

<b>Report on</b>	Cycling Ireland Regional Cycle Hubs
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The Membership Development Officer for the Ulster Branch of Cycling Ireland has contacted Mid Ulster District Council with a proposal to establish a Regional Cycling Hub in the District.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The 'Cycling Hub' project is a new initiative that Cycling Ireland have launched in conjunction with funding from the Department of Communities (DfC). Cycling Ireland's project aims to progress the development of innovative, unique cycling development and training hubs at identified key strategic locations in local Council areas.
2.2	This hub is designed to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the area and encourage the development of cycling using a range of Cycling Ireland programmes and Cycling Ireland initiatives.
2.3	To date, as part of Cycling Ireland Phase 1 Hub implementation, 3 hubs are now onsite at locations in the following council areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Council</li> <li>• Fermanagh and Omagh Council</li> <li>• Newry Mourne and Down Council</li> </ul>
2.4	As part of Cycling Irelands Phase 2 Hub implementation, approval has been given to launch this initiative in the following Council areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council</li> <li>• Antrim and Newtownabbey Council.</li> </ul>
2.5	Cycling Ireland wish to include Mid Ulster District Council within their Phase 2 Hub rollout therefore are seeking approval to progress this project with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The draft is enclosed within Appendix A.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Hubs cost approx. £30k (ex Vat) and are fully supported and managed via Cycling Ireland through their funding from DfC.
3.2	The Hubs, contain a classroom and a storage facility (made up of 2 – 20ft x 10ft purpose built shipping containers). Each hub is furnished with equipment (approx. £1,500-£2,000 per hub) and they can be used by Cycling Ireland for training courses with local cycling

	clubs and running other events. It is intended that they will also be available for Council to use for coaching/walking programmes and coach education courses where relevant.
3.3	Cycling Ireland's aim is to provide training for children through to adults as well as for people with disabilities, members of local clubs and grass roots right through to elite type cyclists. This initiative is being delivered with the intention of Cycling Ireland coaches being able to come to a hub in a geographical area rather than expecting participants to travel to other locations outside of their district area.
3.4	Cycling Ireland has also been working on a Bike Safety/Road Safety and turnaround project through the Department of Justice working with young offenders. All courses and events would be promoted and run by Cycling Ireland.
3.5	Cycling Ireland have stated that their preferred strategic location for a hub in the Mid Ulster District is within the Dungannon area - due to the locality of the current phase 1 cycling hubs in other council areas, taking account of their future hub location plans and to ensure that there is a good spread of hubs in the province and that they are within reasonable travel distances for cycling clubs to access.
3.6	Should Council approve the proposal, a Memorandum of Understanding would be put in place and a suitable location within the Dungannon area would need to be agreed (generally somewhere with proximity to a shared use path networks, available suitable space with potential for electricity connection and access to toilet facilities). Public Liability Insurance cover would be provided for through Cycling Ireland.
3.7	Cycling Ireland requests that host councils meet the cost of minor enabling works in the form of electricity supply to the site and construction of a base – estimated at approx. £2,000 - £4,000 per hub). Additionally Cycling Ireland requests that host councils meet ongoing annual running costs for electricity – estimated at approx. £200-£500 per year). All other elements relating to the Hub including staffing, inspections, keyholding, etc on an ongoing basis would be the responsibility of Cycling Ireland.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:  Minor enabling works estimated at approx. £2,000 - £4,000 can be derived via existing revenue budgets for 2021/2022.  Ongoing annual running costs for electricity – estimated at approx. £200-£500 per year can be derived via existing revenue budgets and factored into future budgets.</p>
	<p>Human:  Officer time to co-ordinate, implement and monitor the planned project in conjunction with Cycling Ireland. Can be delivered within existing resources.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:  Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will seek to establish a Cycling Ireland Hub at a suitable location within the Dungannon area and for Council to meet the costs of the initial enabling works and ongoing annual cost of electricity supply.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A – Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).