p> <p>Over the past number of years, the 3 Councils from around the shoreline of Lough Neagh (as listed below) have provided a financial contribution towards Lough Neagh Rescue to support their work; these are Mid Ulster District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.</p>
2.4	<p>Sperrins Partnership Agreement</p> <p>The Sperrins Future Search Conference entitled 'The Sperrins – Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential' was held in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 27th – 29th September 2017.</p> <p>The event brought together a group of key stakeholders to draft and agree an action plan for the future development of the Sperrins and in particular the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p>
2.5	<p>Tourism Spring Campaign 2023</p> <p>As well as kick starting the tourism season in Mid Ulster (typically March through to October), the proposed Spring 2023 campaign will be the opportunity to promote the 'Visit Mid Ulster' website, through the associated social media channels and in so doing further consolidate the Unwinding Time brand.</p> <p>At its core, the campaign's visual and verbal identity will reflect the brand essence (Unwinding Time), as well as drawing on the narrative and tone of voice created at brand launch, reinforcing the brand values and using the 'brand anatomy' as set out in the brand guidelines.</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal</p> <p>ATCM Membership is now due for renewal for the period January 2023 – January 2024 at a fee of £595 (excluding Vat). Invoice attached on Appendix 1. Membership provides a range of benefits to Council such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platform for knowledge exchange in Town and City Centre Management - Access to written resources in Town and City Centre Management - Access to town centre events information and a variety of webinars

3.2	<p>Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes</p> <p>It is proposed to procure the services of a suitably qualified organisation(s) /consultant(s) to undertake an Independent Evaluation of all four business support programmes, to analyse their performance, validate data in terms of the achievement of targets and assess their overall performance at a cost in the region of £15,000 (inclusion expenses and excluding vat).</p>
3.3	<p>Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Draft Service Level Agreement</p> <p>Lough Neagh Rescue submitted a request (Appendix 2) to Mid Ulster District Council for an annual financial contribution of £12,000 towards Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift water activities at Lough Neagh and its tributaries for the 2022/23 financial year. The base at Ardboe continues to benefit all of the western and south western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area. If Members are minded to approve this annual financial request, it is recommended that the draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) on Appendix 3 (which is subject to final review by Council's legal team) is issued to Lough Neagh Rescue to cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.</p>
3.4	<p>Sperrins Partnership Agreement</p> <p>During the 2022/2023 financial year, Officers sought to better align the governance arrangements with regard to the financial contributions Council makes from its Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes budget and sought to do so by way of Service Legal Agreements (SLAs) with partner/delivery organisations.</p> <p>In terms of Sperrins Partnership, earlier this financial year, the Development Committee agreed that Officers issue Sperrins Partnership with an SLA to reflect the activities to be delivered within the 2022/2023 financial year, through Council's financial contribution of £22,000. This new SLA was issued with the view it would supercede the former Sperrins Partnership Agreement which Council entered into in 2020 (Appendix 4). After a series of discussions and meetings with the Lead Council for Sperrins Partnership (ie Derry & Strabane Council), they have asked Mid Ulster District Council to retract our SLA and continue with the original Partnership Agreement until it completes in 2023.</p> <p>In order to reach a consensus, it is recommended that Mid Ulster Council recalls its Sperrins Partnership SLA issued to Derry & Strabane Council and continues with the original Sperrins Partnership Agreement until it expires in 2023, after which there will be an opportunity to input into a fresh Agreement.</p>

3.5	<p>Tourism Spring Campaign</p> <p>Tourism NI opened a funding call to their Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund, designed to support NI's Tourism Industry through recovery by amplifying and extending the reach of the NI "Embrace a Giant Spirit" Campaign.</p> <p>This funding call provided short notice for Council to make an application, however, Officers acted quickly to prepare and submit a marketing bid to the Fund requesting financial support of £20k from Tourism NI to assist in the financial delivery of a Mid Ulster Spring Tourism Marketing Campaign, with up to £7,000 match funding to be provided from Council's tourism budget.</p> <p>Council received notification on 24 January 2023 from Tourism NI that our funding bid was successful and received a Service Level Agreement to set out the terms and conditions of the contract which had to be signed and returned by 31 January 2023, to accept the offer of funding.</p> <p>The Tourism Spring Campaign will position Mid Ulster as an ideal staycation destination for NI domestic markets and a key gateway destination for ROI markets, focusing on Mid Ulster's unique offering of open spaces and outdoor recreation sites which provide a chance to escape and get away from it all.</p> <p>As well as profiling walking and other outdoor recreation experiences, the key focus of the campaign will be newly developed outdoor product which epitomises the Unwinding Time brand and which has not yet been profiled extensively.</p> <p>This product includes the OM Solar Walk, which has enhanced the attractiveness of OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory as a truly unique experience in the natural landscape, and the re-imagining of Ballyronan Marina with the unique accommodation option provided by the on-water glamping pods.</p> <p>Complementing these core visitor experiences will be the offerings from the local tourism industry as a whole, with the campaign featuring accommodation, food and drink which enhance and add value to any visit to Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Campaign content to run from mid-March until end March 2023 as detailed on Appendix 5.</p> <p>Retrospective approval is sought for the Chief Executive to sign and return Tourism NI's offer of funding totalling £20,000 from the Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund (Appendix 6) in order to meet the timeframe to return the Service Level Agreement by 31 January 2023.</p> <p>Total project cost £27K (£20k from Tourism NI and up to £7K from Council's tourism budget).</p>
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4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
4.1.1	Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal Provision is made within the economic development budget to renew membership with ATCM for a fee of £595 (excl. Vat) for the period January 2023 to January 2024.
4.1.2	Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes It is estimated that the Independent Evaluation will cost in the region of £15,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) and this has been provided for within the Economic Development budget for 2023/24.
4.1.3	Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Draft Service Level Agreement Provision has been made in the 2022/23 Tourism Development budget for a financial contribution to Lough Neagh Rescue of £12,000.
4.1.4	Sperrins Partnership Agreement The Sperrins Partnership Project is presently funded by 4 Councils at a total annual cost of £88,000. This contribution includes salary and programming costs. Provision made within the tourism budget for £22,000 within 2022/2023.
4.1.5	Tourism Spring Campaign 2023 £20,000 from Tourism NI through an SLA and up to £7,000 from existing Tourism budget.
4.2	Human:
4.2.1	Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal Membership provides valuable resources for Town Centre Managers to use.
4.2.2	Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes Officers' time will be required to manage and work with the successful organisation.
4.2.3	Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Draft Service Level Agreement Officers' time.
4.2.4	Sperrins Partnership Agreement Officers' time.
4.2.5	Tourism Spring Campaign 2023 Officer time to manage the project.
4.3	Risk Management: Projects will be managed in line with current governance arrangements.

4.4	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	<p>Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal Approve Council renew its ATCM membership (January 2023 – January 2024) at a cost of £595 (excluding Vat).</p>
5.2	<p>Independent Evaluation of Council's Business Support Programmes</p> <p>5.2.1 Approve officers proceed to seek competitive quotations to appoint a suitably qualified organisation/consultant to undertake an Independent Evaluation of Council's suite of Business Support Programmes, with costs to be funded from the 2023/24 economic development budget in the region of £15,000 (excl Vat).</p> <p>5.2.2 Approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful organisation/consultant following the quotation exercise to allow work to commence as soon as possible.</p>
5.3	<p>Lough Neagh Rescue (2022-2023) – Service Level Agreement</p> <p>5.3.1 Approve annual contribution of £12,000 to Lough Neagh Rescue from Council's 2022/2023 tourism budget;</p> <p>5.3.2 Approve Mid Ulster District Council's Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR) on Appendix 3, for the 2022-2023 financial year (subject to final review of SLA by Legal Services) and release the full payment to LNR once the Agreement has been signed and returned and Council provided with all the requisite documentation.</p>
5.4	<p>Sperrins Partnership Agreement</p> <p>Approval to retract Mid Ulster Council's 2022/2023 Service Level Agreement for £22,000, issued earlier this year to Derry & Strabane Council (the Lead Council for Sperrins Partnership) and revert to make payments against the original Partnership Agreement dated 2020, until it expires in 2023, after which a new Agreement can be developed. This change has no material impact upon the</p>

	delivery of the Sperrins Partnership Action Plan, but rather sought to align the governance arrangements with partners/organisations, funded from Council's economic development, tourism and strategic programmes service plan.
5.5	<p>Tourism Spring Campaign 2023</p> <p>Retrospectively approve the Tourism Spring Marketing Campaign and for the Chief Executive to sign and return Tourism NI's offer of funding totalling £20,000 for the Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund, in order to meet the timeframe to return the Service Level Agreement by 31 January 2023. Also retrospectively approve provision of up to £7,000 match funding from Council's Tourism budget.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – ATCM - Membership Renewal Invoice</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Annual Funding Request from Lough Neagh Rescue</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Lough Neagh Rescue Service Level Agreement (April 2022 – March 2023)</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Sperrins Partnership Agreement (Original Version 2020)</p> <p>Appendix 5 - Spring 2023 Tourism Marketing Campaign Content</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Tourism NI Service Level Agreement</p>

Association of Town Centre Management
PO Box 242
Westerham
TN16 9EU

VAT Reg No: 629241833
Telephone: 44 (0) 300 330 0980
Email: accounts@atcm.org



Mid Ulster District Council
FAO Mary Mc Cullagh, Town Strategy
Burn Road
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8DT
VAT Reg No:

Invoice Number:	90050
Invoice Date:	01/01/2023
Order Number:	
Our Ref:	COOKSTO

Quant Details

1.00 2023 Full Band 1 Membership

Unit	Net	VAT	VAT
595.00	595.00	20.00	119.00

Terms: 21 days from invoice date - please ensure invoice number is quoted on payment

BACS Details

Bank: Lloyds TSB
Account Name: Ass Twn Centre Man
Sort Code: 30-92-32
Account Number: 01440295

Total Net Amount (£)	595.00
Total VAT Amount (£)	119.00
Invoice Total (£)	714.00



Darren Mallon
Kinnego Lifeboat Station
Kinnego Marina
Oxford Island
Lurgan
BT66 7NJ

Dear Sir/Madam

04/10/2022

Lough Neagh Rescue wishes to make a formal request for an annual council contribution of £12,000 towards our search & rescue expenditure for the incoming financial year 2022/23. This request would represent £12,000 which will keep Mid Ulster Council contribution in line with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils.

In order to provide backing information, I have outlined below our actual expenditure for 2022. This expenditure is based on a pro rata apportionment for general costs or specific Ardboe Station costs which fall clearly within the Mid Ulster area. Attached also is a current reconciliation/recent accounts of our financial position for your review which demonstrates need.

As an independent and competent organisation declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI we have a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries. We operate on a 24/7 365 voluntary service on behalf of the community and other statutory rescue agencies. As a voluntary organisation we operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declared Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard. Our station at Ardboe covers all of the western and south western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council's area and which represents the largest coverage of Lough Neagh.

Over the past 30 years we've had tremendous financial support from all councils around the Lough to include the three former councils which now form Mid Ulster District Council as a result of this support over those years we have past our strategic 10-year planning targets and now embarked on our new strategy which will see us into 2030. Our Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift water teams based in Ardboe, Antrim and Kinnego are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue services on these islands and we operate not only to local NISAR but to the UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue operations.

In 2022 the council reviewed its contribution level and set it at £12,000. This much appreciated contribution has indeed help bring us to into the next decade but now with two imminent investments in new equipment required, a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increasing activity we find ourselves having to liaise with our councils in attempt to meet the SAR needs of Mid Ulster

Lough Neagh Rescue
 Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,
 Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

T: 028 3834 5121
E: secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk

COMPANY NO. NI30528
CHARITY NO. NIC101051

area. Any additional contributions in funding would be greatly appreciated during the current crisis, fuel cost alone represent a significant increase to our expenditure and is not in the gift of Lough Neagh Rescue to control.

It is our aim to have each of the three main councils match fund the organisation at a similar level on an annual basis. We would wish to revisit our service level agreement with Mid Ulster District Council since over the past three years major increases in costs and subsequent uplifting contributions from both other councils have created a funding anomaly across Lough Neagh and particularly for our station in Ardboe, Mid Ulster.

As always, we welcome visits from your Councillors and officials to see first-hand the work being carried out in the area and to this and we would welcome the council Chairperson and the Chair of your Development Committee to visit the Ardboe station. Mr. Wilson, as former Council Chair had previously indicated towards the end of his tenure that he would still be interested in visiting us formally and we would welcome their visit.

In the meantime if you require any further information please call myself (NO. 07515579067) or by visiting any the three stations during training scheduled on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. I look forward to hearing from you.

Darren Mallon

Chairperson LNR

Lough Neagh Rescue
Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,
Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

T: 028 3834 5121
E: secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk

COMPANY NO. NI30528
CHARITY NO. NIC101051

APPENDIX 3

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE

April 2022 – March 2023

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the day of 2023

PARTIES

- (1) MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL whose address is at Dungannon Office, 15 Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6DT (the "**Council**"); and
- (2) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE (Charity no. NIC 101051 and Company no. NI 30528) whose registered office is at, Kinnego Bay, Lurgan Co Armagh BT66 7NJ.

BACKGROUND

- a) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is an independent and voluntary organisation, declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI, as having a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declared Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard. The Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue services on these islands and operate not only to local Northern Ireland Search and Rescue (NISAR) but also to UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue.
- b) Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams based at Ardboe, Kinnego and Antrim, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE operate a 24 hr per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year service on behalf of community and statutory rescue agencies.
- c) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE receive financial support from all the councils surrounding the Lough (Mid Ulster District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. This has enabled LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to meet their strategic 10 year planning targets and embark on a new strategy up to 2030.
- d) Financial support provided by Mid Ulster District Council will assist Lough Neagh Rescue carry out the search and rescue needs of all of the Western and South Western shores, (contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area) as further detailed in Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
- e) The Council have been made aware of two new imminent investments of new equipment specifically required a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increasing activity on the Lough, which requires part of Mid Ulster District Council's funding contribution to meet the Search and Rescue needs of Mid Ulster area.

1. DEFINITIONS

"Charges" shall mean the charges which shall become due and payable by the Council to (2) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE in respect of the Services in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. Such charges are further set out in **Schedule 2 of this Agreement**

"Commencement Date" shall mean 1st April 2022.

“Data Protection Legislation” means all applicable data protection and privacy legislation in force from time to time in the UK including the UK GDPR; the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) (and regulations made thereunder) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2426) as amended and the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or other relevant regulatory authority and applicable to a party.

“Law” shall mean the laws of Northern Ireland and any other laws or regulations, regulatory policies, guidelines or industry codes which apply to the provision of the Services or with which LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is bound to comply.

“Services” shall mean those services specified in **Schedule 1 of this Agreement** and any other such services which may be agreed between the parties from time to time.

“Term” shall mean from the Commencement Date until 31st March 2023.

“Working Day” shall mean Monday to Friday, excluding any public holidays in Northern Ireland.

2. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

This Agreement shall take effect on the Commencement Date and unless terminated earlier is in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, shall continue for the Term.

3. SUPPLY OF SERVICES

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall provide the Services and provide secretariat to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE Company and its structures with a view to providing Search and Rescue needs of Mid Ulster area as set out in Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
- b. Responsibility for the management of the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will be vested in the Board of Directors of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- c. The parties’ authorised representatives for the purpose of this Agreement shall be Council’s Tourism Manager and the Chairman of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- d. The Council reserves the right to withdraw funding should the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fail to adequately provide the service as outlined in Schedule 1 of this Agreement which forms the basis of the Council’s agreement to commit funds to it. Funding will be reviewed by the Council on an annual basis on receipt of the written request from LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE and will require LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to submit end of year progress reports for each year of the Agreement showing progress against activities. In addition LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE may be required to attend a committee meeting of Council.

4. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall operate a procedure for dealing with the repercussions of defaulting on any of its obligations under this Agreement and/or complaints about its provision of the Service.

5. COMPLIANCE AND CHANGE IN LAWS

- a. In performing its obligations under this Agreement LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall have regard to and comply with all applicable Law (including but not limited to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other Law relating to about health and safety).
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall monitor and shall keep the Council informed in writing of any changes in the Law which may impact the Services and shall provide the Council with timely details of measures it proposes to take and changes it proposes to make to comply with any such changes.
- c. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall neither be relieved of its obligations to supply the Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement nor be entitled to an increase in the Charges as the result of a change in Law.

6. INSURANCE Required

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall at its own cost effect and maintain with reputable insurance companies adequate insurance to cover all such risks and liabilities as may arise in the course of providing the Services including death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property or any other loss (the "Required Insurances"). Such policies shall include cover in respect of any financial loss arising from any advice given or omitted to be given by the The Council, in their limited role in providing financial support to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE. This is, in part, to ensure the risk is minimised to the Council against all claims, demands, actions or proceedings made or brought and all losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities incurred, suffered or arising directly or indirectly in respect of or otherwise connected with the actions of the Services provided by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- b. If, for whatever reason, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fails to give effect to and maintain the Required Insurances, the Authority may make alternative arrangements to protect its interests and may recover the costs of such arrangements from the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- c. The terms of any insurance or the amount of cover shall not relieve the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE of any liabilities under the agreement.

7. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

- a. In relation to the employment of staff/volunteers, employment/volunteering conditions and practices must comply with all the relevant Law and should take account of current good practice in relation to employment/volunteering rights and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations.
- b. The Parties believe that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (the “Employment Regulations”) will not apply to this Agreement, whether on its commencement, during the Term on expiry or termination of the Agreement in whole or in part. In the event that, contrary to the expressed understanding of the Parties, the Employment Regulations are alleged by any person (including a Party, any trade union or staff association, employee representative or employee) to apply, or held by court of competent jurisdiction to apply, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall indemnify the Council for all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the application of the Employment Regulations.

8. AUDIT

- a. During the Term and up to 7 years following completion, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall allow the Council (acting by itself or via any representatives authorised to act on behalf of the Council) to access any of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE’S premises, records, financial or otherwise, systems, personnel or equipment as may be required for the purposes of (*inter alia*) fulfilling any legally enforceable request by a regulatory body, monitoring and evaluating LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE’S compliance with its obligations under this Agreement, verify the accuracy of the Charges or identify suspected fraud and to verify the achievement or objectives or progress towards such objectives.

9. CHARGES

- a. The Council shall pay the Charges to the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE in accordance with Schedule 2.
- b. If LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in breach of any of its obligations relating to this Agreement as detailed in Schedule 1, then the Council may require LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to pay the Council the aggregate of all Charges paid to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE during the Term or such lesser amount as the Council may determine.
- c. Mid Ulster District Council shall be entitled to publish details of the assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as they may decide.
- d. The Council would expect that its contribution would receive formal recognition by way of an invitation to the Council Chair to any appropriate regional event/official opening and mention in publicity pertaining to the event/facility.

- e. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall be required to submit an end of year progress report for each year of the agreement showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. In addition LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE may be required to attend a committee meeting of Council.

10. INDEMNITY

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses incurred by the Council arising out of or in connection with:
 - i. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE'S breach or negligent performance or non-performance of this Agreement;
 - ii. any claim made against the Council arising out of or in connection with the provision of the Services, to the extent that such claim arises out of the breach, negligent performance or failure or delay in performance of this Agreement by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

11. LIABILITY

- a. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including for:
 - i. death and personal injury caused by negligence; and
 - ii. fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.
- b. Subject to clause 10(a), the Council's total aggregate liability under this Agreement shall be limited to the Charges.

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- a. The Council is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"). Any information, which comes into the possession of the Council may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of that Act, unless an exemption applies. Only the Council can make the decision regarding whether information is disclosable or not. In arriving at the decision, The Council will take account of the nature of the information, exemptions provided by the Act, and the public interest. If the information is disclosable in accordance with the terms of the Council has no discretion to prevent its disclosure.
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will:
 - i. provide all necessary assistance and cooperation as reasonably requested by the Council to enable the Authority to comply with its obligations under the Act;
 - ii. transfer to the Council all requests for Information relating to this Agreement that it receives as soon as practicable and in any event within 2 Working Days of receipt;

- iii. provide the Council with a copy of all information belonging to the Authority requested in the request for information which is in its possession or control in the form that the Council requires within 5 Working Days (or such other period as the Council may reasonably specify) of the Council's request for such information; and
- iv. not respond directly to a request for information unless authorised in writing to do so by the Council.

13. DATA PROCESSING

- a. Both parties acknowledge that the only personal data which will be exchanged between the parties is details of employee/volunteer names of each party. Both parties acknowledge that they shall each act as independent controllers in respect of these employee/volunteer names.
- b. Both parties will comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Legislation. This clause is in addition to, and does not relieve, remove or replace, a party's obligations or rights under the Data Protection Legislation.
- c. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall ensure that it has an appropriate privacy policy in place with those of its employees/volunteers whom shall have their name shared with the Council.

14. NO PARTNERSHIP OR AGENCY

- a. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between any of the parties, constitute any party the agent of another party, or authorise any party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other party.
- b. Each party confirms it is acting on its own behalf and not for the benefit of any other person.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. The provisions of this clause do not apply to any Confidential information:
 - i. is or becomes available to the public (other than as a result of its disclosure by the receiving party or its representatives in breach of this clause);
 - ii. was available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis before disclosure by the disclosing party;
 - iii. was, is, or becomes available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis from a person who, to the receiving party's knowledge, is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with the disclosing party or otherwise prohibited from disclosing the information to the receiving party;
 - iv. the parties agree in writing is not confidential or may be disclosed;

- v. which is disclosed by the Authority on a confidential basis to any central government or regulatory body.
- b. Each party shall keep the other party's Confidential Information secret and confidential and shall not:
 - i. use such Confidential Information except for the purpose of exercising or performing its rights and obligations under or in connection with this Agreement (**Permitted Purpose**); or
 - ii. disclose such Confidential information in whole or in part to any third party, except as expressly permitted by this.
- c. A party may disclose the other party's Confidential information to those of its representatives who need to know such Confidential Information for the Permitted Purpose, provided that:
 - i. it informs such representatives of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information before disclosure; and
 - ii. it procures that its representatives shall, in relation to any Confidential Information disclosed to them, comply with the obligations set out in this clause as if they were a party to this Agreement,
 - iii. and at all times, it is liable for the failure of any Representatives to comply with the obligations set out in this clause.
- d. A party may disclose Confidential Information to the extent such Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by Law (including under the Act), by any governmental or other regulatory authority or by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction provided that, to the extent it is legally permitted to do so, it gives the other party as much notice of such disclosure as possible.

16. REMEDIATION PROCESS

- a. If LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in default in complying with any of its obligations under this Agreement the Council may, at its sole discretion, choose to terminate this Agreement in accordance with clause 17 or enter into a remediation plan process. If the Council chooses to enter into a remediation plan process, it shall give a remediation notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE which shall specify the default in outline and the actions LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE needs to take to remedy the default.
- b. The Council shall be under no obligation to initiate a remediation plan process.
- c. Within 5 Business Days of receipt of a Remediation Notice, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall:
 - i. submit a draft remediation plan, even if it disputes that it is responsible for the matters which are the subject of the remediation notice; or
 - ii. inform the Council that it does not intend to submit a remediation plan, in which event the Council shall be entitled to serve a termination notice.

- d. The Council shall either approve the draft remediation plan within 5 Business Days of its receipt or it shall inform LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE why it cannot accept the draft remediation plan. In such circumstances, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall address all such concerns in a revised remediation plan, which it shall submit to the Council within 5 Business Days of its receipt of the Council's comments. If no such notice is given, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE draft remediation plan shall be deemed to be agreed.
- e. Once agreed, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall immediately start work on the actions set out in the remediation plan.
- f. If a remediation plan cannot be agreed within 5 Business Days then the Council may elect to end the remediation plan process and serve a termination notice.
- g. If a remediation plan is agreed between the parties, but LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fails to implement or successfully complete the remediation plan by the required completion date, the Council may:
 - i. terminate this Agreement by serving a termination notice; or
 - ii. give LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE a further opportunity to resume full implementation of the remediation plan.

17. TERMINATION

- a. Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it the Council may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect or on the expiry of the period specified in the Termination Notice by giving written notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE if one or more of the following circumstances occurs or exists:
 - i. if LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in material breach of this Agreement, which is irremediable;
 - ii. if LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in material breach of this Agreement (where, for the avoidance of doubt, failure to adequately provide the services shall constitute a material breach) and, where such breach is remediable, fails to remedy such breach within 3 days of being notified of such breach;
 - iii. if there is an Insolvency Event; or
 - iv. the Council reasonably believes that the circumstances set out in regulation 73(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply.

18. TERMINATION ON NOTICE

Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it, the Council may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving one month's written notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

19. WAIVER

- a. A waiver of any right or remedy is only effective if given in writing and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent right or remedy.
- b. A delay or failure to exercise, or the single or partial exercise of, any right or remedy shall not waive that or any other right or remedy, nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

20. SEVERANCE

- a. If any provision or part-provision of this Agreement is or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall be deemed deleted, but that shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of this Agreement.

21. ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER DEALINGS

- a. The Council may at any time assign, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall not assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Authority.

22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND VARIATION

- a. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous and contemporaneous agreements, promises, assurances and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter.
- b. No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the parties.

23. GOVERNING LAW

- a. This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Northern Ireland.

24. JURISDICTION

- a. Each party irrevocably agrees that the courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

Schedule 1 – SERVICE OBJECTIVES & SPECIFICATION

1. AIMS OF THE SERVICE

LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide a Search and Rescue service to Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) and the wider areas as specified.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide the following services for the Council:

- 2.1.1.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to provide a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries.
- 2.1.2.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declare Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard.
- 2.1.3.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift Teams will operate not only to local NISAR but also to UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue.
- 2.1.4.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to base Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams at Ardboe, Kinnego and Antrim, to operate a 24 hr per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year service on behalf of community and statutory rescue agencies, to cover all of the western and south western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area.
- 2.1.5.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will have responsibility to ensure all equipment is serviced and maintained to standards pertinent to delivery Search And Rescue and ensure all staff and volunteers working as part of Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams are trained and qualified to standards recognised by the Coastguard, Northern Ireland Search and Rescue and UK DEFRA.
- 2.1.6.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will ensure adequate insurances are in place to cover all potential liabilities.
- 2.1.7.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide a 10 year strategic plan with targets up to 2030
- 2.1.8.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.
- 2.1.9.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will submit an annual report by detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions. Report to be submitted by end of March 2023.
- 2.1.10.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.
- 2.1.11.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will facilitate the involvement of Council staff and elected members in its work.

2.1.12. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide ongoing support to Council's objectives.

2.1.13. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will meet with Council's Tourism Manager to discuss progress prior to the end of March 2023.

SCHEDULE 2 – FINANCIAL & RESOURCING ARRANGEMENT

3.1 The Council has agreed that payment of £12,000 sterling (Twelve thousand pounds) will be paid to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE for their exclusive use towards the organisation costs for year 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Payment will be released only upon the following condition:

- Submission of an original invoice. Copies are NOT acceptable.
- Provision of completed and signed Declaration Form confirming LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE has all requisite documentation in place.
- Mid Ulster District Council will have the right to request repayment of all or part of the assistance if the conditions outlined in this Agreement are not met.

ANNEX ONE

ACCEPTANCE FORM

I, Darren Mallon, as Chairperson of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE have read and understood the Council's Service Level Agreement between LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE and Mid Ulster District Council.

I agree to comply with the conditions as detailed in these documents and to abide by those principles and procedures in my role as Strategic Manager of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

Council Official

**LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE
Chairperson**

Signed:

Signed:

Position:

Position:

Name (Block Capitals)

Name (Block Capitals):

Date:

Date:

Please sign two copies of this Agreement, one to be returned to Mid Ulster District Council and one to be retained by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

SPERRINS FUTURE SEARCH PROJECT COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



Version Number	V3
Author	Project Officer
Dates adopted	DCSDC 27.11.20 FODC 27.11.20 MU CCGBC
Date Revised	

Sperrins Future Search Project Partnership Agreement

This agreement is entered into by and between 4 Council partners

Derry City & Strabane District Council - The Lead Partner ("hereinafter referred to as DCSDC") of

Derry Civic Offices,
98 Strand Road,
Derry
BT48 7NN

And

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council ("hereinafter referred to as CCGBC")

Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine,
BT52 1EY

And

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council ("hereinafter referred to as "FODC") of

The Omagh Office,
The Grange,
Mountjoy Road,
Omagh,
BT79 9BL

And

Mid Ulster District Council ("hereinafter referred to as "MUDC") of

The Magherafelt Office,
Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt,
BT45 6EN

hereinafter together referred to as “the Partners”/ “the Partnership” and relating to the Project entitled the Sperrins Future Search Project (Also referred to The Sperrins: Reaching New Heights - Realising Our Potential) funded by way of resource contributions (of equal value) by all 4 partner councils; And any other additional funding as may be deemed appropriate and as agreed by the 4 partner councils. The initial agreed core contribution towards delivery from the partner councils is £22,000 per annum.

The Partners/Partnership wish to define their rights and obligations with respect to the financing of and supporting the delivery of the Sperrins Future Search Project (hereinafter ‘the Project’).

The Partners have hereby agreed as follows:

1. PURPOSE AND DURATION

- 1.1 The Partners have agreed to collaborate on supporting the implementation of the Sperrins Future Search Project as currently described in the Future Search Conference Report (The Sperrins: Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential) appended to this agreement as **Schedule One**.
- 1.2 The agreement will be effective from 12th October 2020, shall be reviewed October 2021 and remain in force until October 2023, or until otherwise determined by the project board and associated council decisions.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 *Project outputs/results* mean all the outputs/results arising out of the Project, including but not limited to reports, inventions, software, information, ideas, methods, solutions, devices, drawings, calculations, presentations, imagery, publications, materials etc. generated in the Project, irrespective of whether they are or can be protected by intellectual property rights such as copyright, patent or confidentiality.
- 2.2 *Background* means all information generated outside the Project (regardless of the form or medium in which they are disclosed or stored), including but not limited to reports, inventions, software, information, ideas, methods and solutions, devices, drawings, calculations, presentations, imagery an, publications, materials etc. irrespective of whether they are or can be protected by intellectual property rights such as copyright, patent or confidentiality. Background shall not be considered to constitute the Project outputs of the Project.
- 2.3 *User Right for Research Purposes* refers to a non-exclusive right to use the Project outputs in internal research and development purposes as well as teaching or scientific research purposes. User Right for Research Purposes does not include a right to license the Project outputs or otherwise assign the Project outputs to third parties as a whole or in part, or to sell services

conducted by utilizing the Project outputs or otherwise commercially exploit the Project outputs.

2.4 *Intellectual Property Rights* means all protection forms of intellectual property rights including but not limited to patents, utility models, trademarks, branding, copyright, database rights, and copyright of design, confidential information and the applications of the protection forms of intellectual property rights.

2.5 *Confidential Information* means either oral or written information concerning technical, commercial or other matters related to a Partner's plans, products, know-how or other activities and which information is clearly marked as confidential or otherwise obviously of confidential nature.

3. PROJECT ORGANISATION

To achieve the successful delivery of this project in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and value for money, the project should be organised in such a way that everyone involved is committed and empowered and that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. This is necessary to ensure that there is a short and effective line of communication to senior management so that they can take prompt action when needed.

3.1 Project management is assured by a Project Board, supported by 4 Thematic Action Groups, as well as the Project Lead Partner - Derry City & Strabane District Council, and the other council partners Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Mid Ulster District Council. The governance and management structure of the project as well as detail on the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the project's delivery is contained in **Schedule Two**.

3.2 **The Project Board** will provide strategic direction ensuring that the project meets its objectives and delivers the projected benefits. The Board will not exceed 20 members to consist of the following:

- Elected Members from each Council (8 in total);
- Chairpersons of each of the Thematic Action Groups (4 in total);
- Key strategic regional stakeholders.

Providing support to the Project Board will be

- The Lead Project Officer;
- The Project Administrative Assistant;
- Officers (observer's role only) from each of the Partner Councils.

3.3 **The Thematic Action Groups** have been set up to articulate the needs of stakeholders and to facilitate the work detailed in the 4 thematic action plans

developed during the Sperrins Future Search Exercise. The membership of the thematic actions groups has been drawn from delegate attendance at the Sperrin Future Search Conference.

Each Partner Councils will facilitate the hosting of one of Thematic Action Group- See Table One

CC&GBC	Tourism & Branding
DCSDC	Community
FODC	Infrastructure
MUDC	Environment & Heritage

Table One

3.4 The Lead Project Officer is responsible for the day to day detailed project and design management of the project and acts as the interface between the Project Board and the 4 Thematic Action Groups. The Lead Project Officer is supported in her duties by a Project Administrative Assistant.

As employees of the Lead Partner - Derry City & Strabane District Council- the Lead Project Officer and The Project Administrative Assistant sit within that Councils' Business & Council Directorate.

The Lead Project Officer is an essential role and needs to have clearly defined responsibilities. These are set out in **Schedule Three**.

3.5 The Lead Partner

As well as adhering to its responsibilities as a Project Partner (Outlined within the agreement) , as Lead Partner Derry City and Strabane District Council will be responsible for the appointment of appropriate personnel to undertake the roles of Lead Project Officer /Administrative Support

Additionally, the Lead Partner will:

- Support the activities of the Project Board, Thematic Action Groups;
- Enable effective communication between all stakeholders;
- Be responsible for overall financial administration/ accounting of the Project;
- Timely submission of reports and application of payments;
- Adhere to its organisational role and responsibilities for the delivery, spend, and the reclaim of any funding.

4. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS, PROJECT COSTS & INCOME, ACCOUNTING

4.1 The partners including the Lead Partner will adhere to their respective organisational roles and responsibilities for the delivery and spend.

4.2 The Lead Partner, Derry City & Strabane District Council, shall

- Be responsible for ensuring the timely financial administration of the Project and shall maintain separate budget cost codes for the Project and the Partners;
- Follow the financial guidelines provided by the Funder(s);
- Provide a Global Cost Plan at the beginning of the Project period with updates incorporating actual expenditure incurred/income received to be made available for review at Board meetings and at the end of the Project period stated in the Grant Letter(s) of Offer;
- Compile, verify and share with the partners all necessary financial information for the purpose of enabling applications for payments to the Funder(s) according to Grant Letter of Offer (s) and guidance.

4.3 The Partners shall:

- Ensure that adequate resources are made available to enable successful delivery of the Project, its long term operation, maintenance and promotion;
- Accept the Project's eligible budget and commit themselves to providing their individual contributions to the budget and to the terms of these contributions;
- Commit themselves to the provision of long term annual revenue budgets to enable the operation, maintenance and promotion of the completed project;
- Guide the Project costs under the planned budget. Project costs are only those costs which have been included and budgeted in Grant Letter(s) of Offer. No other costs may be charged to the Project unless specifically agreed by all partners through the Project Board and without written acceptance prior to expenditure from the Funder that such charges are allowable;
- Follow the financial guidelines;
- Where applicable be responsible for financial administration of the Project keeping separate cost codes of their Project expenditure according to the rules;
- Where applicable supply all the necessary information for the preparation of activity and financial reports and provide validated financial documentation and statements to the Lead Partner. Where applicable the Lead Partner shall receive copies of all supporting documents relating to supporting partners accounts and expenditure, including copies of invoices, payment records, receipts and bookkeeping vouchers. Expenditure must be defrayed against the budget headings;
- Where applicable provide support to the Lead Partner in the application process for payments to any Funder(s) according to Grant Letter of Offer (s) and guidance;

- Be responsible for any separate Grant Letter(s) of Offer relating to the project entered into with any Funder(s) and reclaim of funding relating to eligible spend;
- Post project completion, where necessary provide support to the Lead Partner and supply all information necessary to facilitate post project queries by the funder and deliver on any post project commitments as required by the funder;
- Where applicable In case of deficiency the Funder (s) must be informed immediately.

5. REPORTING

Activity reports

Unless otherwise defined each Partner shall deliver to the Lead Partner Organisation monitoring data (Partner activity reports) to be used in reporting within 1 month following the end of each agreed reporting period.

The Lead Partner Organisation /Lead Project Officer shall compile and sign the monitoring report (main project activity report) on behalf of the Partners.

Where applicable the Lead Partner organisation shall include the Partner activity reports delivered by the Partners in connection with the payment as a part of the Partner activity reporting of the Project, and deliver these to any Funder on behalf of the Partners.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

This Agreement does not affect the ownership of any Intellectual Property in any Background or in any other technology, design, work, invention, software, data, technique, drawings, calculations, models, maquettes, artwork, know-how or materials, which do not constitute Project outputs.

The Partners may grant each other access rights to the Background they own or otherwise have in their possession, for the term of the Agreement, in order to carry out the tasks related to the Project. The Partners do not have commercial use for the Background provided by another Partner. In case another Partner's Background is needed for the use of the Project outputs, the Partners involved shall together agree on the terms on which the Background material can be used.

The disclosure of the Background and access rights thereto shall be in the sole discretion of the Partner owning the Background or otherwise having the Background in its possession. The Partner receiving the access rights to the disclosing Partner's Background shall not be entitled to assign the Background further to a third party.

The ownership of the Project outputs shall rest exclusively and automatically with the Partner, whose employee/researcher created, invented or generated the Project outputs. If Project outputs are generated jointly by the Partners, the

ownership shall belong to the Partners jointly in the proportion of their contribution to creating such Project outputs. The Partners involved shall agree between them on Intellectual Property Rights upholding and defending of rights and the distribution of any costs incurred thereby. The Partners shall agree separately on detailed conditions for the exploitation of their joint ownership.

The Partners grant each other a royalty-free User Right for Research Purposes to Project outputs generated by the other Partners, excluding applied for or granted Intellectual Property Rights, which shall be agreed upon separately with the owner and a reasonable compensation shall be paid to that party.

7. DOCUMENTS

All the official documents submitted to the Funder(s) or other Project related organisations shall bear the name of all Partners.

Each Partner shall have access to work carried out by the other partners in connection to the Project and copies of all final documents submitted to the Funder(s) shall be made available to each Partner.

8. PUBLICITY

The Lead Partner and the Partners shall adhere to agreed publicity requirements or publicity requirements outlined within any Grant Letter(s) of Offer ensuring appropriate recognition of support is assigned to the Funder(s) among Project participants and the general public.

9. PUBLICATIONS

The outputs of the Project shall be public, unless otherwise provided by an Act, the terms of funding, or this Agreement. No Confidential Information may be disclosed upon the publication of the Project outputs, and the publication may not risk the protection of the Project outputs by Intellectual Property rights.

The material which is intended to be published shall be delivered to the Partners in a written form and with a written request to publish the material in which request the forum of the publication (e.g. name of the scientific publication) and the timing of the publication shall be defined. The permission is considered given if the Partners have not objected the publication within fifteen (15) days after having received the request. The permission is not to be denied without a well-founded ground which may only be the protection of Confidential Information or protecting of Intellectual Property Rights. If the Partners do not answer at all a permission shall be considered given. The publishing Party shall be entitled to publish previous to the fifteen days defined herein in case an authorized permission from the other Parties has been gained.

10. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Partners undertake not to disclose the other Partner's Confidential Information to third parties, without written consent, and to obey diligence in order to safeguard the confidentiality of the said information. The Partners are not entitled to use Confidential Information for purposes other than to fulfil their obligations set forth in the Agreement.

The confidentiality obligations shall not apply to Confidential Information, which:

- is already in the recipient Partner's possession at the time of disclosure through no fault or negligence of the recipient Partner;
- is or later becomes part of the public domain through no fault or negligence of the recipient Partner;
- is received from a third Partner in circumstances where the recipient Partner has no reason to believe that there has been a breach of an obligation of confidentiality, other breach of contract or illegal act;
- is independently developed by the recipient Partner; or
- is required to be disclosed by law, decree, governmental order or decree or other similar provisions.

The Partners are obliged to obey the confidentiality obligations during the term of this Agreement and additionally five years after the term or termination of this Agreement.

11. LOCATION AND FACILITIES

The official address for the Project shall be:

Derry City & Strabane District Council of
Derry Civic Offices,
98 Strand Road,
Derry
BT48 7NN

Each Partner shall provide such office accommodation within its own organisation, as may be deemed necessary for the execution of the Project.

12. ASSIGNABILITY

No Partner shall sell, assign, mortgage, pledge, encumber or in any way transfer or dispose of its rights or duties under this Agreement, and any Grant Letter(s) of offer without the written consent of the other Partners.

13. LIABILITY

The Partners undertake to carry out the tasks set forth in this Agreement with due care and using competent personnel. In submitting any Project outputs to any of the other Partners under the Agreement, each Partner undertakes to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy thereof. The submitting Partner shall be under no further obligation or liability in respect of the same and no warranty, condition or representation of any kind is made, given or to be implied in any case as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for purpose of such Project outputs, or the absence of any infringement of statutory intellectual property rights of third Partners by the use of such Project outputs. The recipient Partner shall in all cases be solely responsible for the use to which it puts such Project outputs including transfer of Intellectual Property Rights relating thereto.

Each Partner shall indemnify each of the other Partners, in respect of acts and omissions of itself and of its employees and agents provided always that such indemnity shall not extend to claims for indirect or consequential loss or damage such as but not limited to loss of profit, revenue, contacts or the like. In no event shall the liability of each Partner's exceed its share of financing, unless the damage has been caused by wilful act or gross negligence.

Any claim against a Partner shall be presented no later than one (1) year as of the date the damage incurred or the date the affected Partner was informed of the damage. All claims for damages shall, however, be submitted no later than one (1) year as of the expiry date of this Agreement.

The Partners shall not be held liable for damage caused by the other Partners.

Further, the Partners shall not be held liable for damage resulting from force majeure.

14. LIABILITY TO ANY FUNDER(S)

Each Partner shall be solely liable for performing its share of work according to any Grant Letter(s) and its annexes. Each Partner shall also bear the liability for demonstrating its own costs. Should the Funder(s) claim for recovery of the funds partially or entirely, paid to a Partner, the Partner in question shall bear the liability thereof.

15. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES

In the event of a failure of a Partner ("the defaulting Partner") in fulfilling of its obligations in whole or in part under this Agreement which is irremediable or which is not remedied within thirty (30) days of written notice from the Lead Partner on behalf of the other Partners (a separate agreement is not required for this action to be approved), the Partners/Partnership may jointly terminate the Agreement with the defaulting Partner by one months prior notice. The terminations will have the following consequences:

- a) Upon termination the access rights granted to the defaulting Partner by the other Partners shall cease immediately. The access rights granted by the Defaulting Partner to the other Partners shall remain in full force and effect;
- b) The scope of the tasks of the Defaulting Partner as specified in the Project Description, Grant Letters of Offer and Work Plans shall be assigned to one or several legal entities which are chosen by the Project Board and are acceptable to Funder(s) administration and which agree to be bound by the terms of the Agreement with preference to one or more of the remaining Partners;
- c) The Defaulting Partner shall assume all direct cost increase resulting from the assignment referred to in (b).

16.STATE AID

Where indirect State Aid such as trainings, business support etc. is provided by the Project to end beneficiaries, the Partners have the responsibility to ensure that State Aid rules are complied with and Partners are asked to verify that the conditions have been met. In principle, indirect aid is viewed as "de minimis" aid.

17.INSOLVENCY

In the event of insolvency of any Partner, the other Partners are entitled to terminate this Agreement in respect of the insolvent Partner according to the procedure set forth in article 15.0 Default and Remedies.

18.SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

The contract Partners sign this agreement with the intention to work together amicably. The Partners will negotiate disputes arising from this contract in order to obtain mutual acceptable settlements. Any disputes, on which no amicable settlement is possible, in spite of all efforts being made in this respect, shall be dealt with in accordance 3.5.

Nothing in this Agreement shall limit a Partners right to seek injunctive or interlocutory relief at any time from any court of competent jurisdiction.

This Agreement shall be governed in accordance with the laws of Northern Ireland.

19.INTEGRATED AGREEMENT

This Agreement represents and constitutes the entire agreement between the Partners and shall not be explained, modified or contradicted by any prior or contemporaneous negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. Any amendments to this Agreement must be agreed in writing.

The Partners shall not be entitled to make any legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Partner. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Partners.

The undersigned Partners hereby agree to carry out the above-mentioned tasks as described. This Agreement is made in as many counterparts as there are Partners. The Partners warrant that the persons undersigning this Agreement are authorised to sign for the organisation they here represent

20. SCHEDULE/ APPENDICES

- **Schedule One** Future Search Conference Report (The Sperrins: Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential)
- **Schedule Two** Governance Structure/Roles & Responsibilities
- **Schedule Three** Lead Project Officer –Roles & responsibilities.

Signed three times

On behalf of the Lead Partner organisation: Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC)

Signature	Full name	Date
-----------	-----------	------


On behalf of the Partner organisation: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (CC&GBC)

Signature	Full name	Date
-----------	-----------	------

On behalf of the Partner organisation: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (FODC)

Signature	Full name	Date
-----------	-----------	------

On behalf of the Partner organisation: Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC)

	Adrian McCreesh	20/01/2021
Signature	Full name	Date

SCHEDULE/ APPENDICES

21. SCHEDULE/ APPENDICES

- **Schedule One** Future Search Conference Report (The Sperrins: Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential)
- **Schedule Two** Governance Structure/Roles & Responsibilities
- **Schedule Three** Lead Project Officer –Roles & responsibilities.

APPENDIX 5 – Spring 2023 Tourism Marketing Campaign Content

Content Item	Description/Brief	Publication Date	Channels	Budget £
TV Advert	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster	March	UTV	4,000
Radio Advertising	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster with CTA visitmidulster.com	March	Cool FM	2,500
		March	Northern Sound	2,000
Social Media Advertising	<p>Short form limited copy adverts</p> <p>Time to Escape: Find your own space between the shore and the high horizons CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website</p> <p>Take Some Me Time/ Time to be free: Unwind the way you want. Along the shore, under the sky and amongst the stone. CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website</p> <p>Value Your Time: Time away from the stresses and strains of everyday is priceless, but does not have cost the earth. CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website</p>	Bursts throughout March	Primary: Visit Mid Ulster	2,000
Create video content				£14,500

APPENDIX 6

Service Level Agreement between:

Tourism Northern Ireland (a trading name of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board) of Floors 10-12, Linum Chambers, Bedford Square, Belfast, BT2 7ES ("**Tourism NI**"); and

Mid Ulster District Council

Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT.

Background

The Co-operative partnership Marketing Fund is designed to support Northern Ireland's Tourism Industry through recovery by amplifying and extending the reach of the Northern Ireland "Embrace a Giant Spirit" Campaign

Mid Ulster District Council has been awarded funding of **£20,000** of a total committed spend of **£27,000**

The following activity will be undertaken by the company:

TV Advert Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster
March UTV

Radio Advertising Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster
with CTA visitmidulster.com March

March Cool FM

Northern Sound

Social Media Advertising Short form limited copy adverts

Time to Escape:

Find your own space between the shore and the high horizons

CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website

Take Some Me Time/ Time to be free:

Unwind the way you want. Along the shore, under the sky and amongst the stone.

CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website

Value Your Time:

Time away from the stresses and strains of everyday is priceless, but does not have cost the earth.

CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website

Create video content

IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. Definitions

In this Agreement, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

“Agreement” means this document together with its Appendices;

“Nominated Bank Account” means the account into which all payments to the Company will be made, details of which must be provided using the Bank Details Request Form in Annex 1;

“Outputs” means the outputs to be delivered by the Company as more particularly described in in your application for funding.

“Payment” means the sum of £20,000 (inclusive of VAT) which will be paid by Tourism NI to the Company in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement;

“Project” means Delivery of a full destination awareness Tourism Marketing Campaign, including campaign planning, media buying and placement as well as a full design service, planned to run from late January 2023 to 31 March 2023

Appointment and Term

- 1.1. Tourism NI has agreed to appoint the Company to deliver the Project and the Outputs in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
- 1.2. This Agreement is for the period from 25th January to 31st March 2023 (**“the Term”**), unless terminated earlier by Tourism NI in accordance with Clause 7
- 1.3. Any extension of the Term will be subject to a further successful award for financial commitment by Tourism NI and availability of funding.

2. Duties of the Company

- 2.1. To project manage the project specified in the application for funding
- 2.2. To work in partnership with Tourism NI in the development and production of the project. This means that you need to provide the following for approval by Tourism NI:

- a. Media Plan where applicable. Please note that TNI may suggest amends to the media plan to ensure alignment with TNI and maximum benefit to Northern Ireland, you and your members.
 - b. Creative concepts that demonstrate alignment with the Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience Brand. Please ensure to include the logo on creative.
 - c. If you are applying for funding for photography or videography, storyboards should be shared with TNI for approval before a shoot commences.
- 2.3. To work in partnership with Tourism NI in aligning and scheduling Media where possible to ensure maximum benefit to Northern Ireland, you and your members.

3. Payment

- 3.1. In consideration of the performance by the Company of its duties and delivery of the Outputs, Tourism NI will provide the Payment to the Company in accordance with the terms outlined in Annex 2 (How to Claim and Claim form), and bearing in mind the other key procurement regulations in Clause 5
- 3.2. Tourism NI will only provide the Payment for expenditure incurred during the term up until 31.03.23
- 3.3. The Company must advise Tourism NI immediately if funds allocated for the Project have not or cannot be spent within the Term.
- 3.4. The Payment will be released, subject to satisfactory progress of the Project, as follows:
- Sign off from TNI on the media plan, storyboards and concepts treatments. Specified in 2.2
 - Submission of claim form including all mandatory information outlined in Annex 2 (How to Claim and Claim form).
- 3.5. Payments will be made in arrears upon receipt by Tourism NI of invoices from the Company and agreement that, in the opinion of Tourism NI, satisfactory progress has been made towards delivering the Outputs. No advance payments will be made.
- 3.6. Payments will be made as soon as possible after monitoring has been completed and invoices have been issued. Payment will be made directly into the Company's Nominated Bank Account by BACS.
- 3.7. All invoices must quote the relevant purchase order number provided by Tourism NI.

- 3.8. Extension of this Agreement and any payments to subsequent grant years is not permitted unless agreed in advance in writing with Tourism NI.
- 3.9. Payments by Tourism NI to the Company are subject to receipt of funds by Tourism NI. Should such funding be reduced, suspended or terminated, Tourism NI reserves the right to reduce, suspend or terminate the amount of the Payment of any other financial assistance under this Agreement.

4. Project Management

- 4.1. The Project will be managed by the Company.
- 4.2. The Project Manager must ensure that they must comply with the requirements set out in 2.2 and outlined here:

To work in partnership with Tourism NI in the development and production of the project. This means that you need to provide the following for approval by Tourism NI:

Media Plan. Please note that TNI may suggest amends to the media plan to ensure alignment with TNI and maximum benefit to Northern Ireland, you and your members.

Creative treatments that demonstrate alignment with the Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience Brand. Please ensure to include the logo on creative.

- 4.3. Tourism NI's lead contact in relation to the management and monitoring of this Agreement is [*Alice Murray*]. [*Naomi Waite*, Director of Marketing] will have sign off the final output
- 4.4. Failure of the Company to deliver the Project within the agreed timescale will result in the loss of any payment.

5. Procurement

- 5.1. The Company must comply with the NI Public Procurement Policy in respect of all tendering exercises carried out in relation to any aspect of the Project. At a minimum this requires the Company to comply with the principles of open, transparent and competitive tendering for all appointments.
- 5.2. Tourism NI recommends that the Company take early action to safeguard eligibility in relation to procurement of any services under this Agreement. For further information on public procurement requirements please check the guidelines available at the Department of Finance's website (link below):
<https://vwww.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/procurement/public-procurement-policy-northern-ireland>

6. Monitoring and Reporting

6.1. The following monitoring arrangements must be put in place:

6.11 Media Plan to be shared for approval

6.12 Creative treatments that demonstrate alignment with the Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience Brand to be shared for approval

6.13 The Company must retain all records (including accounts) relating to the management of the Project for a minimum of seven (7) years.

6.14 Tourism NI may request copies of original invoices from the Company, as appropriate, to evidence activity undertaken or expenditure incurred during the Term.

7 Default and Remedies

7.11 Without prejudice to Tourism NI's other rights and remedies, Tourism NI may at its discretion withhold or suspend payment of the Payment, require repayment of all or part of the Payment and/or terminate this Agreement if:

7.11.1 the Project is deemed not viable;

7.11.2 the Company fails to meet in full its obligations under this Agreement; or

7.11.3 the Company becomes subject to an Insolvency Event (as defined in Clause 8.2 below).

7.12 For the purposes of Clause 8.1.3, the Company becomes subject to an Insolvency Event if:

7.12.1 a petition is filed, a notice is given, a resolution is passed, or an order is made, for or in connection with its winding up or the appointment of an administrator or administrative receiver;

7.12.2 a person becomes entitled to appoint a receiver over its assets or a receiver is appointed over its assets; or

7.12.3 it suspends or ceases, or threatens to suspend or cease, carrying on all or a substantial part of its business.

8 Indemnity

Each party shall indemnify, keep indemnified and hold the other harmless against all and any losses, liabilities and obligations (including, without limitation any damages, claims, demands,

proceedings, costs, expenses, penalties, reasonable legal and other professional fees and costs) which may be suffered or incurred by them under or in connection with this Agreement.

9 Publicity

9.11 Tourism NI reserves the right to publicly announce its role in relation to the Project.

9.12 The Company agrees to follow Tourism NI's brand guidelines.

10 Variation

This Agreement may only be varied with the prior written agreement of Tourism NI. Any variation requests should be submitted to *the Tourism NI Manager as identified in Clause 5*.

11 Entire agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any previous understandings or arrangements (whether oral or written) between them relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

12 Severance

If any provision of this Agreement shall become or shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unlawful or unenforceable this shall not in any way impair or affect the validity, lawfulness or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement, all of which shall remain in full force and effect.

13 Waiver

Failure by either party at any time to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or to require performance by the other party of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision and shall not affect the validity of this Agreement or any part thereof or the right of either party to enforce any provision in accordance with its terms.

14 Notices

14.11A notice given to a party under or in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and sent to the party at the address or email address listed in Clause 14.2 or otherwise notified in writing to the other party.

25th January 2023 : Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund SLA Between Tourism NI and Mid Ulster District Council

14.12 The parties' addresses and contacts are as set out in this table:

Party	Address	Email Address
Tourism NI	Floors 10-12, Linum Chambers, Bedford Square, Belfast, BT2 7ES	a.murray@tourismni.com
Mid Ulster District Council	Burn Road Cookstown BT80 8DT.	mary.mckeown@midulstercouncil.org

14.13 Any notice shall be deemed to have been received:

14.13.1 if delivered by hand, on signature of a delivery receipt or at the time the notice is left at the proper address;

14.13.2 if sent by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service, at 9.00 am on the second Business Day after posting or at the time recorded by the delivery service; and

14.13.3 if sent by email, at the time of transmission.

14.14 This clause does not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action or, where applicable, any arbitration or other method of dispute resolution.

15 Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, and on the same shall have the same effect as if the various signatures on the counterparts were on a single copy.

16 Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999

No party to this Agreement intends to confer any right or benefit upon a third party and for the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 are expressly excluded from applying to this Agreement.

17 Law and Jurisdiction

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Northern Ireland and the parties expressly and irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland courts.

Annex 1: Bank Details

Project Name:

Project Promoter (the Company):

Please complete and return the Bank Details Request Form as well as a signed copy of this SLA in advance of submission of any invoice.

I certify that the details below are true and accurate and full disclosure of all financial information in respect of the project will be made to Tourism NI on request during the term of the Agreement and for a period of one year thereafter.

The Company's bank account details are as follows:

Name of bank: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Account name: _____

Account number: _____

Sort code: _____

Account type: _____

Date opened: _____

Cost centre: _____

Signed: _____

Name (capitals please): _____

Position in organisation: _____

Date: _____

Annex 2 - How to Claim and Claim Form

You will need to submit your claim by 07 April 2023. All work undertaken should be completed by 31st March 2023.

1. If you wish to work with our agency partners, please let us know as soon as possible.
2. Please gather copies of invoices for media, creative, production or design. These should clearly state the company name above, the amount spent in GBP or EUR and where and when the marketing took place.
3. You may only claim for marketing communications activity such as PR, digital, advertising, photography, videography, branding and design work directly related to this funding offer. Please show itemised invoices if you are working on other campaigns at the same time.
4. No invoice should be dated before the date of your Letter of Offer.
5. If invoicing was in EUR, show the rate you converted at to pay in GBP.
6. Provide an itemised list of invoices so that we can easily see your spend - a document is enclosed to help with that.
7. Do NOT include UK VAT in your totals.
8. Please provide a copy of 1/3rd party invoices. So, if you have used an agency, photographer, videographer etc please submit a copy of their invoice/s with your claim. Where media has been utilised please gather evidence of press adverts, screenshots of online campaigns, radio transmission times, etc.
9. Scan or photograph this evidence and ideally place in a PDF document or attach to your claim email.
10. Please submit the claim form and pdf evidence by 07April 2023.
11. Once we have received your claim form, it will be checked to ensure it meets the terms and conditions of the fund and your original application. Once approved, payment will be made into your bank account that you provided in Annex 1.

25th January 2023 : Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund SLA Between Tourism NI and Mid Ulster District Council

Claim Form

Please detail all invoices below, whether in Euro or Sterling.

Please remember to attach a copy of third-party invoices to your claim, either in a pdf or as separate attachments with your claim email.

Completed claim forms must be returned to A.Murray@tourismni.com by 07 April 2023

Council or DMO:

Invoice Date	Payee	Euro Amt (if applicable)	Exchange Rate	Sterling Amt
Total £				


25th January 2023 : Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund SLA Between Tourism NI and Mid Ulster District Council

This Agreement between Tourism Northern Ireland and **Mid Ulster District Council** is signed on behalf of the parties.

Signed:

[Name], [*the Company*]

Date:



Signed:

John McGrillen, Tourism NI

Date:

24 January, 2023

Report on	SOLACE NI Report on Strategic Funding Alignment - Mapping of Investment Fund Opportunities in Northern Ireland
Date of Meeting	16 February 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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	The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an update on a SOLACE NI Report (prepared by Ekosgen), focusing on Strategic Funding Alignment to Map Investment Fund Opportunities in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>SOLACE NI report on Strategic Funding Alignment - Mapping of Investment Fund Opportunities in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Members may be aware that Ekosgen had been commissioned by SOLACE NI during the summer to undertake a scoping exercise of the existing funding landscape and to identify potential sources of investment/funding opportunities available to Councils in NI.</p> <p>The aims of this project were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provide Councils and SOLACE NI with a clear understanding of the existing funding landscape and to inform the strategic alignment within and between Councils and partners of investment funds in NI; ii. Inform council officers of the timeframes that exist within these funds including engagement sessions, fund opening submission dates, fund award and fund closing dates; and iii. Where possible, outline the range of different projects that are currently within the pipeline in NI delivered through these investment funding vehicles. <p>The study focused on the alignment of the various funds' themes and priorities, timings and bid submission dates. It is crucial that as the representative body for Local Authority Chief Executives in Northern Ireland, that SOLACE NI on behalf of</p>

	<p>their constituent Councils understand how all these funding opportunities align with existing sectoral and strategic priorities. It is also vital through this work that each Council also explores how as a local government sector and individual Councils we can scope out existing (and potential future) partnerships to maximise the drawdown and benefit of these funding opportunities.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>SOLACE NI report on Strategic Funding Alignment - Mapping of Investment Fund Opportunities in Northern Ireland</p> <p>The report attached presents the findings of an investment mapping exercise conducted by Ekosgen. The purpose of this report is threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To provide an overview of the range of different sources of investment available to local authorities in NI; ii. To identify any potential areas of synergy or potential overlap across funding themes and potential projects; and iii. To inform users of the content and use of the Investment Mapping Tool which has been created for the purposes of detailing the strategic fit of the Northern Ireland Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programmes Interventions List against the investment themes, projects, and missions of other funding programmes currently active in NI. <p>Members should note that the baseline funding programme set out within the Mapping Tool is interchangeable and for example the Peace Plus programme could substitute the SPF to demonstrate strategic fit against the investment themes, projects, and missions of other funding programmes as required by each Council. The wider aim of this tool is to establish synergies that could be gained from acknowledging that investment funds in Northern Ireland have similar aims and objectives, and thus can be exploited for wider collaboration across the funds. The mapping tool can be used by each Council or in conjunction with sub-regional partners to align their strategic objectives against emerging funding opportunities. The tool can be tailored and designed to the specific needs of each Council, and it will be the decision of each Council to decide the level of resourcing required to maintain the information it wishes to maintain and analyse within this tool.</p> <p>The mapping tool can be used in the decision-making process of Councils and across wider funding partners to identify potential areas of complementarity between their projects and other investment funds.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Mid South West (MSW) interventions/projects referenced in Appendix 2 remain the focus of ongoing development and are therefore subject to change.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: This report was commissioned by and will be paid through SOLACE NI on the basis of equal contribution by each Council of £1,310.
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>SOLACE NI report on Strategic Funding Alignment - Mapping of Investment Fund Opportunities in Northern Ireland</p> <p>5.1.1 Endorse the Report and Investment Mapping Tool appended to this report, produced by Ekosgen.</p> <p>5.1.2 Agree that officers use this report and the Investment Mapping Tool as a 'live' tool which should be updated as may be required to guide and inform the approach to funding opportunities.</p> <p>5.1.3 Agree that officers consider the establishment of a process to continuously review and update the investment mapping tool, investment/funding opportunities and approved/committed projects internally and also across local government. Consideration should be given to the resource implications of introducing and maintaining this process.</p> <p>5.1.4 Agree to share the final report as appropriate, with relevant partner organisations eg, Community Planning Partnerships, City and Growth Deal Board's etc.</p> <p>5.1.5 Agree that Council pay an equal share of costs to SOLACE NI to fund development of the report, ie, £1,310.</p>

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Northern Ireland Investment Fund Mapping</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Investment Mapping Tool</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Investment Mapping Tool Guidance</p>



**Northern Ireland Investment Fund Mapping
Exercise:
UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Final Report
for
SOLACE NI**

November 2022



Report completed/submitted by:	Susan Staiano, Ross Mawhinney
Proof check completed by:	Lee Williamson
Date:	1 November 2022

Report reviewed by:	Pamela Reid
Date:	2 November 2022

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1 Introduction

Overview

1.1 This report presents the findings of an investment mapping exercise conducted by ekosgen on behalf of SOLACE NI. The purpose of the review and this report is threefold:

- to provide a high level overview of a range of sources of investment currently available to local authorities in Northern Ireland (specified by the client to be included in this study);
- to map and identify any potential areas of synergy or potential overlap across the funds' funding themes and potential local authority led projects through reference to an investment mapping tool; and
- to inform users of the content and future use of the investment mapping tool.

1.2 It should be noted that this report is intended to accompany the excel based Investment Mapping Tool the main output of this study and be used alongside it, rather than as a standalone document

1.3 The study scope did not include developing a funding or investment strategy for SOLACE NI. Nor is it intended as a gap analysis or as an assessment or critique of current funding disbursement mechanisms in NI.

Aim and approach

1.4 The methodology adopted for this study can be separated into three distinct but cohesive stages. The **first stage** involved a briefing and discussion upon inception with SOLACE NI representatives to agree study objectives and scope. The **second stage** of desk-based research involved the profiling of the range of different Northern Irish investment funding sources currently being implemented or that have recently been announced, with particular focus on the themes and priority areas of each investment fund and whether these funding sources are likely to fund capital or revenue-led projects. These funding streams are then mapped against the UK Shared Prosperity Fund's (UKSPF) intervention list for Northern Ireland¹, taking these interventions (aligned to each of the three UKSPF investment priorities of "Communities and Place", "Supporting Local Business" and "People and Skills") to be the core aims and objectives of the Fund for local authorities in Northern Ireland to consider potential fit with their and partners' prospective projects.

1.5 This mapping exercise was checked against each of the Northern Ireland local authorities' Local Community Plans to ensure the aims of the investment funds were consistent with what the Community Plans aim to achieve. The **third stage** involved the synthesising of the information gathered in the second stage and developing this report to present areas of funding opportunity, collaboration and strategic fit for projects designed by local authorities in Northern Ireland.

1.6 The aims of this project are to:

- provide SOLACE NI members with a clear understanding of the strategic alignment of specified investment funds in Northern Ireland;
- inform SOLACE NI members of the timeframes within these funds including engagement sessions, fund opening submission dates, fund award and fund closing dates; and

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-northern-ireland>

- where possible, outline the range of different projects, both council and partnership led, that are currently within the pipeline in Northern Ireland delivered through these investment funding vehicles.

1.7 The aim of this report is to inform SOLACE NI members of the wider funding landscape in Northern Ireland, and the funds that potential projects could draw on. The mapping tool that has been developed as part of this project is a “live” tool designed to be adapted and updated as new project information and investment funding streams become available. It can be used at an individual organisation level but equally at partnership level, for example, at SOLACE NI or City or Growth Deal levels. It will require regular review and updating to ensure that it remains current and useful, contributing to maximising the draw down and effectiveness of the various funding streams.

Report structure

1.8 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** provides the strategic context for the range of different investment themes being analysed, focusing on the funding landscape as well as the wider context of the need for investment funding streams in Northern Ireland given the context of the rising cost of living and the need for a higher degree of local government collaboration.
- **Chapter 3** presents an overview of the main active investment funds in Northern Ireland from UK, Republic of Ireland and international sources. A more detailed version can be found at **Appendix A**.
- **Chapter 4** outlines the main themes found within the Local Community Plans for each of the 11 local authorities in Northern Ireland, and comments on the role of the Community Planning process in accessing new investment funds.
- **Chapter 5** details the methodology that was used to develop the mapping tool, as well as guidance on how, why, and when it can be used.
- **Chapter 6** outlines the next steps resulting from this report.

2 Strategic Context

Introduction

2.1 This chapter provides the strategic context for the project, covering the historical and present situation with regards to the funding landscape in Northern Ireland, as well as further insight into the rationale for wider co-operation of public sector bodies in the region.

Northern Ireland Funding Landscape

Historical Context

2.2 The Northern Irish Executive has been in receipt of funds from the UK Government for devolved activity public services since the devolution of powers came into effect in 1999. This funding has been allocated on the basis of the Barnett Formula, which calculates devolved budgets by using the previous year's budget as a starting point, and then adjusting it based on increases or decreases in comparable spending per person in England.²

2.3 The Barnett Formula aims to provide each UK administration with the same pounds-per-person change in funding as the equivalent UK Government spending. Through this mechanism, the Northern Ireland Executive receives funding of £121 per person for every £100 the UK Government is spending on equivalent English public services. It should be noted that the total funding allocation for Northern Ireland, as per the Autumn 2021 Budget is to be £15 billion per year, the highest ever in real terms.³

2.4 This funding is then allocated firstly across NI governmental departments, with the Department for Communities then allocating some of its budget to local authorities through Local Government and Housing Regulation Division Government grants. Local government also obtains income from rates, fees and charges for certain services and loans. Other NI government departments pay specific grants to councils which help with the financing of certain revenue and capital expenditure.⁴

2.5 In addition to support from the UK Government, further funding sources for Northern Ireland have included the EU Commission. In particular, various iterations of PEACE, a cross-border cooperation programme funded primarily through the European Commission that aims to ensure cohesion across communities involved in the conflict in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, has played a major role in funding in Northern Ireland. PEACE is recognised as an essential component in funding, and as such has been approved for its fifth iteration (with significantly more match funding provided from the UK Government as a result of Brexit), PEACE PLUS.

2.6 Other major funding streams that have been active in recent years that have had significant input from the EU include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which in its most recent funding period (2014-2020) placed a heavy emphasis on improving competitiveness in SMEs, enhancing research and innovation, transition towards a low carbon economy and general improvements to economic growth in Northern Ireland.

2.7 ERDF funding has also supported other programmes such as INTERREG, which has supported cross-border co-operation in terms of the six border counties of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and part of Western Scotland. The most recent funding programme (INTERREG VA, 2014-2020) focused on four

² <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7386/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/record-15-billion-per-year-for-northern-ireland>

⁴ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/funding>

core objectives: Research & Innovation for cross-border enterprise development; Environmental initiatives; Sustainable Transport projects; and Health & Social Care projects.⁵

2.8 Funding from the European Social Fund has also been prominent in Northern Ireland with the 2014-2020 programme contributing some 210 million Euros to activities to “*combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and to increase the skills base of those currently in work and future potential participants in the workforce.*” Fund priorities are: Access to Employment, Social inclusion and Skills for Growth. Delivery and programme expenditure runs until 2023.⁶

Present Day

2.9 With the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union coming into effect in January 2020, it was acknowledged that there would be significant funding gaps present in Northern Ireland whenever EU funding programmes finished. There was a commitment to continue the aforementioned PEACE programme beyond PEACE IV, with PEACE PLUS now receiving majority funding contributions from the UK Government, with match funding contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the European Commission. In total, there is anticipated to be €1.1 billion allocated to the PEACE PLUS Programme.⁷

2.10 The UK Government has also announced several regional City and Growth Deals across Northern Ireland. City and Growth deals are bespoke packages of funding and decision-making powers negotiated between central government and local authorities. They are aimed at helping to harness additional investment, create new jobs and speed up inclusive economic growth.

2.11 The combined funding for these City and Growth Deals from the Northern Ireland Executive and UK government will total £1.2bn⁸, which will be complemented by the private sector and other sources of funding. The Deals that have been announced for Northern Ireland include the Belfast City Region Deal, the Derry-Londonderry and Strabane Region City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund, the Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal and the Mid-South West Growth Deal. The Northern Ireland Executive have also created the City & Growth Deal Complementary Fund providing up to £100m for complementary projects where partners can demonstrate a viable capital project which is complementary to city and growth deal proposals. Development of the fund recognised the need to respond to the impact of the pandemic, enabling proposals to be developed in the short to medium term. Following an application process in 2021, over 50% of the overall fund (£52.1m) was allocated across five projects, while the second tranche of funding has been ringfenced for projects that are complementary to the Deals that had not been as far progressed as those in the first tranche.⁹

2.12 The UK Government are presently following a policy of “levelling up” the whole of the UK to ensure geographical equity across all of its constituent regions in terms of opportunity, infrastructure and living standards.¹⁰ As part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland can utilise a wide range of investment funds that have arisen as a result of this policy focus.

2.13 Of these funding programmes, the Community Renewal Fund, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), and the Levelling Up Fund are of most significance. The Community Renewal Fund acted as a precursor to the UKSPF, focusing on investment themes of skills and employability, community and place, and local business. Organisations in Northern Ireland were in receipt of £12.4 million of funding

⁵ <https://www.seupb.eu/iva-overview>

⁶ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/esf>

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4489

⁸ <https://www.investni.com/international-business/why-northern-ireland/city-deals>

⁹ <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/Written%20Ministerial%20Statement%20-%20Executive%20Budget%202022-25%20-%20Final%20accessible.pdf>

¹⁰

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1095544/Executive_Summary.pdf

for 31 projects across the Community Renewal Fund.¹¹ The fund opened in March 2021 and closed in March 2022.

2.14 The UKSPF has been established to improve the places people live in, and support individuals and businesses across the United Kingdom. Its core investment priorities are focused around 3 main themes: community and place; supporting local business; and developing people and skills. This Fund was launched in April 2022 and is scheduled to close in March 2025. For Northern Ireland, the fund represents £127m over three years, comprised of; £19 million in 2022/23, £33 million in 2023/4, and £74 million in 2024/5.¹² The total fund includes £22 million allocated to local Multiply adult numeracy programmes, expenditure on which is controlled centrally.

2.15 The Levelling Up Fund is the flagship fund for the levelling up agenda, set up in order to minimise the productivity gap between all regions in the UK, and to “level up” all regions, ensuring that there is equity in opportunity and public service provision. There are 12 cohesive missions that are required in order to meet a successful funding programme by its end in 2030¹³, including increasing R&D, pay, employment and productivity, transport connectivity, digital connectivity, pride of place, health and wellbeing and reducing crime.

2.16 The Irish Government has also committed to providing funding that will assist Northern Ireland until 2025. The Shared Island Initiative is a collaboration between the Office of the Taoiseach, the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government that has been designed to address strategic challenges faced on the island of Ireland, further develop the all-island economy and foster a comprehensive programme of research to build consensus around a shared future across the island. Announced in Budget 2021, the Irish Government has committed €500 million in capital funding between 2021 and 2025 for investment in collaborative North/South projects.

Future Funding Landscape

2.17 The Northern Ireland Executive have drafted the Investment Strategy up to 2050 and, following consideration of all responses to the public consultation process that ended in April 2022, a full analysis report will be prepared for Executive consideration.¹⁴ It is the aim of the Executive to produce rolling 10-year investment plans that will define and prioritise the individual programmes and projects needed to deliver on the five key investment themes expressed within the strategic framework.

2.18 These five key themes are as follows: Decarbonisation of the NI economy and society; Strengthening of NI's essential public services; Enhancing communities and place; Building a strong, connected and competitive region; and maximising the benefits from new technology and innovation.

2.19 The draft Investment Strategy refers to the involvement of Community Planning Partnerships (further explored in Chapter 4) when prioritising projects for investment. In order to ensure a proposed investment is inclusive and equitable, project leaders are encouraged to develop the project through co-design and stakeholder engagement. Project leaders should also consider the possibility of co-delivery, through mechanisms such as central and local government partnerships or community partnerships.

2.20 In addition to the above investment funding landscape, it should be noted that a recent development is the new Labour Market Partnerships¹⁵ found within each of the Local Authority areas of Northern Ireland which present an opportunity for more joined up, collaborative working in the area of employability and thus may present future opportunities to access investment funds.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-successful-bids>

¹² <https://www.nicva.org/article/latest-on-the-uk-shared-prosperity-ni-programme-update-from-dept-for-levelling-up>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-levelling-up-plan-that-will-transform-uk>

¹⁴ <https://isni.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Infrastructure-2050-draft-Investment-Strategy-for-Northern-Ireland-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁵ https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/dfc-labour-market-partnerships-screening_0.pdf

2.21 It is also worth noting that funding has already been provided to devolved governments to support rural communities in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales as part of the agreed replacement to the Common Agricultural Policy funds. The UK Government is incorporating England's share of funding to support rural economies into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to better streamline and simplify the spending landscape; this is not the case in Northern Ireland. This also applies to local placed based funds, for example, the Future High Street Fund in England, for which the NI Executive received in the region of £20 million. This was incorporated into the overall NI Executive budget settlement.

2.22 During the course of the research it has been suggested that SOLACE should consider how it can influence and work with the Northern Ireland Executive, for example, the Department for the Economy and the Department of Finance, to ensure that future funding allocations are made available to local government and can be used to reflect local priorities. Whilst this was raised in the research, developing it further was out of scope of the commission.

Wider Context – Cost of Living, Inflation, Public Sector Budgets

2.23 Given the change in the funding landscape in Northern Ireland, it is important to be cognisant of the wider context. The UK monthly inflation rate has been increasing steadily since October 2021,¹⁶ reaching a 40-year high of 10.1% in July 2022 before falling slightly to 9.9% in August¹⁷, and predictions indicate that inflation will peak at 11% in October and continue to remain above 10% over the coming months.¹⁸ Consumer price inflation is forecast to reach 14% before the end of 2022¹⁹ with a decline of around 2.5% in average real disposable income in 2022²⁰ and unemployment forecast to rise to 5.5% by 2024.²¹

2.24 With prices of goods and services increasing faster than income, the UK is facing a cost-of-living crisis. Around nine in ten adults in the UK have reported an increase in their cost of living, with the most common factors being food (94%), electricity bills (82%), and fuel (77%).²² The Bank of England has forecast living standards to fall by 3.7% over 2022 and 2023.²³ There is serious concern about the impact of this crisis on poverty and its impact on people living in or facing poverty.

2.25 In Northern Ireland, consumer confidence is low as a result of inflation. The Danske Bank Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) decreased sharply from 117 in Q1 2022 to 103 in Q2 2022, marking the 4th consecutive quarter of declining sentiment.²⁴ The Ulster Bank Purchasing Managers' Index recorded a fall in private sector output from 42.9 in June to 41.9 in July, falling for the third consecutive month.²⁵ Businesses attributed this to a reduction in demand caused by inflation, which remained elevated despite showing signs of easing, reportedly driven up by fuel prices and wage increases.²⁶

2.26 Northern Ireland, like other regions of the UK are currently experiencing a challenging labour market, i.e. low levels of labour market growth, an ageing population and a reduction in migrant labour

¹⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/d7g7/mm23>

¹⁷ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/august2022>

¹⁸ <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/knowledgebank/will-inflation-in-the-uk-keep-rising>

¹⁹ <https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/news/2022/09/bcc-economic-forecast-new-pm-must-act-as-uk-economy-set-for-recession-before-year-end>

²⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/03/inflation-will-soar-to-astronomical-levels-over-next-year-thinktank-warns>

²¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/04/bank-of-england-raises-interest-rates-to-1-point-75-per-cent-in-biggest-hike-in-27-years>

²²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/articles/whatactionsarepeopletakingbecauseoftherisingcostofliving/2022-08-05>

²³ <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/slower-for-longer/>

²⁴ <https://danskebank.co.uk/business/economic-analysis/consumer-confidence-index/consumer-confidence-index-2022-q2>

²⁵ <https://ulstereconomix.com/2022/08/15/sharper-fall-in-activity-as-price-pressures-hit-demand/#more-15950>

²⁶ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/August-2022-Monthly-Economic-Update.pdf>

as a result of Brexit. It is in this context that many project investments to date and those in the planning pipeline are seeking to achieve job creation targets which will become increasingly harder to reach.

2.27 With these factors in mind, it will be important for local government in NI to co-operate across and seek complementarity within the range of funds that are available in order to make best use of the opportunities presented. The range of investment funds identified have a set of common themes such as Community and Place, investments in People and Skills, Tourism and Regeneration activity, and Enabling Infrastructure.

2.28 Local government should be cognisant of the range of various opportunities that can be availed of, and decision-makers should actively look to co-operate where there are projects that could have the potential for strategic alignment. For example, for Growth Deal projects that are capital build activity, it may be possible for Growth Deal partners to avail of the predominantly revenue-led UKSPF if the Growth Deal project fits within the Intervention List's missions. Alignment between existing and new funding must be considered.

3 Overview of Active Funds

Introduction

3.1 The following presents a high-level summary of the active (and soon to be active) funds in Northern Ireland, with regards to the key themes and objectives of the funds, the timeframes that these funds are operating to, and the anticipated spend of each respective fund, where available. A more detailed summary of these funds can be found at **Appendix A**.

UK Government Funding Sources

3.2 Table 3.1 provides a high-level summary of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund.

Table 3.1: UK Government Funding Sources

Funding Source	Timeframes	Anticipated Spend (NI)	Investment Themes / Priorities
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	April 2022 – March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core: £104.95m Multiply: £22m Total: £127m²⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Place Supporting Local Business People and Skills
Levelling Up Fund	March 2021 – April 2025	£144m (3% of total budget) ²⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport investment Regeneration and Town Centre investment Cultural investment
Community Renewal Fund	March 2021 – March 2022	£12.4m ²⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills and employability Local business Community and Place

City and Growth Deals

3.3 Table 3.2 details the timeframes, anticipated spend and core investment themes of the Belfast City Region Deal, the Derry-Londonderry and Strabane City Region Deal, the Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal and the Mid-South West Growth Deal.

²⁷ <https://www.nicva.org/article/latest-on-the-uk-shared-prosperity-ni-programme-update-from-dept-for-levelling-up>

²⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073342/LUF_Webinar_Slides_-_Northern_Ireland.odp

²⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-successful-bids>

Table 3.2: City Region and Growth Deals Summary

Funding Source	Timeframes	Anticipated Spend (NI)	Investment Themes / Priorities
Belfast City Region Deal (BRCD)	December 2021 – December 2036	£850m ³⁰ NB. £100m Complementary Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation and Digital • Tourism and Regeneration • Infrastructure • Employability and Skills
Derry-Londonderry and Strabane City Region Deal (DSCRD)	February 2021 – January 2032 (end of Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan targets)	£140m ³¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation and Digital • Health and Wellbeing • Tourism and Regeneration • Employability and Skills
Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal (CCGGD)	January 2020 – December 2030 (end of Community Plan)	£72m ³²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation • Tourism and Regeneration • Infrastructure • Employability and Skills • Digital Connectivity • Energy and the Green Economy
Mid-South West Growth Deal (MSWGD)	January 2020 – December 2030 (end of FODC and ABC Council Community plans)	£252m ³³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Proofing the Skills Base • Enabling Infrastructure • Boosting Innovation and Digital Capacity • Building the Visitor and Tourist Economy

3.4 Whilst Employability and Skills is a priority across all Deals they do not have revenue budget available, making it crucial that capital investment via the Deals is complemented with revenue investment sourced from other investment funds.

3.5 It should also be noted that the City and Growth Deals are also being supplemented by supplementary funds. These include the **Inclusive Futures Fund** for DSCRD and the **City and Growth Deal Complementary Fund** for BRCD, CCGGD and MSWGD.

3.6 The Inclusive Futures Fund is a £110m fund, comprised of £55m from UK Government and £55m from the NI Executive, to supplement funding for projects in the DDCRD that focus on: long-term social and physical deprivation; pathways to employment; and the economic potential of the local university and innovation assets, making the local area more accessible and attractive to live, visit, study and invest in.

3.7 The City and Growth Deal Complementary Fund as mentioned earlier is a £100m supplementary fund for capital projects that are complementary to the City and Growth Deal proposals in the remaining City/Growth deals in Northern Ireland; the fund is administered by the NI Executive.

International / Cross-border Funding Sources

3.8 Table 3.3 provides a summary of the timeframes, anticipated spend and core investment themes across the Republic of Ireland's Shared Island Fund and the SEUPB-implemented PEACE PLUS funding programme.

³⁰ <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Documents/Belfast-Region-City-Deal-December-2021>

³¹ <https://www.derrystrabane.com/citydeal>

³² <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/mayor-welcomes-funding-announcement-for-causeway-coast-and-glens>

³³ <https://www.fermanaghmagh.com/article/additional-growth-deal-funding-welcomed-by-mid-south-west/>

Table 3.3: International and Cross-border Funding Agreements

Funding Source	Timeframes	Anticipated Spend (NI)	Investment Themes / Priorities
Shared Island Fund	October 2020 – December 2025	£500m ³⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border infrastructure initiatives • Greater all-island connectivity and North West / Border connectivity • North/South Research and Innovation • North/South Health Links • Collaborative environmental approaches • All-island economic development
PEACE PLUS	January 2021 – December 2027	£1.1bn ³⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful and Thriving Communities • Economic Regeneration and Transformation • Young People • Healthy and Inclusive Communities • Sustainable and Better Connected Future • Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

³⁴ <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c3417-shared-island/>

³⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4489

4 Community Planning

Introduction

4.1 In April 2015, the reform of Local Government in Northern Ireland resulted in the creation of 11 new councils³⁶. These councils were given responsibility to lead the community planning process for their district. Community plans identify long-term priorities for improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being of districts and their residents.

4.2 Community Planning Partnerships have been established in each district comprising the council, statutory bodies, agencies, and the community and voluntary sector. The partners develop and implement a shared plan for promoting the well-being of an area, improving community cohesion and the quality of life for all citizens.

4.3 The Statutory Partners involved in the Community Planning Process are as follows: Education and Library Boards; Health and Social Care Trusts; Public Health Agency; the Health and Social Care Board; Police Service of Northern Ireland; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service; Invest Northern Ireland; Northern Ireland Tourist Board; Sports Council for Northern Ireland; Libraries NI; and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

4.4 The Community Plans that have been published are similar in format and structure. They all identify core thematic desired outcomes for the region to the end of their plan date (all of which were published in 2017, with end dates ranging from 2027 to 2035), as well as key performance indicators to measure progress.

4.5 With regards to the themes surrounding the Plans' desired outcomes, the following are common across all (or at least most) of the Councils' Community Plans:

- Good health and wellbeing;
- Security and safety;
- Economic prosperity;
- Skilled and educated workforces;
- Regional/community connectivity; and
- Environmental sustainability.

4.6 These themes are considered within the range of investment priorities across active investment funds researched in Chapter 3 and detailed at Appendix A.

4.7 While the overarching themes are similar, it should be noted that the performance of each region is monitored individually, within their own framework of key performance indicators to measure progress against these themes.

³⁶ The 11 councils established in 2015 are: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council; Derry City and Strabane District Council; Fermanagh and Omagh District Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; Mid Ulster District Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Community Planning Process

4.8 Community Plans are central to strategic place-based planning for all local authorities in Northern Ireland. SOLACE and partners recognise the value of Northern Ireland's Community Plans (and the planning process) as multi-partner plans for local areas involving local, central, and other relevant partners as described above. UKSPF priorities and allocations present a funding opportunity to link back to the needs and issues outlined in these Plans. Community Planning Partnerships are the key mechanism for deciding local priorities and driving specific activity that contributes to the foundations of productivity. There is a need for genuine place-based policy to inform allocations and investment on a broader scale.

4.9 At the heart of the community planning process is collaboration and working in partnership to identify an area's economic development priorities. Community Planning has a central role to play in driving 'joined up' project development in order to access the maximum funding available through various investment funds. For example, Year 1 of the UKSPF Northern Ireland allocation will demand a spend of some £19 million between October 2022 and March 2023. This will be challenging, however, there is potential for spending priorities and activity in the current Community Plans to be scaled up by accessing this funding.

4.10 It is also important to recognise the need for alignment between regional and local priorities, and priorities in urban and rural areas. Investment funds should be considered, bearing in mind the requirement for flexibility to respond to local need identified in Community Plans, and clusters of need, for example geographical clusters of local authorities, and/or thematic or sectoral clusters. Where individual local authorities may be too small or lack capacity to apply for project funding this will help to ensure that all areas are able to draw down their full allocation (as far as possible in a competitive environment) of all investment funds and address issues in their area and at the same time, contribute to objectives at both Northern Ireland and UK levels.

4.11 UKSPF funding, in particular, must align with, be able to support, and be supported by other strategic priorities and sources of finance such as Peace Fund and Growth/City Deals. There is a need to ensure existing funding and budgets are prioritised correctly and are being used most effectively thus ensuring the greatest impact.

Complementary structures

4.12 As mentioned earlier the recently established **labour market partnerships**, in their capacity for scoping local labour market supply and demand, may also prove useful in identifying and shaping priority interventions with regards to skills development and training for each local authority area. These Partnerships have been established to improve employment outcomes and enhance the skills levels of local residents. They bring together regional government departments, local skills providers, and business representatives with the aim of developing innovative approaches that can improve outcomes for target groups across the Local Authority area, and also help local companies secure the talent pipeline that they need to grow their business.

4.13 **City & Growth Deal Investment** is a strategic investment opportunity for Northern Ireland, focusing upon delivering major capital investments which will seek to boost the economy, building upon areas of competitive strength. Potential exists through future funding and alignment of existing funding to further capitalise on this investment. The capital nature of city and growth deal funding highlights a clear opportunity to bolster and enhance the impact of this investment by attracting complementary revenue funding, as well as leveraging further capital investment to increase the scale and impact of the current investment programme. Across the city and growth deals common areas of priority exist around sustainability, employability and skills and digital, as well as areas of sectoral alignment and a shared commitment to deliver inclusive economic growth. Opportunities exist to build upon the strategic economic focus both within and across deals to explore the opportunities created through future funding

opportunities and how they can be maximised to consolidate, build upon and enhance the impact of the city deal investment.

4.14 Established governance arrangements exist at a deal level providing a vehicle for partnership working, investment planning and project development. Additionally, workstreams and potential for joint working on a cross deal basis are emerging focusing upon common areas of priority.

4.15 There are a number of options available to local authorities and their partners for local, sub-regional, cross deal and regional delivery and the most appropriate delivery vehicle should be considered on a project by project basis based on the nature of the project, the interests of partners and the complementarity with other local, sub-regional and regional projects.

5 The Mapping Tool

Introduction

5.1 This section describes the mapping tool that has been created by ekosgen for SOLACE NI, for the purposes of identifying the potential for complementarity across the key investment funds currently active in Northern Ireland.

Background / Rationale

5.2 This tool was created for the purposes of detailing the strategic fit of the UK SPF programme's Interventions List³⁷ against the investment themes, projects, and missions of other funding programmes currently active in Northern Ireland. The wider aim of this tool is to demonstrate that there are synergies that could be gained from acknowledging that investment funds in Northern Ireland have similar aims and objectives, and thus can be exploited for wider collaboration across the funds.

5.3 The tool has been designed based on an initial desk research exercise which gathered information on the range of different large-scale investment funds and investment vehicles active in Northern Ireland, namely:

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- PEACE PLUS;
- The Community Renewal Fund;
- The Levelling Up Fund;
- The Belfast City Region Deal;
- The Derry and Strabane City Deal;
- The Mid-South West Economic Engine;
- The Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal; and
- The Shared Island Fund.

5.4 The research identified that many of the projects, investment themes and fund missions that have been announced for each of the above have a high potential for strategic alignment with the SPF's Intervention List for Northern Ireland and it was discovered there may be potential synergies that could be identified for the potential streamlining of projects and/ or any potential gaps in provision across the investment themes.

5.5 Projects, missions and investment themes from the above funds were then compared against the SPF List and areas of potential complementary were highlighted for further exploration for Local Authorities or Investment Fund partners to consider the potential for collaboration and the development of a future pipeline of projects which could potentially be funded via SPF.

How To Use The Mapping Tool

5.6 When opening the tool, there is a front worksheet that links to each of the investment funds that has been set against the UK SPF's Intervention List. When clicked on, this will take the user to the corresponding analysis page.

5.7 Each of these analysis sheets features each of the UK SPF's stated 52 interventions for Northern Ireland along the y axis, split across the three themes of *Community and Place*, *Supporting*

³⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-northern-ireland>

Local Businesses and *People and Skills*. These are colour coded by theme- pink for Community and Place, blue for Supporting Local Businesses and yellow for People and Skills.

5.8 Along the x axis of each analysis sheet, there are the corresponding themes, missions, or examples of current projects that are to be analysed against the SPF. Where there are areas of potential complementarity, for example between the planned greenway infrastructure improvements found within the Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal and the SPF's stated intervention aim of providing support for active travel enhancements, the corresponding cell has been highlighted to indicate potential complementarity.

5.9 The highlighted cells have then been labelled to indicate whether the funding for these projects, missions or investment themes is likely to be capital-led or revenue-led, to help identify whether there is potential for the SPF to be utilised to fund any aspects that the fund analysed against it would be unable to fund.

5.10 There is also a "*Timeframes Gantt Chart*" tab that refers to the dates that relate to each funding mechanism from fund opening to fund closing. These dates are expressed in months and where possible, exact dates. This Gantt Chart has been designed on the basis of publicly available information (and is linked to the source, where possible) and discussion with Belfast City Council economic development representatives and is therefore indicative in places.

5.11 The tool has been created as an example of how to map investment funds against one another for strategic alignment. The fund that has been analysed in the example has been the UK SPF, however there is therefore scope to edit this tool to analyse other funds. This can be done through setting the relevant investment fund on the y axis, and then completing the same activity described above for this funding mechanism as opposed to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Key Points to Note

5.12 Where possible a brief description of the projects with alignment to an SPF intervention have been highlighted on each worksheet in the mapping tool, as well as identification of whether the funding for the project is likely to be a capital-led or revenue-led. In the used case, funding for the UK SPF is between 80% and 90% revenue funding across the 3-year funding period, and so in instances where the highlighted project is capital-funded, there is a possibility for the UK SPF to be utilised for funding the revenue side of aligned projects.

5.13 The mapping tool can be used in the decision-making process of Local Authorities or wider funding partners in Northern Ireland to identify potential areas of complementarity between their projects and other investment funds. In the used case, the SPF Intervention List has been demonstrated against the other eight named investment funds or vehicles (listed above) with significant presence and potential for delivery.

5.14 As stated above, it should be noted that the tool itself is not static and can be easily replicated to analyse strategic fit beyond the UK SPF Interventions List. For example, if a regional City/Growth Deal partner is considering the potential development of a project that may have strategic alignment with the Levelling Up Fund thematic missions, they could identify which of the LUF sub-investment themes it is aligned with, whether or not the project they are aiming to fund is likely to require revenue or capital funding, and then identify whether there is the potential for utilising Levelling Up Fund funding when submitting the Outline Business Case for the potential project.

6 Next steps and considerations

Next steps

6.1 The next step for SOLACE is the timely dissemination of this report and the accompanying investment mapping tool and guidance amongst the relevant local authority departments, and to encourage and explain the potential benefits of its use internally, and within City and Growth Deal partnerships.

6.2 Similarly, consideration should be given to the sharing of the mapping tool approach as part of collaboration with existing regional partners and key local partner organisations. Utilising existing partnership structures will ensure that project development and investment and funding considerations will not take place in local authority or other silos.

6.3 The mapping tool provides an up to date 'snapshot' in time. However, it was commissioned and designed to be a "live" tool that should be adapted and updated by individual local authorities, organisations, and local partners as new project information and investment funding streams become available. Its ongoing value will only be realised if it is reviewed and updated regularly.

6.4 With this in mind SOLACE should develop a process for reviewing and updating it at NI level and across partnership structures. This will require resourcing and agreement of clear roles and responsibilities. This NI-wide 'master' mapping tool should be available to partners, but at the same time, individual partners, for example local authorities, might wish to consider a 'local' version that sits outside of the master which may give a swifter and a greater degree of flexibility for planning and decision-making.

6.5 Using the mapping tool SOLACE should review relevant investment funds and current approved/committed investments with a view to checking any changes in the funding position on a regular basis. This could be done on a quarterly basis as part of SOLACE's meeting agenda. This would inform high level decision making with the overall aim of making more effective use of available investment funds. This approach would also reinforce the need to keep the tool up to date.

6.6 Once the mapping tool is embedded within SOLACE, is being actively used by SOLACE and member authorities, and an updating process established and tested, consideration should be given to the benefits of rolling it out to incorporate or be replicated for other sectors for example the voluntary sector and Higher and Further Education. This could support wider partnership working and alignment of funds and activities.

Appendix A: Profile of Active Funds in Northern Ireland

Introduction

The following comprises the desk research completed on the main active funding mechanisms in Northern Ireland. As part of this research, the following investment funds, City and Growth Deals and international funds have been analysed:

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- PEACE PLUS;
- The Levelling Up Fund;
- The Belfast City Region Deal;
- The Derry and Strabane City Deal;
- The Mid-South West Economic Engine;
- The Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal;
- The Shared Island Fund; and
- The Community Renewal Fund.

A profile of each of these funding mechanisms has been created and, where possible, the following information has been provided:

- A general overview of the background to the fund and its primary focus;
- The range of investment themes or priority areas for investment for the fund;
- The type of investment it is likely to contribute to (capital-led or revenue-led projects);
- The total funding levels available and, if possible, the funding available to Northern Ireland;
- The expressed partnerships, collaboration efforts and delivery geographies of the fund;
- Any match-funding requirements, where stated; and
- Timescales for submissions of bids and any other relevant dates to be mindful of.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Background / Primary Focus

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is one of the UK government's mechanisms for delivering their Levelling Up agenda for the United Kingdom and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. All areas of the UK will receive an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula, as opposed to a competitive process. The overarching objective of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances. Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the pandemic, this Fund will improve the places people live in, and support individuals and businesses. It will drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities, foster local pride in place and increase life chances including health outcomes.

Themes / Priority Areas

The investment priority areas of the Shared Prosperity Fund focus on 3 themes:

- **Community and Place:**
 - Strengthening the social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging in communities, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
 - It is hoped that resilient and safe neighbourhoods will be built, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

- **Supporting Local Business:**
 - Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions of strength in the region, ranging from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
 - Networking and collaboration will also be promoted by bringing together businesses and partners both within and across sectors in order to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
 - Private sector investment will also be increased in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy-efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.
- **People and Skills:**
 - Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low-level qualifications and skills in maths, upskilling the working age population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers.
 - Disadvantaged people (such as the long-term unemployed and those with protected characteristics) will be supported in accessing the skills they need to progress in life and into work through funding life, and basic skills where this is not delivered through national or local employment and skills provision.
 - Local areas will be supported to fund local skills needs and supplement local adult skills provision, for example by delivering provision through a wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, for both qualification based and non-qualification based learning.
 - Levels of economic inactivity will be reduced, and those furthest from the labour market will be moved closer to employment, through investment in bespoke employment support tailored to local needs. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.

Type of investment

For the core UKSPF funding, the split of capital and revenue investment funding amongst Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland over the first 3 years of delivery (2022/23 – 2024/25) is allocated as follows:

- 2022/23 – 89.6% revenue funding, 10.4% capital funding
- 2023/24 – 87.5% revenue funding, 12.5% capital funding
- 2024/25- 82.1% revenue funding, 17.9% capital funding

The funding that local authorities and delivery bodies receive from Multiply³⁸ is to remain constant at 100% revenue funding throughout the course of the programme.

Funding Levels

In total, the UK Shared Prosperity fund has made available £126,854,145 in Northern Ireland, having been allocated £104,947,606 from core SPF funding, and a further £21,906,539 being made available as a result of Multiply, a programme that is earmarked for the funding of numeracy projects.

This funding will be delivered yearly, with the following anticipated spending profile:

³⁸ A £559 million programme of interventions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that is hoping to boost math and numeracy qualifications in adults which lead to better numeracy skills and ability, therefore meaning improved labour market outcomes.

- Year 1 (2022/23) – £19m;
- Year 2 (2023/24) – £33m; and
- Year 3 (2024/25) – £74m.

When considering the funding allocations to each of the 3 investment themes, the split has been recently confirmed³⁹ to be:

- Supporting Local Business – £38.3m (41%), 73% of which is to be revenue funding and 27% of which is to be capital funding;
- People and Skills – £39.6m (42%), 100% of which is to be revenue funding; and
- Communities and Place £15.46m (17%), 20% of which is to be revenue funding and 80% of which is to be capital funding.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

For the rest of the UK, local authorities are responsible for applying, managing, and delivering projects associated with the Shared Prosperity Fund. In Northern Ireland, the UK Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will manage delivery in Northern Ireland. It is envisaged that a Northern Ireland UK Shared Prosperity Plan Investment Plan will be produced in October 2022, and that funding will be administered accordingly as a result of this plan.

The UK Government is engaging with a range of stakeholders from a wide variety of local sources in Northern Ireland to draft this plan and have established a Partnership Group for managing the delivery of the Shared Prosperity Fund. This Partnership Group contains representatives from local authorities (2 SOLACE NI representatives), the community and voluntary sector (1 representative from CO3 and 1 representative from NICVA), businesses (1 representative from CBI and 1 representative from the NI Chamber of Commerce), the tertiary education sector (the Vice Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast) and the social enterprise sector. It is felt that this is the most appropriate method of managing the process, and that working with local partners to ensure that delivery arrangements reflect the particular needs of the Northern Ireland economy and society.

An example of this iterative process impacting the management of the SPF in Northern Ireland is through recent discussions about the UKSPF Interventions List - the Partnership Group is intending to focus on 15 of these interventions as key priorities of investment, as opposed to the full 52 interventions stated from the outset (and which are contained in the mapping tool accompanying this report). When this intervention list is finalised, the mapping tool can be updated to reduce to these interventions, thereby simplifying analysis.

Match-funding Requirements

Match funding will not be required to unlock an area's allocation. This provides flexibility, reduces bureaucracy, and empowers lead local authorities to tailor their approach to local circumstances. The sourcing of match funding/leverage will not be a factor in the assessment of each place's investment plan, however for Northern Irish projects, project applicants and delivery partners will be asked to state if they have match funding as part of their application. This will be considered as part of the value for money assessment of interventions and as part of State Aid assessment.

Timescales and routes to market

The Shared Prosperity Fund has been able to support investment in interventions that started from 1st April 2022, provided they fit within the relevant interventions toolkit and all Fund requirements set out above. The window for developing an investment plan in the rest of the UK was open from 30th June to 1st August 2022, and the anticipated date for investment plans to be approved and payments to project applicants are expected to happen in October 2022. For Northern Ireland, as a result of the more

³⁹ SPF NI Partnership Group

extensive and collaborative consultation approach taken and due to delays in launching the Investment Plan, the DLUHC has shifted the timescales for Northern Ireland. In anticipation of the DLUHC Investment Plan being finalised in November, calls are anticipated to open in December 2022. Funding has been confirmed for three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) providing a predictable baseline element of local growth funding. All interventions should end by March 2025 or have a break clause allowing for closure by March 2025 if required.

Unlike Scotland, England, and Wales, the DLUHC are considering 3 different “routes to market” for accessing funding in Northern Ireland. These are as follows:

- Commissioning councils to deliver specific programmes, e.g., the existing Business Start Up regional programme
- Open calls for project funding applications
- The appointment of a third party to run a grant programme (e.g., NICVA or CO3 for the communities and place aspect of the funding programme), who then would call for applications and award small grants to organisations for project delivery

PEACE Plus

Background / Primary Focus

PEACE Plus is the most recent iteration of the European Union’s funding programme that supports projects that are designed to support peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland and the bordering counties of the Republic of Ireland. This programme is running from 2021 to 2027. In previous iterations, these projects have been delivered under PEACE I, II III and IV, as well as funding from INTERREG programmes. The Programme’s purpose is to continue to take the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration in the region and secondly, to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.

Themes / Priority Areas

For PEACE Plus, the themes within which the funding programme is split into is broadly similar to previous iterations of the PEACE Programme, focusing on economic and social prosperity. There are six key thematic areas of the PEACE Plus Programme, each with their own sub thematic Investment Areas and designated funding allocations which are detailed in the Funding Levels section below. The themes are as follows:

1. Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities;
2. Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation;
3. Empowering and Investing in Our Young People;
4. Healthy and Inclusive Communities;
5. Supporting a Sustainable and Better-Connected Future; and
6. Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration.

Type of investment

The investment that is delivered through the PEACE Programme is a mixture of capital and revenue funding, that is delivered in the form of a grant. It is not anticipated that projects are to return any funding to the SEUPB, and organisations applying for funding can receive up to 100% of project costs. The revenue and funding split is dependent on the investment area (for example, there is a heavy emphasis on capital-led projects for Sub Investment Theme 1.4: Reimagining Communities while Sub Investment Theme 4.3: Victims and Survivors will likely fund mostly revenue-led projects).

Funding Levels

In total, there is over €1 billion (€1.07 billion) allocated to projects within the PEACE Plus Programme to be delivered from 2021 to 2027. As stated above, each theme has been allocated a designated amount of money and, within the theme, there are targeted investment areas. These are as follows in table A1.1:

Table A1.1: PEACE Plus Investment Areas and Funding Allocations

Investment Area	Funding Allocation (€)
Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities (€250m)	
1.1 Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans	€110m
1.2 Empowering Communities	€30m
1.3 Building Positive Relations	€35m
1.4 Reimagining Communities	€75m
Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation (€170m)	
2.1 SME Development and Transition	€25m
2.2 Innovation Challenge Fund	€65m
2.3 Programme Areas Skills Development	€50m
2.4 Small Towns and Villages	€30m
Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People (€123m)	
3.1 Shared Learning Together Education Programme	€51.3m
3.2 PEACE Plus Youth Programme	€47m
3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing	€25m
Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities (€172m)	
4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care	€97m
4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion	€50m
4.3 Victims and Survivors	€25m
Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future (€303m)	
5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience	€40m
5.2 Marine and Coastal Management	€24.8m
5.3 Water Quality and Catchment Management	€21m
5.4 Water Quality Improvement Programme	€32m
5.5 Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme	€20m
5.6 Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity	€165m
Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration (€52m)	
6.1 Strategic Planning and Engagement	€32m
6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships Between Citizens	€20m

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

The overall programme is delivered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), who are working in partnership with the UK, Irish and Northern Irish governments to deliver projects. It is anticipated that, as in previous PEACE iterations, that organisations will apply for funding that will meet the thematic criteria and will then be delivered by these organisations.

The Programme area includes Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, namely the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo. This is known as the core Programme area.

However, cross border collaboration is not strictly limited to the administrative borders of the Programme, but instead has a flexible geography depending on the topic concerned. This is called a functional area and allows for organisations and institutions that are not based in the core Programme area to get involved in projects by linking with partners within the core Programme area.

Match-funding Requirements

The European Commission and the Irish Government have jointly committed €206m to the PEACE PLUS Programme with the UK Government (including €150 million allocated from the NI Executive) providing over £730 million (€850 million) to the Programme. This will now result in a total PEACE PLUS Programme budget of approximately €1bn.

Commonly, as in previous PEACE iterations, funding will be delivered at up to 100% of project costs. However, the SEUPB are exploring arrangements where partners contribute some or all of their match-funding if they are in a position to do so.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

The SEUPB is asking for stakeholders to register their interest in the various specific themes and investment areas by emailing them (peaceplus@seupb.eu). Concept notes for the sub-investment theme 1.4: Reimagining Communities were to be submitted by 7th September 2022 for approval.

Levelling Up Fund

Background / Primary Focus

The UK Government established the Levelling Up Fund in order to minimise the productivity gap between all regions in the UK, and to “level up” all regions, ensuring that there is equity in opportunity and public service provision. There is also an ambition to boost productivity, pay and jobs in the private sector and empower local communities and authorities to take decisions that will have local impacts. It is the ambition of the Levelling Up Fund to boost living standards, and, as a result, restore a sense of local pride and sense of community in areas where this has been lost.

Themes / Priority Areas

Across the whole Levelling Up programme, there are 12 cohesive missions that are required in order to meet a successful funding programme by its end in 2030.⁴⁰ These missions are as follows:

1. By 2030, **pay, employment and productivity will have risen** in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
2. By 2030, **domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%** and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
3. By 2030, local **public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London**, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
4. By 2030, the UK will have **nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage**, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
5. By 2030, the number of **primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased**.
6. By 2030, the number of **people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased** in every area of the UK.
7. By 2030, the **gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed**, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-levelling-up-plan-that-will-transform-uk>

8. By 2030, **well-being will have improved** in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
9. By 2030, pride in place, such as **people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen** in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
10. By 2030, **renters will have a secure path to ownership** with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. By 2030, **homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen**, focused on the worst-affected areas.
12. By 2030, **every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal** with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

In the second round of funding (and as in the first), emphasis is placed on projects that are focused on delivering across three types of investment themes: local transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets.

Type of investment

The Levelling Up Fund is a capital investment funding programme.

Funding Levels

The total budget allocated to the Fund is £4.8 billion. As per the prospectus, total funding available for Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh applicants to the Levelling Up Fund is at least £800 million. In Round 1, a total of £50 million was allocated across 11 projects in Northern Ireland. This made up 3% of the total funding allocated across the UK in Round 1.

A capital bid can be for an individual project or a package of up to three projects, up to £20 million in grant value per bid. Large transport and culture bids of up to £50 million will be considered by exception. It is possible for applicants to apply for a joint bid to fund either a single project or up to three projects that represented a targeted and cohesive set of interventions. This funding limit is a maximum of £20 million each per applicant, up to a maximum of £60 million per joint bid.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

In Northern Ireland, the UK government will accept bids from a range of local applicants, including but not limited to businesses, universities, voluntary and community sector organisations, district councils, the Northern Ireland Executive, and other public sector bodies. The Northern Ireland Executive and its Arm's Length Bodies are only eligible to bid under the transport theme, and it is anticipated that lead applicants to cultural and regeneration themes should arise from a more local level.

As a result of this wider range of eligible organisations, it is expected applicants will demonstrate through two additional gateway criteria (including audited financial statements and providing evidence of delivering two capital infrastructure investments of similar size and scale within the last five years) that they have the capacity and capability to deliver capital projects.

Match-funding Requirements

There are no match-funding requirements associated with the Levelling Up Fund. Applicants can, however, use funding they have applied for in conjunction with other funding from various sources to support larger projects. In the LUF's Round 2 Frequently Asked Questions, it is stated that a local contribution of 10% or higher of bid costs is encouraged. The maximum amount that will be funded from the Levelling Up Fund for any bid, excluding transport or culture bids, is £20 million.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

Applications for the Second Round of bids opened on 31st May 2022 via an online application portal, and closed at 12:00 noon on 2nd August 2022.

Belfast Region City Deal

Background / Primary Focus

The Belfast Region City Deal is a large-scale investment deal that is aimed at supporting economic recovery in the region, across 6 local authorities, placing Belfast City Council at the forefront of the deal, and aims to prepare the region for future growth.

The Deal has been designed to build upon the economic strengths of the region and will also support collective efforts to adapt to the 'new normal' created by Covid-19; and to deliver the required change within constrained budgets. The BRCD will deliver projects that are uniquely placed to support recovery, facilitating investment in businesses and in sectors which have the greatest potential for long term growth, driving productivity and creating and sustaining jobs.

Themes / Priority Areas

This Deal will strengthen the region's offer in growth sectors such as life and health sciences, the digital and creative industries, and advanced manufacturing. It will support next generation digital capabilities, boost tourism and support the regeneration of the region, underpinned by infrastructure developments and investment in skills to connect people to jobs and services.

The following "pillars" of investment are through which the City Deal's inclusive growth ambitions will be realised:

- **Innovation and Digital.** Achieving world leading competitive advantage in key sectors: building our innovation and digital capability - facilitating invention, commercialisation and widespread adoption as a driver of economic prosperity and increased well-being.
- **Tourism and Regeneration.** Boosting tourism and regenerating our region – creating world-class visitor attractions and investing in towns and cities to provide a year-round destination that will provide stand out in international markets.
- **Infrastructure.** Connecting people to opportunity and services through enhanced and sustainable infrastructure.

An underpinning pillar of the deal is **Employability & Skills**, through which partners are working collaboratively to enable a constant pipeline of talent to support the growth created by the BRCD investments and ensure that the right skills are available within the region to support the emerging job opportunities.

Type of investment

The Belfast City Region Deal funding is dedicated for projects that require capital funding.

Funding Levels

Taken together, the partners are delivering a total of more than £850 million of investment. The NI Executive and UK Government are each committing up to £350 million for the City Deal, while the City Deal Partners (see below) are committing in excess of £150 million between them. It is expected that additional private sector investment will be leveraged too, leading to a deal worth over £1 billion in total.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

The BRCD involves an integrated programme of investment that cuts across the responsibilities of local councils, the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government. The BRCD partners comprises of six partner councils (Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council,

Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council), two universities (Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University) and four of the region's further education colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College and Southern Regional College).

While Belfast City Council is the Accountable Body for the deal, it should be noted that there are governance arrangements that take the wider collaborative efforts into account. For example, there is a Council Panel which is made up of Council members from each of the six Councils that provides political leadership to build wider political consensus. There is an Executive Board which comprises the Chief Executives of each of the Councils, the Vice Chancellors of the two universities, the Chair of the Employability and Skills Board, a Further Education College representative, the Chair of the Digital Board, the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Deal and observers from the NI Civil Service. This Executive Board is responsible for the ongoing development and implementation of the Deal. Administrative, technical and professional support on an operational and day-to-day basis is delivered through the Programme Management Office- a team of officers that are hosted by the Lead Authority, with the Programme Director working under the direction of the Executive Board.

Match-funding Requirements

The funding that is being provided by "Project Sponsors" (i.e. the project partner who takes ownership of the respective project within the Deal) varies greatly, and so it appears that there has been no specific match-funding requirement set- it varies by project.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

The Head of Terms was signed in 2019, while the deal itself was signed in December 2021. It is anticipated that all projects delivered under the City Deal will be delivered over the course of 15 years.

Derry and Strabane City Deal

Background / Primary Focus

The Derry and Strabane City Deal is the largest investment package to be delivered in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, when taken together with the Inclusive Future Fund. The role of the City Deal is to advance the priority projects and initiatives within the City and District's Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan, while the Inclusive Future Fund prioritises projects that support local young people by providing upskilling and job opportunities, tackle the causes and consequences of social deprivation and make the area more accessible and attractive live, visit, study and invest in.

Themes / Priority Areas

The City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund is focused around the delivery of projects that feature across a collection of 4 investment themes, which are detailed below:

- **Innovation and Digital** - Investing in digital capacity building and innovation for industry and health to drive productivity and competitiveness.
- **Health and Wellbeing** - Investing in personalised medicine in the community and training the future doctors of the North West.
- **Tourism and Regeneration** - Regenerating our cities and towns and further developing internationally renowned destination sites and experiences.
- **Employability and Skills** - Underpinning inclusive economic growth by connecting the projects to skills and employability pathways.

Type of investment

These projects have a large-scale capital build element and as a result, represent capital investment. There is also a revenue-led element in the employability and skills and training pathways being designed for the City Deal.

Funding Levels

The total investment package totals £250 million when taken together with the Inclusive Future Fund, comprising a £100 million City Deal funded through the UK Government (£50 million) and NI Executive (£50 million), a £110 million Inclusive Future Fund funded through the UK Government (£55 million) and NI Executive (£55 million), and Derry City and Strabane District Council and their partners contributing a further £40 million across the two funds.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

Derry City and Strabane District Council acts as the Lead Authority and as a result, is responsible for implementation of the Deal. The deal is delivered in partnership with delivery partners in the region, including Ulster University, Western Health and Social Care Trust, North West Regional College and the Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC).

Match-funding Requirements

There have been no match-funding requirements stipulated as part of this City Deal.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

Before any funding is awarded, project partners are required to develop an Outline Business Case and are subject to Full Business Case approval in order to demonstrate the value for money each project brings and articulates how these projects contribute to the vision of inclusive growth established in the City Deal.

Mid-South West Economic Engine

Background / Primary Focus

The Mid-South West is a region of Northern Ireland that is characterised by a rural element, that has often been overlooked for investment (when compared to the more major cities and surrounding areas of Derry/Londonderry and Belfast). In 2020, the region set out their Regional Economic Strategy in the hopes of attracting investment into the area, by identifying opportunity areas as well as the challenges that need to be resolved in order to ensure their ambitions of continuous growth and prosperity in the region, and that the economy continues to be driven by a thriving private sector that includes many world-leading companies which are major innovators and global exporters.

Themes / Priority Areas

There are 4 thematic areas that are priorities in the Mid-South West Region as part of this investment package, these are:

- **Future Proofing the Skills Base**- skills and access to labour are both a major current and future constraint to growth and competitiveness in MSW, and therefore interventions that ensure the right skills for the future are established in both scale and profile are at the heart of the Mid-South West's regional economic strategy.
- **Enabling Infrastructure**- MSW requires the appropriate infrastructure to move products to market quickly and maintain efficient supply chains. It is home to a third of NI's businesses, accounts for half of the land mass in Northern Ireland, however motorway and A roads account for 8% of the road network and a serious gap in public transport, with MSW ranked amongst the most deprived areas in NI for access to services. Investment in infrastructure will act as an enabler for the growth ambitions of the region.
- **Boosting Innovation and Digital Capacity** – supporting businesses to be more productive by helping enhance their capabilities in crucial enabling technologies such as data analytics, robotics, automation, Industry 4.0, machine learning, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, advanced materials and production techniques. Alignment between education providers and employers within the digital and technology sector to ensure people are upskilling in IT services, Advanced Electronics, Software and Communications (areas which MSW has

particular strengths). Exploration of opportunities available within health and social care given the concentration of pharmaceutical companies and health care providers in the region.

- **Building Visitor / Tourist Economy** – wider promotion of areas of natural beauty in the region to a wider audience from around the globe, in order to entice more tourists to attractions, and provision of more quality visitor accommodation. The main barriers to out-of-state tourism growth in MSW include physical accessibility of the region, information and signposting, and digital connectivity and therefore interventions will be made on this basis to attract more visitors.

Type of investment

As with the other City and Growth Deals, there is a mixture of capital and revenue-led projects, and therefore the funding for this Deal will be a mixture of revenue and capital funding.

Funding Levels

The total amount that has been committed to the Growth Deal funding for the Mid-South West is £252 million, comprised of a £126 million pledge from the UK Government and a £126 million pledge from the Northern Ireland Executive.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

The Mid-South West is a collaborative effort between Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster. The region itself makes up half of Northern Ireland's landmass and is home to a quarter of the province's population and a quarter of its business. Mid-South West provides 214,000 workplace jobs, 90% of which are taken up by local people, and generates one fifth of Northern Ireland's entire GVA.

Match-funding Requirements

There is no stated need for match funding to be delivered as part of this Growth Deal in the Regional Economic Strategy. However, it is acknowledged that "the input and guidance of [the] industry/business base in MSW" has been crucial in order to secure growth in the collective economy of the region and this is likely to continue to be needed.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

It should be noted that, while there is high-level proposals and certain projects that have been nailed down for investment (such as development of critical road infrastructure, an agri-food robotics centre and CAFRE Loughry Campus and tourism developments at the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark), it is hoped that the opportunities expressed in the Mid-South West's Regional Economic Strategy encourage private sector investment to be leveraged on relevant projects that are yet to be fully defined, and it is noted that the Region "look forward to ongoing engagement with our industry/business base and partners in central government departments/agencies."

Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal

Background / Primary Focus

In May 2020, it was announced that the Causeway Coast and Glens was set to receive £72m capital funding investment package from a combination of UK Government and the NI Executive sources in their own Growth Deal after the Executive agreed to match fund the British Government's Growth Deal allocation. The Growth Deal capital fund will be used to support digital and innovation projects, while the Executive investment will focus additional funding on supporting infrastructure, tourism and regeneration along with employability and skills.

Themes / Priority Areas

The Growth Deal Sub-Committee identified six key themes/ sectors to help grow the local economy of Causeway Coast and Glens in line with Growth Deal criteria. In total there were 28 projects that had made the long list of proposals for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to consider, split across the 6 priority areas. These were then narrowed down in order to maximise the utilisation of funding available and prioritised to 12 projects, costing £128.5 million in total. The projects, within their relevant themes, are as follows:

- Innovation;
 - Enterprise Zone Digital Innovation Hub
 - School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Ulster
 - Centre for Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Innovation
 - Foodovation Centre
- Tourism and Regeneration;
 - Bushmills Regeneration Programme
 - Dungiven / Benbradagh Regeneration Programme
 - Greenway Infrastructure Development
- Infrastructure;
 - Connected Causeway Traffic and Parking Infrastructure
- Employability and Skills;
 - Skills, Apprenticeships and Employability Project
- Digital Connectivity;
 - Digital Infrastructure Support Fund
 - Rural Digital Hubs
- Energy/ Green Economy
 - Girona Project

Type of investment

Projects funded through the Growth Deal present a mix of capital and revenue-led projects, and thus there is likely to be a mix of capital and revenue funding made available through the Growth Deal.

Funding Levels

There has been £72 million made available as a result of the NI Executive matching the UK Government's Growth Deal allocation of £36 million.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

The lead authority for the Causeway Growth deal is the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council- all projects fall within this geography. The Council will provide strategic oversight for the development of the Deal, ensuring it continues to be aligned with the vision for inclusive economic growth. The Executive Programme Board (consisting of Councillors, the Chief Exec of the Council, Ulster University's Vice Chancellor, the Chief Executives of North West Regional College and Northern Regional College, the Senior Responsible Officer and the Council's Finance Director) will drive the delivery of the 14 Strategic Outline Cases and the Deal programme in accordance with the requirements of the Heads of Terms (when drafted) and agreed governance arrangements. The Senior Responsible Officer is accountable for the programme meeting its objectives, delivering the required outcomes and realising the required benefits. The Central Programme Management Office will provide the overall day-to-day support for the CGD.

Match-funding Requirements

It should be noted that the total for all 12 shortlisted projects is equal to £128.5 million and as a result, match funding of £56.5 million (44%) in addition to the £72 million from the NI Executive and UK Government will be required by the Council to deliver these projects.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

On 20th April 2021, the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Leisure and Development Committee met to discuss the prioritisation of Growth Deals projects to maximise value for money from the various investment funding opportunities presented to them. A report, prepared by Grant Thornton that considered the projects' strategic alignments, expected impact and state of readiness, was presented at this meeting as a short list of projects for investment.⁴¹ Within it, Grant Thornton's recommendations included funding the 12 "Priority One" projects and potentially two of the 10 "Priority Two" projects (Mountsandel Development and Regeneration of Dunluce Castle), to progress them to Strategic Outline Case Stage for indicative completion dates to be placed on each of the projects.

Shared Island Deal

Background / Primary Focus

The Shared Island Fund was announced in Budget 2021, with €500m in capital funding available between 2021-25, ring-fenced for investment in collaborative North/South projects to benefit the whole island of Ireland. As part of the revised National Development Plan, the Irish Government committed to extending out the Fund until 2030 and doubled its funding allocation to €1 billion. Its purpose is to address strategic challenges faced in Ireland and aims to further develop the all-island economy with projects that will bring mutual North/South benefit, with a particular focus on the North West and border regions.

Themes / Priority Areas

The priority areas for investment from the Shared Island Fund are as follows:

- Working with the Executive to deliver key **cross-border infrastructure initiatives**, including the A5, railways, the Ulster Canal, the Narrow Water Bridge, and cross-border greenways;
- Working with the Executive and the UK Government to achieve **greater connectivity on the island** and commit to development opportunities in the **North West and Border communities**;
- Supporting a **north/south programme of research and innovation**, including an all-island research hub;
- Deepening **north-south health links**;
- Joined up **approaches to environmental issues** on the island, including on tackling climate breakdown and the biodiversity crisis; and
- Enhancing, developing and deepening all aspects of **north-south cooperation** and the **all-island economy**.

Type of investment

When the Shared Island Fund was announced in Budget 2021, €500m in **capital** funding was ring-fenced for investment in collaborative North/South projects.

Funding Levels

When the Shared Island Fund was first announced in the 2021 Budget, the Irish Government had allocated €500 million to projects relating to the Shared Island initiative that would be spread over the period 2021 to 2025. In the updated National Development Plan in October 2021, a further €500m has been allocated to cross-border initiatives that will run until 2030. The delivery of the initial funding rounds (2021-2025), as per the Taoiseach's answers during a debate surrounding the launch of the National Development Plan in October 2021⁴² are as follows:

- 2021 – €50 million;

⁴¹ [https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/210420_LD_Agenda_Item_6_-_Growth_Deal_\(including_appendices\).pdf](https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/210420_LD_Agenda_Item_6_-_Growth_Deal_(including_appendices).pdf)

⁴² https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2021-10-12/12/#pq-answers-11_12_13_14_15

- 2022 – €50 million;
- 2023 – €100 million;
- 2024 – €150 million; and
- 2025 - €150 million.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

The Shared Island Fund's administrative body sits under the Department of the Taoiseach, with a Shared Island unit dedicated to the co-ordination and driving of this initiative. The Fund is allocated to Irish Government departments for approved collaborative North/South projects that implement Programme for Government commitments and objectives relating to the shared island initiative. The cross-border projects will be delivered in partnership with the NI Executive and British Government.

Match-funding Requirements

There have been no strict match-funding criteria established as part of this programme as ultimately it is funding projects that are established in the Irish Programme for Government. It is, however, hoped that the NI Executive and British Government will contribute, where deemed appropriate, on an ad-hoc basis. As an example of this, the Irish Government has delivered €40 million to a cross-border research programme, in which Taoiseach Micheál Martin stated it is “not the intention” for this funding to be matched by Northern Ireland, however it would be welcome if politicians in the North decide to do that.⁴³

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

As stated above, the Shared Island Fund is funding projects that are found within the Irish Government's Programme for Government, and as such does not take funding applications. The Irish Government has undertaken a range of 10 stakeholder engagement events however, which engaged with more than 1,000 civic representatives and organisations from a wide range of communities across the island. These events began in November 2020 with a dialogue on “New generations and new voices on the Good Friday Agreement.” Other dialogue events followed various themes, such as Rural and Community Development, Sports, Tourism, Education, Health, Economic Recovery, Equality, Civil Society, and Climate Change.

Community Renewal Fund

Background / Primary Focus

The UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) is a £220 million, one-year pilot programme announced by the government in the March Budget. The UK government used this funding programme as a precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to test delivery approaches for post-EU community and economic support funding, as well as providing additional assistance to local communities to help towards recovery from the pandemic. The intention, in running what were effectively one-year pilot programmes, was to use any lessons learned around appraisal, delivery and effectiveness to inform the government's permanent approach to replacement EU funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), launched in 2022.

Themes / Priority Areas

Projects that were granted funding aligned with one, or delivered across several, of the following investment priorities and subsequent sub-investment themes:

- **Investment in skills (25% allocation)**
 - Work-based training
 - Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce
 - Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion
- **Investment for local business (23% allocation)**

⁴³ <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/34m-funds-boost-for-new-cross-border-programme-40618627.html>

- Supporting entrepreneurs and helping businesses with potential to create more job opportunities for current employees or take on new employees
- Encouraging businesses to develop their innovation potential
- Supporting decarbonisation measures
- **Investment in communities and place (20% allocation)**
 - Feasibility studies for delivering net-zero and local energy projects
 - Exploring opportunity for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development
 - Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets
 - Promoting rural connectivity
- **Supporting people into employment (32% allocation)**
 - Supporting people to engage with local services which support them on their journey towards employment
 - Identifying and addressing any potential barriers these individuals may face in gaining employment or moving closer to the labour market
 - Raising aspirations, supporting individuals to access Plan for Jobs employment support, jobs and find sustainable employment
 - Supporting people to gain the basic skills they need to develop their potential for sustainable work
 - Testing what works in helping people move towards work

Type of investment

The Community Renewal Fund had a stated 90% allocation towards revenue-led projects, with the remaining 10% allocated to funding the capital-led aspect of projects.

Funding Levels

The total amount of funding made available through the Community Renewal Fund across the UK was £220 million. In Northern Ireland, £12.4 million (6% of the overall funding) was delivered across 31 projects. The largest single grant award was £1.8 million, and the smallest single grant award was just below £59,000.

Partnerships, Collaboration and Delivery Geographies

Any legally constituted organisation delivering an appropriate service was eligible to submit a bid. In Northern Ireland, applicants applied directly to the UK government. Successful bids ranged from projects for Local Authorities, to universities, to individual charity and business organisations, to umbrella organisations that represent a wide range of small businesses.

Match-funding Requirements

The UK government encouraged applicants in NI to maximise the leverage of other funding. This was to enable enhanced alignment with other provision and efficient delivery which increases value for money. This was expressed in the selection criteria, which took the overall funding package required for each project, including any match funding, into account.

Timescale for next bidding rounds and other types of submissions

The timelines for the Community Renewal Fund involved a launch in March 2021, with applicants in Northern Ireland having to submit their bids to UK Government for appraisal and assessment by 18th June 2021. Projects that were successful were expected to be announced in late July 2021, however due to the significant level of interest the assessment process was delayed until November 2021 and therefore funding began to flow to projects in Northern Ireland from this point onwards. The Community Renewal Fund was intended to close on 31st March 2022, however due to the delay in awarding funding projects were given until 30th June 2022 to deliver.

Agenda Item 13

Solace Report Appendix 2 Investment Mapping Tool

Click on link to view

https://midulsterdistrictcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/eileen_forde_midulstercouncil_org/EUO8B2JT_EpOswVssRUhyd0BHa0kO_vZpCgNMVfATkG4dg?e=4DNvL0



**Northern Ireland Investment Fund Mapping
Exercise:
Mapping Tool Guidance Document
for
SOLACE NI**

November 2022



Report completed/submitted by:	Ross Mawhinney
Proof check completed by:	Susan Staiano
Date:	08/09/2022

Report reviewed by:	Susan Staiano
Date:	08/09/2022

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1 Mapping Tool – User Guide

Introduction

1.1 This paper describes the mapping tool that has been created by ekosgen for SOLACE NI, for the purposes of identifying the potential for complementarity across the key investment funds currently active in Northern Ireland.

Background / Rationale

1.2 This tool was created for the purposes of detailing the strategic fit of the Northern Ireland Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme's Interventions List¹ against the investment themes, projects and missions of other funding programmes currently active in Northern Ireland. The wider aim of this tool is to demonstrate that there are synergies that could be gained from acknowledging that investment funds in Northern Ireland have similar aims and objectives, and thus can be exploited for wider collaboration across the funds.

1.3 The tool has been designed based on an initial desk research exercise which gathered information on the range of different large-scale investment funds and investment vehicles active in Northern Ireland, namely:

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- PEACE PLUS;
- The Community Renewal Fund;
- The Levelling Up Fund;
- The Belfast City Region Deal;
- The Derry and Strabane City Deal;
- The Mid South West Economic Engine;
- The Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal; and
- The Shared Island Fund.

1.4 The research identified that many of the projects, investment themes and fund missions that have been announced for each of the above have a high potential for strategic alignment with the SPF's Intervention List for Northern Ireland and it was discovered there may be potential synergies that could be identified for the potential streamlining of projects and/ or any potential gaps in provision across the investment themes.

1.5 Projects, missions and investment themes from the above funds were then compared against the SPF List and areas of potential complementary were highlighted for further exploration for Local Authorities or Investment Fund partners to consider the potential for collaboration and the development of a future pipeline of projects which could potentially be funded via SPF.

How To Use The Mapping Tool

1.6 When opening the tool, there is a front worksheet that links to each of the investment funds that has been set against the UK SPF's Intervention List. When clicked on, this will take the user to the corresponding analysis page.

1.7 Each of these analysis sheets features each of the UK SPF's stated 52 interventions for Northern Ireland along the y axis, split across the three themes of *Community and Place*, *Supporting*

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-northern-ireland>

Local Businesses and *People and Skills*. These are colour coded by theme- pink for Community and Place, blue for Supporting Local Businesses and yellow for People and Skills.

1.8 Along the x axis of each analysis sheet, there are the corresponding themes, missions, or examples of current projects that are to be analysed against the SPF. Where there are areas of potential complementarity, for example between the planned greenway infrastructure improvements found within the Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal and the SPF's stated intervention aim of providing support for active travel enhancements, the corresponding cell has been highlighted to indicate potential complementarity.

1.9 The highlighted cells have then been labelled to indicate whether the funding for these projects, missions or investment themes is likely to capital-led or revenue-led, to help identify whether there is potential for the SPF to be utilised to fund any aspects that the fund analysed against it would be unable to fund.

1.10 There is also a *"Timeframes Gantt Chart"* tab that refers to the dates that relate to each funding mechanism from fund opening to fund closing. These dates are expressed in months and where possible, exact dates. This Gantt Chart has been designed on the basis of publicly available information (and is linked to the source, where possible) and discussion with Belfast City Council economic development representatives and is therefore indicative in places.

1.11 The tool has been created as an example of how to map investment funds against one another for strategic alignment. The fund that has been analysed in the example has been the UK SPF, however there is therefore scope to edit this tool to analyse other funds. This can be done through setting the relevant investment fund on the y axis, and then completing the same activity described above for this funding mechanism as opposed to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Key Points to Note

1.12 Where possible a brief description of the projects with alignment to an SPF intervention have been highlighted on each worksheet in the mapping tool, as well as identification of whether the funding for the project is likely to be a capital-led or revenue-led. In the used case, funding for the UK SPF is between 80% and 90% revenue funding across the 3-year funding period, and so in instances where the highlighted project is capital-funded, there is a possibility for the UK SPF to be utilised for funding the revenue side of aligned projects.

1.13 The mapping tool can be used in the decision-making process of Local Authorities or wider funding partners in Northern Ireland to identify potential areas of complementarity between their projects and other investment funds. In the used case, the SPF Intervention List has been demonstrated against the other eight named investment funds or vehicles (listed above) with significant presence and potential for delivery.

1.14 As stated above, it should be noted that the tool itself is not static and can be easily replicated to analyse strategic fit beyond the UK SPF Interventions List. For example, if a regional City/Growth Deal partner is considering the potential development of a project that may have strategic alignment with the Levelling Up Fund thematic missions, they could identify which of the LUF sub-investment themes it is aligned with, whether or not the project they are aiming to fund is likely to require revenue or capital funding, and then identify whether there is the potential for utilising Levelling Up Fund funding when submitting the Outline Business Case for the potential project.

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 January 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black*, Burton, Corry, Cuddy* (7.19 pm), Doris* (7.05 pm), Elattar*, Kerr*, McNamee*, Martin*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Quinn* (7.08 pm), Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)**

Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**

Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)**

Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor S McGuigan*** (7.49 pm)

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation – Bring Your Own
Ms Coyle***

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Clarke in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

D001/23 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D002/23 Apologies

None

D003/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Clarke reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D004/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Clarke stated that over the last weekend three clubs from the Council area were successful in winning All Ireland semi final matches and offered congratulations and best wishes to the three teams in their final matches.

Councillor Kerr wished Galbally, Stewartstown and Glen teams the best of luck in their forthcoming Intermediate, Junior and Senior finals and hoped there will be three All Ireland champions coming back to the Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Molloy added his sentiments to the comments made and congratulated the three teams on their success to date.

Councillor Monteith concurred with the comments and stated the teams successes were a fantastic achievement and that success in the Mid Ulster area at both county and club level over the past number of years has been outstanding. The Councillor hoped there would be three All Ireland trophies returning to Mid Ulster in the near future.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke stated it was wonderful that there are three teams from the area who have won their way out the county and province and have now won their semi final matches and are there for the final. The Chair stated that this is a tremendous achievement for those clubs.

Councillor Molloy advised that the Island Wheelers Cycling Club have been successful in tendering for the All Ireland Irish Cycling Championships and that the Club have been engaging with Council officers as to the proposed route and other assistance which Council could provide. The Councillor asked that any help which can be offered from across the Council departments that the Council would engage with the Club and he wished the Club a successful Championship.

D005/23 Deputation – Bring Your Own

The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed Ms Coyle to the meeting and invited her to make the presentation on Matty's Inclusive Initiative and 'Bring Your Own' (Appendix 1).

Ms Coyle explained that her son, Matty, is autistic and that going out to a restaurant can be challenging for him meaning that it can be difficult for her family to go out for a meal together. Ms Coyle stated that she considered what she could do, what would help Matty and other autistic people and on this basis came up with Matty's Inclusive Initiative. Ms Coyle explained that the Initiative encourages restaurants to allow parents of autistic children to bring their own food to be enjoyed by their child when dining out or to prepare the food brought in, or even source the preferred food if enough notice is given. Ms Coyle stated that the help from the restaurant won't

eliminate all the problems but gives families the opportunity to experience dining out together, in a calm and enjoyable way. Ms Coyle advised that, to date, a number of restaurants have come on board which makes a huge difference to children and parents when dining out.

Ms Coyle stated that Mid Ulster Council have also assisted Matty and her family to achieve two of the best experiences namely a birthday party and Christmas experience. Ms Coyle advised that Matty's favourite place is Hill of The O'Neill outside space and that with the assistance of Councillor Quinn a birthday party for Matty was organised at this site, this was the first time at age 4 Matty was able to have a birthday party. Ms Coyle advised that Hill of The O'Neill also accommodated Matty at the Christmas experience held there.

Ms Coyle stated her objective is to help spread acceptance on a wider scale so that families like hers and so many others feel welcomed and supported. Ms Coyle stated that the more people are involved the more help there is.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke thanked Ms Coyle for the presentation and that it highlighted to him that one size does not fit all.

Councillor Quinn congratulated Ms Coyle on the presentation and stated he has known Matty and the family for a long time and that assisting with organising Matty's birthday party was one of the best things he had done as a Councillor and that he is proud to see the success being made with the Initiative. Councillor Quinn stated that this is a fantastic Initiative and felt that Council should be endorsing it as much as it can and referred to the different vendors and outlets who serve food some of which are under Council control. The Councillor asked if this Initiative is something which could be introduced to those facilities or if it could be included in specification when Council is tendering for food provision in the future. Councillor Quinn stated that he had taken his eldest daughter out for coffee last week which highlighted to him how much more difficult it must be for parents of autistic children when eating out and that he felt anything Council can do to ensure what they have control over offers this type service should be done and asked if this is possible.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) advised that Council engage with a range of food businesses across the District and that Council can look at how it can help to raise awareness of the Initiative and encourage those businesses to participate. The SD: C&P stated that officers can look at the communications engagements with food businesses and if there are mechanisms that can be used to promote the Initiative then Council will be happy to do that.

Councillor Quinn asked if a letter can be sent out food business advising them of the Initiative.

The SD: C&P advised that officers will look at the best way of promoting the Initiative and will contact Ms Coyle to get further information.

Councillor Molloy congratulated Ms Coyle on the presentation and the work done to date on being Matty's voice and raising awareness but that it was now time for the next step. Councillor Molloy stated that he had four children who are all different in

their own ways and that trying to keep them engaged when dining out can be problematic without the added complications of Autism. The Councillor stated that the Initiative is fantastic and the more people and food establishments become aware of it can only be a good thing and that he would be supportive of it in the future.

Councillor Kerr wished Ms Coyle well with the Initiative and hoped Council will follow up by raising awareness of the Initiative as much as possible.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke stated that the presentation had been important and that he hoped assistance from Council in communicating awareness of the Initiative will help to progress it going forward.

Ms Coyle withdrew from the meeting at 7.22 pm.

Matters for Decision

D006/23 Development Report

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated and sought approval for the following:

- Rolling Community Grants
- Development Department Update

Further to the report the AD: Dev advised that Community grants will be opening at the end of January and that information will be sent to Members in relation to workshops being held to support groups in terms of grants.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Good Relations Grant as outlined at appendix 1 of report.
 - To note Development Department Update.

D007/23 Schools Sports Facilities Access Grant

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which advised on the advertised Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.

Councillor Corry stated she was happy to propose the recommendation and that past schemes had been very valuable for schools.

Councillor Ashton seconded Councillor Corry's proposal.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this item as his son plays for Cookstown Hockey Club.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the recommendation for successful grant applications as outlined at section 3.5 of report.

D008/23 Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2022/23

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the 2022/23 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme.

Councillor Ashton stated she was happy to propose the recommendations and asked where the accessible picnic tables are being located. The Councillor stated that when funding had been secured in relation to the accessible picnic tables it went as part of a community call and wider community grant scheme.

The AD: HL&W advised that the accessible picnic tables referred to in the report are for Council designated sites and although he did not have the locations to hand tonight he would circulate the detail after the meeting. The AD: HL&W advised that at different times of the year there are grant programmes for community facilities and he was aware there were a number awarded prior to Christmas.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal. The Councillor stated that from working with Mid Ulster Disability Forum accessibility and inclusion is important and that the accessible picnic tables will make a huge difference to peoples lives and Council facilities. Councillor Corry added that the sensory hub is also an exciting project and will add so much more to Council events.

Councillor Kerr referred to previous discussions in relation to the accessible picnic tables and asked if the design of the tables will be what had been previously considered whereby wheelchair users can access the picnic table.

The AD: HL&W confirmed that the previously discussed design is the design Council will be moving forward with.

Councillor Burton referred to the larger events within Mid Ulster such as Clogher Show and asked if the accessible picnic tables or sensory hub could be loaned to organisations to assist with their events.

The AD: HL&W advised that the accessible picnic tables are normally in fixed locations and cannot be moved but that the sensory hub will be mobile and can be moved to different events throughout the District. The AD: HL&W advised that due to the value of the sensory hub there would have to be some due diligence and governance arrangements which would need to be considered for loan of this equipment to third parties but that is something that can be looked at by officers going forward.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve –
- Setting up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project identified in section 3.3 of report, where required.
 - Utilising approved Council framework contractors, where required, to deliver the projects identified in section 3.3 of report
 - Allocating 10% match funding for projects approved for funding by the Department for Communities through its 2022/23 Access and Inclusion Programme with funding to be met from within existing resources that will be responsible for the management and delivery of each project.

D009/23 Monrush Recreation Area

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided an update on DfI Roads planned works in the vicinity of the Monrush recreation area and to seek contribution from Council towards the works within the Council boundary.

Councillor Wilson stated he had attended a meeting with DfI Roads, Councillors and Keith Buchanan MLA and what is being proposed by DfI Roads will help to finish off the works already being completed by them in the area. Councillor Wilson proposed the recommendation.

Councillor Black seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve £6,000 contribution to DfI Roads for the proposed project at Monrush recreation area.

D010/23 Iniscarn Community Group (PSG) Service Level Agreement

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which considered a proposal to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Protect Slieve Gallion (PSG) Community Group, Iniscarn for caretaker and cleansing duties within Iniscarn Forest.

Councillor Corry proposed the recommendation and stated she had attended the opening of the play park at Iniscarn and that it is a fantastic Council asset. The Councillor stated that the Protect Slieve Gallion Community Group do great work in the area and that Service Level Agreements are invaluable and a good way for Council to move forward in this type of scenario whereby people are visiting the site on a day to day basis. Councillor Corry stated she had no doubt the Community Group care about the site and will do all it can to keep the area in good condition and report back to Council on anything which requires attention.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke seconded Councillor Corry's proposal. The Chair stated that it had been in 2006 when he first raised Slieve Gallion as being a jewel in the crown and Iniscarn being an ideal access point. The Chair stated that having a Group who is interested in the site will benefit both ways.

Councillor Ashton asked if Council is currently incurring resources and costs associated with running this site.

The AD: HL&W advised that it has been a challenge since the facility has been enhanced to get staff from across the District to monitor the site which in turn incurs additional mileage, staff costs and hours. The AD: HL&W stated that he hoped the Service Level Agreement represented value for money along with giving a sense of capacity building between Council and the Community Group to carry out the services and that Council staff would then step away from the daily routine associated with site whilst still giving direction and support where needed.

Councillor Ashton asked what the saving is to Council by entering into the Service Level Agreement and requested that this information be forwarded into the ongoing discussions in relation to rates.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) advised that this was not a monetary saving as there is not a dedicated resource to the site but that the officer has highlighted that there is a team who looks after the entire estate and that as additional sites come on board this resource is spread thinner. The SD: C&P advised that Service Level Agreements are helping to ease some of these pressures so it is not that there is a dedicated resource to this site which will be freed up but rather that capacity can be increased across the estate.

Councillor Ashton asked if Council is actually increasing its costs is a saving not being made.

The AD: HL&W advised that there is a budget allocation within revenue budgets tracking back to Council's five year outdoor recreation plan and that this cost is within the budget associated with the plan.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Protect Slieve Gallion to provide on-site support services on a daily basis equating to 12 hours per week, 7 days per week on a flexible rota at an approx. cost of £123.60 per week/ £6427.20 per annum. This is for the period February 2023 – March 2023, thereafter annually. This will be reviewed for effectiveness and extension in line with other annual Service Level Agreements in support of Council's leisure and outdoor recreation services.

D011/23 Drumcairne and Derrynoyd Funding Opportunities

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the development project at Drumcairne and Derrynoyd Forests and sought approval to enter into a lease agreement with Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) in respect of the carpark and terrace garden area within Drumcairne Forest.

Councillor Kerr stated he was happy to propose the recommendation and it was good to see more Council involvement in the Drumcairne Forest project.

Councillor Doris asked how long the lease is for.

The AD: HL&W advised that the lease will be for 25 years with an option to extend. The AD: HL&W advised that if Members agree the recommendation tonight then the lease agreement will be presented at January Council for sealing.

Councillor Doris asked if there was an update in relation to Cappagh/Altmore Forest.

The AD: HL&W advised that procurement documents were being released tomorrow that will be seeking quotations to appoint an ICT team to bring forward designs on the Cappagh/Altmore project. The AD: HL&W advised that it is hoped the ICT team will be appointed during February and further to this there will be further community engagement.

Councillor Wilson asked if the lease rental figure of £500 is for the 25 years or if this charge can be raised throughout the term of the lease. The Councillor also asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the car park.

The AD: HL&W advised that £500 is a fixed rental figure, payable each year, for the 25 year term of the lease but that this will be subject to review should an extension to the lease be invoked. The AD: HL&W advised that the work being done at Drumcairne will require minimal inspections/maintenance and it is believed the maintenance can be delivered within existing resources.

Councillor Corry asked when it is envisaged work will begin.

The AD: HL&W advised that it is hoped contractors will be on site before the end of the January and that due to nature of funding it is hoped that works will be completed by end of March however there is a degree of flexibility with the funder.

Councillor Corry stated that the Park Run at Derrynoyd is becoming more popular and that users are looking forward to the having the paths fixed and works completed.

Councillor Kerr advised that an environmental activist had been in contact with him in relation to the planting of trees, specifically the Hazel, which is an ancient native tree to Ireland. The Councillor advised that the person contacting him has started a campaign to plant Hazel trees in all 32 counties of Ireland and proposed that officers make contact with this person to see if it can assist in bringing her aspirations to fruition in Mid Ulster and the counties within the Council area. Councillor Kerr stated that he was aware of other Councils who have become involved in the project and it may be positive for this Council to create links in order to boost tourism.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke advised that contact could be made in relation to the Hazel planting project.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to enter into a lease agreement with FSNi in respect of lands around the carpark and terrace garden in Drumcairne Forest and to agree to pay the £500 annual rental.

D012/23 Economic Development Report - OBFD

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to update on key activities as detailed below:

- Outdoor Information Touch Screen – Coalisland Town Centre
- Signing of Tourist Attractions and Facilities
- Nordics B2B Workshop
- Sperrins AONB Management Plan

Councillor S McGuigan joined the meeting at 7.49 pm during presentation of the above report.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke advised that it is now 55 years since the Sperrins was declared an AONB and yet it is the last to have a management plan. Councillor Clarke stated it was good to see a Sperrins AONB Management Plan being put in place and funding to go along with it and that this is a move in the right direction.

Councillor Wilson asked if there was previously monies approved to carry out a scoping exercise in relation to brown signage and if that was the case he further asked if the report had been brought forward. The Councillor stated that at the time he had asked that the scoping exercise look at what signage there is currently but also what signage is not there.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that an organisation has been appointed to carry out a study in relation to brown signage. It was advised that the work is ongoing and it is anticipated that the initiative will be completed by end of March 2023 and that further to this a report will be brought back to Committee for consideration.

Councillor Wilson proposed that the Council invite the Chief Executive of Tourism NI to a meeting to discuss the issues in relation to brown signage within the Council area.

Councillor Wilson referred to the Nordics B2B Workshop and stated that he appreciated that these trips be looked at but asked what the criteria is for attending. The Councillor stated that Tourism NI go to a number of locations across the world and that Council has in this case, picked to go to Copenhagen, and that whilst he was not saying the Council should not attend costs needed to be looked at.

Councillor Kerr proposed the report recommendations and welcomed the touchscreen being located in Coalisland.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal to invite the Chief Executive of Tourism NI to Council to discuss brown signage as he felt there is a greater need for this signage in rural areas. Councillor Quinn further seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal to adopt the report.

Councillor Doris stated she sat on the Tourism Development Group and that the issue of brown signage is something the group has been pushing for at least three years and it was good to see there is now some movement on the issue.

Councillor Doris asked if Irish will be included on the touchscreen to be located in Coalisland.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that the touchscreen replicates the content of the Council website and data in relation to visitor information and whats on etc is channeled through to the touchscreen similar to those already installed in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.

Councillor Burton stated that the issue of brown signage can be difficult for people trying to run tourism businesses in a rural setting and that the criteria to acquire the signage is a major part of the issue. The Councillor stated that it was her understanding that the criteria for brown signage has not be updated for a long time and that if the Chief Executive of Tourism NI is being invited to Council then officers dealing with tourism businesses should also be included in the meeting to outline the difficulties businesses are experiencing. Councillor Burton stated that this issue is raised on a regular basis and that change needs to come to support businesses.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –
Outdoor Information Touch Screen – Coalisland Town Centre –
To approve the purchase and installation of one visitor information kiosk to be located within Coalisland town centre.
Signing of Tourist Attractions and Facilities –
That the Council Chair write to Tourism NI to express concern in relation to the current policy and procedures for acquiring brown signs and invite the Chief Executive of Tourism NI to meet with Members to discuss the issue.
Nordics B2B Workshop -
To approve attendance of Council's Tourism Manager at the Nordics B2B Workshop in Copenhagen from 15 to 17 February 2023 for the discounted fee of €325 excluding VAT. In addition, Council to also pay for additional costs related to the Officer's flights/travel, accommodation and any meals outside of those offered as part of the event.
Sperrins AONB Management Plan -
To accept the letter of offer, if the Sperrins Partnership application to DAERA's Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023-2028 is successful. Members will be kept up to date on developments in relation to the management plan. If there are any additional financial requirements, these will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Matters for Information

D013/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 7 December 2022

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 7 December 2022.

Councillor Kerr referred to item D196/22 and stated he was still awaiting an update in relation to Ardnaskea/Kings Row flooding and that he was disappointed that a

meeting had not yet taken place. The Councillor also asked for an update in relation to the Gortgonis project.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) advised that there was no further update in relation to the Gortgonis project and that future updates will be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Doris asked if there was an update in relation to the recruitment of lifeguards as she was still receiving calls stating that children cannot access swimming lessons.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that a recruitment exercise was carried out during December and that some interviews have been held with some still to be held this month. The AD: HL&W advised that some job offers have been made and that those people are going through pre employment checks but that it will probably still be a number of weeks before the results of the recruitment exercise yields results however he was glad to say there had been huge interest shown in the recruitment process.

D014/23 Draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and also provided a draft of the Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan prior to the launch of the public consultation.

Councillor Corry thanked the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator for the amount of work done to date in bringing forward the draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

D015/23 Economic Development Report - OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as listed below:

- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 7.9.22
- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 7.2.22
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 – Evaluation
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership

Live broadcast ended at 8.05 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D016/23 to D018/23.

Matters for Decision

- D016/23 COVID Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme
D017/23 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Economic Inactivity Competition – Requests for Support

Matters for Information

- D018/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 7 December 2022

D019/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.18 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- o If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- o Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- o If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- o Should we need to take a vote this evening please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- o When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- o For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- o If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- o Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.

Report on	1. Dungannon Traders Association Proposal 2. Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) 3. Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events
Date of Meeting	16 February 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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 key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p>Previously Council received a proposal from Dungannon Traders Association on the 23rd September 2022. The proposal requested that Council divert the budget allocated for the annual 'Heels on the Hill' to a new event called 'The Jingle Ball Run' to be held on 18 December 2022 in Dungannon Town Centre. Council subsequently approved this request on 27 October 2022.</p>
2.2	<p>Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p>As part of the Spring Statement 2022, the UK Government announced the second round of the Levelling Up Fund and published a refreshed Prospectus, inviting bids to come forward from all eligible organisations from Northern Ireland and across the rest of the UK. The Fund aims to prioritise places in need of economic recovery and growth, regeneration and improved transport connectivity.</p>
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events</p> <p>As part of the Economic Development Action Plan 2022/23, Council previously agreed to organise two events to celebrate International Women's Day in Mid Ulster.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p>Due to issues the organisers encountered with securing Road Closure approval, 'The Jingle Ball Run' planned for 18 December 2022 was unable to take place. Dungannon Traders Association has advised Council (Appendix 1) they have secured a new date to hold the event, which is Saturday 25 February 2023 from 5.30pm. This date will allow sufficient time for the organisers to have all the necessary road closure documentation in place.</p> <p>'The Jingle Ball Run' will be accompanied by a craft fair at The Space@Market Square. The event will be widely promoted and will seek to attract additional footfall into Dungannon.</p> <p>Council had previously agreed to provide match funding of £5,500 towards the event so therefore, Council will divert its financial resources to Dungannon Traders Association to support the event on the new date, 25 February 2023.</p>
3.2	<p>Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p>The LUF is a UK government capital fund aimed at smaller infrastructure projects that have a visible impact on people and communities. The LUF was first announced at the 2020 spending review and is worth £4.8bn across the UK over four years. Of this £1.7bn was distributed to 105 projects through the first round in autumn 2021, which saw £49m awarded to 11 successful projects in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) invited bids to the second round of LUF last spring and the closing date for submissions was Tuesday 2 August 2022.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council submitted 4 bids to LUF Round 2 for the following strategic projects;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desertcreat Industrial Lands 2. Maghera Regeneration Project 3. Hill of the O'Neill / Feeney's Lane site 4. Gortgonis Health & Community Hub <p>DLUHC advised that they received 525 bids from across the UK last August and announced that a total of 111 areas across the UK will get a share of the £2.1bn from this second round of the LUF. In Northern Ireland, a total of £71m has been awarded to 10 successful projects.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council was advised on Wednesday 18th January 2023 that it's funding bid for Maghera Regeneration Project was successful and received a financial allocation of £9,058,971, which is the 3rd largest allocation of the 10 successful bids in Northern Ireland (see Table 1 below). Council will be required to provide 10% match funding towards the overall cost of the project.</p>

The recent announcement for the second round means that there is £1bn left in the LUF and the UK government has confirmed there will be a third round of funding.

Table 1 - Northern Ireland LUF Round 2 Successful Bids:-

Applicant	Bid Name	Bid Value
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio Extension and Alterations	£3,573,604
Bangor Marine Limited	Marine Gardens Public Realm project	£9,829,424
Belfast City Council	Northern Ireland Last Picture house: An Arts Centre for Belfast	£4,094,000
Belfast International Airport Ltd	Belfast International Airport Decarbonisation Project	£2,327,928
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Ballycastle Leisure Centre	£8,142,850
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	Lakeland	£20,000,000
Mid and East Antrim Council	Carnfunnock Country Park	£6,100,018
Mid Ulster District Council	Maghera Regeneration Project	£9,058,971
Newry Mourne and Down District Council	Camlough Lake Recreation Centre	£2,820,555
The Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union	Club Capital Improvement Project	£5,125,023
Total		£71,072,373.00

3.3

Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events

Mid Ulster's two International Women's Day Events will take place as follows;

- **Date: Wednesday 8 March 2023, 7pm**
Venue: Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt
- **Date: Wednesday 15 March 2023, 7pm**
Venue: Ryandale Hotel, Moy

These will be high quality events, with a drinks reception on arrival, and will incorporate a range of inspiring speakers, with a buffet at the end of the evening. Each guest will also receive a free small gift bag containing a number of artisan products from local suppliers.

The event will be ticketed at £5 per head with proceeds being donated to Women's Aid. Each venue can accommodate approx. 100 guests. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

	The Council Chairperson will officially open each event and will be issuing an invitation to all members in due course.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
4.1.1	Dungannon Traders Association Proposal Dungannon Traders Association proposal was approved in October 2022 to match fund the Jingle Bell Run in December 2022 to the value of £5,500. Council funding (economic development budget) will now support the event on the new date of 25 February 2023, as advised by Dungannon Traders Assoc.
4.1.2	Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Council will be required to provide 10% match-funding towards the Maghera Regeneration Project. A further report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.
4.1.3	Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events Events will be funded from existing economic development budget as previously agreed.
	Human: Officers time
	Risk Management: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. Project Governance Structure will be put in place to tightly manage the project. A comprehensive Risk Register will also be prepared for the project.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
4.2.1	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Equality and Good Relations screening will be carried out prior to project commencement.
4.2.2	Rural Needs Implications: Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2) Rural Needs screening will be carried out prior to project commencement.

5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	<p>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</p> <p>Note change of date of 'The Jingle Ball Run' in Dungannon to 25 February 2023. Council previously agreed to provide match-funding of £5,500 towards the event and this funding will now support the event on its new date.</p>
5.2	<p>Levelling Up Fund Capital Funding (Round 2)</p> <p>Note update on Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund and Mid Ulster Council's success in attaining £9,058,971 funding for Maghera Regeneration Project.</p>
5.3	<p>Mid Ulster International Women's Day Events</p> <p>Note Mid Ulster Council will host two International Women's Day Events on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 8 March 2023, 7pm in the Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt and; • Wednesday 15 March 2023, 7pm in the Ryandale Hotel, Moy. <p>Invitations will be extended to all Members from the Council Chair.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from Dungannon Traders Assoc re Jingle Bell Run

Appendix 1

From: Brian MacAuley <brian@dungannonenterprise.com>
Sent: 13 January 2023 11:39
To: Colin McKenna <Colin.McKenna@midulstercouncil.org>
Cc: Stephen Mohan (thelabcuba@hotmail.co.uk) <thelabcuba@hotmail.co.uk>; kergo57@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Jingleball Run - date change

Confirming our phone conversation today, due to reasons outside our control, the Dungannon Traders Association have decided to move the date of the Jingleball Run to Saturday 25th February 5.30pm. It is also planned to run the event in conjunction with a craft fair at The Space@Market Square.

We would hope that the Council would continue with their financial support for the initiative, as it is expected to bring visitors to the town on the day and also raise the regional profile of Dungannon through press and social media.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brian MacAuley (CEO)
Dungannon Enterprise Centre

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Purple Dot is a division within Dungannon Enterprise Centre

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