

Report on	Economic Development Report – OBFD 1) Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) Membership Renewal (Jan-Dec 2021) 2) Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
Date of Meeting	11 February 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Economic Development

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

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>ATCM Membership Renewal ATCM is a respected voice for town and city management and are a not-for-profit organisation with membership 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>Labour Market Partnership (LMP) The Department for Communities (DfC) presented to SOLACE NI in February 2020 to update on Employability NI and proposals for introducing Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The LMPs will be focused to achieve regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs of local Council areas.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>ATCM Membership Renewal Council has held ATCM Membership for some years and this provides officers with the following benefits;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events delivered in relation to Town and City Centre Management • Platform for knowledge exchange in Town and City Centre Management • Access to written resources in Town and City Centre Management • Regular Covid-19 updates for each region • Access to virtual webinars

The annual membership renewal fee invoice (**on Appendix 1**) of £545 (excluding Vat) is now due for the period of January-December 2021.

3.2

Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The LMPs will be focused to achieve regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by the District connecting employers with employees.

Council officers met with DfC (Employability NI) officials in December 2020 to discuss the development and implementation of a Local Market Partnership in Mid Ulster. The Labour Market Partnership (LMP) provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council's priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future. The LMP would complement the Mid Ulster Skills Forum which has delivered on a number of initiatives and programmes including the establishment of the MEGA collaborative network. It is envisaged that at some point in the future, the interim LMP and Mid Ulster Skills Forum would merge/co-align to form an integrated partnership for the delivery of key employability, training and skills programmes in Mid Ulster.

A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop an annual Action Plan which will be locally focused and aligned to key strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, Community Plan, Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan and LMP member organisations corporate plans.

Council is required to prepare an Interim LMP Action Plan for 2021-22 and approval of such will be sought from the Mid Ulster LMP, Council and DfC and subject to funding will be rolled out during the 2021-22 financial year. It is intended to use the good work already completed through the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to formulate the Mid Ulster Interim Labour Market Plan. Much consultation has already taken place with a wide variety of key local stakeholders, including the private sector, to develop Mid Ulster's Skills Action Plan (2018-2021). This is a fantastic platform from which to build and co-align Mid Ulster's Interim LMP Action Plan, whilst alongside carrying out some further data collection and consultation with local stakeholders. Council officers have sought clarification on a Mid Ulster LMP budget but at this juncture DfC are unable to advise of such.

After delivery of Mid Ulster's Interim Annual Labour Market Plan (2021-22), a three year Strategic Labour Market Plan needs to be prepared containing annual action plans for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

DfC acknowledge that the implementation of the full LMP model across each Council area will take some time to develop. The Department's programme of proposed actions and timeframe is summarised as follows:

Year	Proposed Actions
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships - Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities - Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce Annual Action Plan - Delivery against Action Plan - Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC - Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas - Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans - Delivery against Action Plan - Monitoring and evaluation of progress

Appendices 2A, 2B and 2C contain correspondence from DfC on the LMP process.

Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial:

ATCM Membership Renewal - £545 (excl Vat) for the period of Jan-Dec 2021 from within existing economic development budget

Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) - There are no financial or resource implications at this time.

Human:

Officers time

Risk Management:

N/A

4.2 Screening & Impact Assessments

Equality & Good Relations Implications:

Labour Market Partnerships – to be considered.

Rural Needs Implications:

Labour Market Partnerships – to be considered.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members;

5.1 ATCM Membership Renewal

Approve the renewal of membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December 2021 at a cost of £545 (excluding Vat).

5.2	<p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Approve Mid Ulster Council participates as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of Labour Market Partnerships, which will coordinate activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in Mid Ulster.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – ATCM Membership Renewal Invoice (Jan-Dec 2021)</p> <p>Appendix 2A - Letter from DfC Re Labour Market Partnerships - 9.11.20</p> <p>Appendix 2B – Letter from DfC Re Labour Market Partnerships – 18.12.20</p> <p>Appendix 2C – DfC’s Draft Labour Market Partnerships Code of Practice</p>