

Report on	1. Coalisland Great Places Project. 2. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 3. DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre
Date of Meeting	14 October 2021
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director – 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>Coalisland Great Places Project This project is jointly supported by the Heritage Lottery and Mid Ulster Council. The project has explored the rich manufacturing legacy of the people of Coalisland and East Tyrone through a series of initiatives delivered in the local community by Lough Neagh Partnership. The Project has created opportunities for local people to build skills capacity, revive lost artisan and manufacturing skills and celebrate the area's industrial manufacturing heritage through the medium of arts and culture.</p>
2.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Mid Ulster's third Enterprise Week is scheduled to take place between Monday 8th and Friday 12th November 2021. This year's event will follow a similar format as in 2020, being all virtual events due to ongoing Covid-19 uncertainties.</p>
2.3	<p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre The Department for Communities (DfC) has approved the Revitalisation scheme for Coalisland Town Centre to the value of £250,000, which follows the completion of the Public Realm Scheme, Conditions of the 100% funding include that all projects must be completed by 31st March 2022.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Coalisland Great Places Project Council previously approved £30,000 of financial support towards specific elements of the Coalisland Great Places Project over a 3 year period (as detailed in Table 1 below). In addition to the funding provided by Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund co-funded the project to the value of £312,100.</p>

Table 1: Spend profile for Mid Ulster Council's financial contribution of £30,000

Project Element	Council Contribution	Paid to date	Final Year of Funding Spread over 2 financial years (2020/21 and 2021/22)	
			Feb-Mar 2021	Sept 2021
Community Archaeology Programme	£ 10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Field & Place name interpretation	£ 2,500.00	£2,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Poetry, Songs & Stories	£ 2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
The story of manufacturing in East Tyrone	£ 2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Introduction to fine craft skills	£ 2,500.00	£500.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Community Heritage Education	£ 1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Community Plays	£ 4,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
The way forward - sustaining our Great Place	£ 2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
Exhibitions	£ 4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£ 30,000.00	£21,000.00	£6,000.00	£3,000.00

Council's last tranche of funding of £9,000 was due to be paid in 2020/21, however, Lough Neagh Partnership requested Council to transfer a proportion of this funding (£3,000) into the 2021/22 financial year, as a result of some activities being delayed due to the Covid pandemic. Council subsequently approved this request. Lough Neagh Partnership has provided a detailed breakdown of the activities relating to the £3,000 (on Appendix 1). All these activities have now been completed and the final payment of £3,000 will be made to Lough Neagh Partnership. This concludes Council's funding towards the project.

3.2 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 (8th – 12th November 2021) will provide a week of opportunity for local businesses and budding entrepreneurs to freely avail of advice and gather insights into creating, developing and sustaining a business during the pandemic. The events will appeal to all industry sectors and include topics such as funding and support mechanisms, leadership, negotiation, enhancing digital skills to increase sales (by exploiting Instagram, TikTok etc) and much more besides.

This year's Enterprise Week will be delivered virtually via a series of 10 online interactive webinars, with the exception of the first event being co-ordinated through the NI Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Council on Monday 8th November 2021 at the Hill of the O'Neill event space.

3.3	<p>Council's delivery partner "Plannd" is assisting the economic development team in the management and delivery of the week-long range of events. An impactful programme is currently being prepared which will include a variety of high quality speakers. Further information will be issued to Members in due course when the final programme for Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 is completed.</p> <p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre Council's application to DfC for £250,000 funding has been successful and a letter of offer has been issued to Council on 17 September 2021.</p> <p>At the July 2021 Development Committee approval was granted to the Chief Executive to be awarded delegated authority to accept any of Letter of Offer from the Department of Communities (DfC) for the Revitalisation Project.</p> <p>This project is 100% funded by DfC and contains the following initiatives: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Lighting Campaign (Approx. £80,000) The purchase of reusable Christmas Tree that will be designed and installed and associated festive light motifs, including one for each of the 47 newly erected lampposts throughout the town. • Marketing & Branding (Approx. £25,000) Developing a new brand for Coalisland and subsequently purchase of new branded merchandise to promote and reinforce the new brand. • Lineside Environmental Improvement Scheme (Approx. £145,000) This new project will link up the town centre with the soon to be redeveloped Gortgonis Recreation Centre. The area is located at the start of the towpath to Gortgonis entrance and caters for much pedestrian footfall, yet there are no pedestrian rest areas readily available for the public to use to encourage them to spend more time in the town.
	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Coalisland Great Places Project Provision of £3,000 available in the 2021/22 economic development budget.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 A budget of £28,000 has been set aside for Enterprise Week 2021 from Council's economic development budget. A proportion of these costs has been used to procure the services "Plannd" who are the Management / Delivery Agent to co-ordinate, manage and organise the week-long range of virtual events and promotion of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021.</p> <p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre This project is 100% funded by DfC to the value of £250,000</p>

	<p>Human: Coalisland Great Places Project Officers time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Officer's time will be required to work with a Management / Delivery Partner in the development of a suite of events and to ensure the smooth running of Enterprise Week 2021.</p> <p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre Officers time from both Economic Development and Technical Services.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre This is a time bound project.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre Equality & Good Relations screening completed</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Coalisland Great Places Project Project was undertaken within Coalisland and adjacent wider rural areas.</p> <p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre Rural Needs assessment completed.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p>
5.1	<p>Coalisland Great Places Project. Note the remaining balance of £3,000 will now be released to Lough Neagh Partnership in the 2021/22 financial year, which completes Council's funding towards the overall project.</p>
5.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Note update on Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (8th – 12th November 2021).</p>
5.3	<p>DfC Revitalisation Scheme 2021/2022 – Coalisland Town Centre</p> <p>5.3.1 Note that DfC has issued their letter of offer to Council on 17 September 2021 for Coalisland Revitalisation Scheme 2021/22. Delegated authority was granted at the July 2021 Development Committee for the Chief Executive to accept the Letter of Offer and it has been duly signed and returned to DfC on 21 September 2021.</p>

	5.3.2 Note that Council's Technical Services Team will seek the necessary approvals from Council's P&R Committee in October 2021 to progress the capital aspects of the scheme.
	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Coalisland Great Places Project Report - Sept 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Letter of Offer for Coalisland Revitalisation - Sept 2021</p>