



15 April 2021

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, 15 April 2021 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

In accordance with the spirit of the recent COVID restriction, Members are strongly encouraged to join virtually as the preferred option. Should you need to attend in person then provision will be made at the Council Offices, Dungannon. Please notify Democratic Services in advance if this is the case.

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. Apologies
2. 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.
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation - Fionnuala Boyle Mother & Baby Home Enquiry

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 5. | Collaborative Tourism Cluster – Partnership Agreement | 3 - 6 |
| 6. | Economic Development Report - OBFD | 7 - 14 |
| 7. | Master Plan/Business Case - Maghera Walkways | 15 - 18 |
| 8. | Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2021/22 | 19 - 22 |
| 9. | DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation | 23 - 72 |

Matters for Information

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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

15. Economic Development Report – CBFD
16. Decade of Anniversaries commemorations 2021 2022 updated Action Plan

Matters for Information

17. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 March 2021
18. Economic Development Report – CBFI

Report on	Collaborative Tourism Cluster – Partnership Agreement
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown

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 seek approval from the members for Mid Ulster Council to enter into a partnership agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council and for Mid Ulster Council to lead on the delivery of the Lough Neagh Shoreline tourism cluster.
2.0	Background
2.1	Members are reminded that the Council agreed in October 2020 to apply to DAERA for the development of experience tourism and product development clusters with a maximum match funding contribution of £16,666 from the Council.
2.2	This funding presented an opportunity to develop a collaborative project with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council under the theme of 'Lough Neagh Shorelines' & a second project specifically developing Mid Ulster's strong heritage offering.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Officers can now report that the funding application to DAERA has been successful for a Heritage cluster and a joint Lough Neagh Shoreline cluster with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council.
3.2	The officers are now proposing that Mid Ulster District Council takes the lead on the Lough Neagh Shoreline Cluster and are now proposing to enter into a partnership agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey, subject to approval from both Councils.
3.3	The total DAERA funding for both elements of this programme is £50,000, with the match funding of £16,666 from Council and the projects must be completed by 31 March 2022. Currently officers are in the process of procuring and appointing professional facilitators to develop and deliver both the Mid Ulster Heritage and Lough Neagh Shoreline programmes.

3.4	The Programme objectives will be achieved by the facilitator engaging with rural tourism businesses, attractions, and experiences to develop individual and collaborative experiences which will be marketed in the media and online.
3.5	It is essential that these experiences deliver on both visitor experience and economic development outcomes, from those outlined below, as well as being aligned to the new Mid Ulster Tourism branding and Tourism Northern Ireland's – Embrace a Giant Spirit' branding.
3.6	<p>The key tasks for both clusters are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and bring together members of the Heritage and Lough Neagh Shoreline clusters, • Develop a measurable action plan on how to bring the experiential tourism offering to the marketplace, • Identify any skills/digital gaps and how to address these, • Develop and implement a marketing plan to deliver the final experience product, • Identify stakeholders and partners who could benefit from the new experience offering.
3.7	<p>The expected outcomes because of the investment are:</p> <p><u>Visitor Experience Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced visibility and accessibility of individual products and combined experience (including where appropriate pre-visit and season extension) • Expanded services or product offerings to improve the visitor experience • Access new visitor segments • Greater visitor satisfaction <p><u>Economic Development Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visitor spend • Increased visitor numbers • Increased dwell time • Increased employment opportunities
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>N/A</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Mid Ulster District Council enters into a partnership agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council and that Mid Ulster District Council to lead on the Lough Neagh Shoreline cluster.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Economic Development Report - OBFD 1. MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network 2. Mid Ulster Gift Card
Date of Meeting	15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Economic Development

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>MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network MEGA is supported by both Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI. Its purpose is to address the immediate and medium-term skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network working towards attracting, retaining and upskilling the region's engineering and manufacturing workforce. The MEGA Project officially started on 1st August 2019 and will end on 1st February 2022.</p> <p>The MEGA Network has submitted a request for funding support to develop a strategic review and three year Action plan for the next phase of industry development. In addition, MEGA has requested a reallocation of Council's funding contribution in year 2 towards the current project.</p>
2.2	<p>Mid Ulster Gift Card As part of Mid Ulster Town Recovery Plan, a number of key actions/initiatives are being considered to assist businesses with their recovery. One such initiative is to develop and deliver a Mid Ulster Gift Card to <i>lock-in</i> local spend within the Council area.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network

3.1.1. MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan

The MEGA (Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network has submitted a funding request to Council (on Appendix 1) seeking £5,000 financial support to prepare a Strategic Review and 3 year Action Plan for the next phase of the MEGA project to support Mid Ulster's manufacturing and engineering sector. MEGA have estimated a budget of £20k will be required for this critical piece of work and are hoping to secure £15,000 of funding support from a Phase One application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme. If successful in securing the required funding, MEGA would commission independent professional support to assist preparation of the following tasks;

- Review and map MEGA progress and achievements to date;
- Evidence the positive impact the MEGA initiative has had on the Mid Ulster manufacturing and engineering sector generally, and also specifically through the Covid19 pandemic;
- Engage all 36 (and growing) MEGA member companies to secure their input and buy-in to a new Strategic Action Plan for MEGA;
- Engage with key external stakeholders (including Mid Ulster District Council, Invest NI, South West College, Department for the Economy, Department for Education and others) to understand broader stakeholder strategies and how MEGA can best align to these;
- Develop strategic aims and objectives for the MEGA initiative over the next 3 years;
- Explore how MEGA might work towards an operating model that enables the initiative to be more self-sustaining;
- Prepare a Strategic Action Plan for MEGA that charts the way ahead, and which will form the basis of a future funding application to support the initiative beyond February 2022; and
- Effectively communicate the new Strategy to members through digital and printed means, and to use the materials as a tool to support the recruitment of new members.

Subject to funding, MEGA plan to commence the Strategic Review in mid-April 2021 and expect it will take 12 to 14 weeks to complete, at which stage they will then apply to Invest NI for a further round of Phase Two Collaborative Growth funding.

It is recommended that Members approve a funding contribution of £5,000 from Council's economic development budget, towards the preparation of MEGA's Strategic Review and 3 year Action Plan, subject to MEGA securing match funding from Invest NI (circ. £15,000) under the Collaborative Growth Programme (Phase 1).

3.1.2 MEGA's Ongoing 3 Year Work Programme (2019/20 – 2021/22)

In respect of MEGA's current Work Programme, Mid Ulster Council previously agreed to provide match-funding of £37,500 over a 3 year period (2019/20, 2020/21, and

2021/22) for specific elements of the project. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020/21 has impacted the local manufacturing and engineering sector and caused delays and changes to some aspects of the project.

MEGA's priorities were reassessed to focus on responding to the effects of the pandemic and supporting Mid Ulster's manufacturing and engineering sector. MEGA have drawn down £16,000 of their £20,000 contribution from Council in Year 2 (1 April 2020-31 March 2021) and have requested that the remaining amount of Year 2 funding (ie, £4,000) be transferred and paid to MEGA in the new financial year (2021/22), along with their final year's funding. There is no additional cost to Council attached to this request. Due to the excellent work undertaken by MEGA and the unique set of circumstances caused by the pandemic, Council officers would recommend that Members approve this request.

3.2

Mid Ulster Gift Card

A number of initiatives are being worked up to support local businesses with the recovery process and attract footfall to towns and rural areas when it is safe to do so. One proposed innovative initiative, is the '**Mid Ulster Gift Card**'. The introduction of a new gift card specific to Mid Ulster, will support businesses as they recover from the Covid-19 crisis. The card will;

- Provide businesses located in Mid Ulster District Council area with the opportunity to 'sign up' as a participating business to the initiative.
- Operate in any business that can accept MasterCard (magnetic stripe) cards. Transactions are treated as debit card payments and businesses incur no additional fees. It is free and simple for businesses to get involved as it uses the existing MasterCard infrastructure. Businesses receive the full card value.
- Be sold online. This enables people from all over the world to order cards. It will also be targeted to corporate sales for bulk orders, eg, companies would be encouraged to purchase a gift card for their staff at Christmas etc. The cards will also be sold from Council's Visitor Information Centres.
- Stimulate additional customer spend and lock-in such to the Mid Ulster economy over an initial 3 year period. It will also encourage greater footfall to local businesses to support them at this difficult time.

Members' approval is sought to introduce a 'Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme' and to progress to seek competitive tenders from suitable organisations to introduce and deliver the scheme. It is proposed a budget circ. *£57,000 is set aside for the scheme. This will include initial set up costs and annual fees/charges each year for a period of up to 3 years. *The budget is subject to variance as it is dependent on the number of businesses participating annually. It is proposed the scheme will be funded from Council's economic development budget in years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

As Council will cover the costs of implementing and operating the scheme, this will ensure participating businesses can avail of and operate the Gift Card at no cost to their business, provided they have a magnetic card payment system in-store to use.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan <p>Subject to Members approval, £5,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in Council's economic development budget (2021/22) as match funding towards MEGA's Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan. This is subject to MEGA securing the remaining match funding of £15,000 from Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme (Phase 1) to undertake this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEGA's Ongoing 3 Year Work Programme (2019/20 – 2021/22) <p>Subject to Members approval, £4,000 of funding for the MEGA Network in year 2 (2020/21), will upon MEGA's request be reallocated and paid to MEGA in year 3, (2021/22), along with their final year's contribution. There is no additional cost to Council for this request.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>An estimated budget of £57,000 has been set aside to deliver the Gift Card Scheme over 3 years (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24). Note the budget is subject to variance as it is dependent on the number of companies participating on the scheme. Costs are inclusive of initial set up fees in year 1 and annual charges/fees in each of the 3 years.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>Officers time – re launch, recruit businesses and administration of the Gift Card</p>
	<p>Risk Management: N/A</p> <p>MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan <p>For a phase one application to Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme the risk level is mitigated as Council contribution will be subject to confirmation of funding from Invest NI.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>Council will control the finances to reduce any potential risk of money laundering.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>To be completed</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p> <p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>To be completed</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network</p> <p>5.1.1 MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan Approve funding contribution of £5,000 from Council's economic development budget, subject to MEGA securing match funding from Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme to undertake a Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan.</p> <p>5.1.2 MEGA's Ongoing 3 Year Work Programme (2019/20 – 2021/22) Approve Council reallocate £4,000 of its funding contribution to the MEGA Project in year 2 (2020/21) to year 3 (2021/22). This flexibility will allow various aspects of the project to be completed, having been delayed as a result of the pandemic. There is no additional cost to Council related to this request.</p>
5.2	<p>Mid Ulster Gift Card</p> <p>Approve a budget of £57,000 towards the implementation of a Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme from Council's economic development budget over a 3 year period (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24) and progress to tender for a suitable organisation to develop and deliver the scheme. Note the budget is subject to variance as it is dependent on the number of businesses participating on the scheme on an annual basis.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – MEGA Letter of request to Council for funding support – 12.3.21</p>

APPENDIX 1 - MEGA Letter of request to Council for Funding Support



Mr Paul McCreedy
Economic Development Section
Mid Ulster District Council
15 Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT

12th March 2021
By Email

Dear Paul,

Re: Post-COVID strategic review of MEGA

At our recent MEGA steering group meeting on Monday 1st March and with one year remaining under the current funding programme for MEGA, we discussed the importance of undertaking a strategic review to evidence what has been achieved by MEGA to date and to develop a strategic action plan for our next phase of industry skills development.

No doubt Council will be acutely aware of the profound impact Covid has had on the economy and the next few years will prove challenging for many businesses in our sector as we collectively build towards recovery. In this context we think it is timely to undertake this review to map out MEGA's role in supporting its members in the years ahead.

To progress the strategy we have identified a need to appoint professional advisory services to assist us with this exercise in order to:

- Review and document MEGA progress and achievements to date;
- Evidence the positive impact the MEGA initiative has had on the Mid Ulster manufacturing and engineering sector generally, and also specifically through the COVID pandemic;
- Engage all 36 (and growing!) MEGA member companies to secure their input and buy-in to a new strategic action plan for MEGA;
- Engage with key external stakeholders (including Mid Ulster District Council, Invest NI, South West College, Department for the Economy, Department for Education and others) to understand broader stakeholder strategies and how MEGA may be able to align to these;
- Develop strategic aims and objectives for the MEGA initiative over the next 3 years;

- Explore how MEGA might work towards an operating model that enables the initiative to be more self-sustaining;
- Prepare a strategic action plan for MEGA that charts our way ahead, and which will form the basis of a future funding application to support the initiative beyond February 2022; and
- Effectively communicate the new strategy to members through digital and printed means, and to use the materials as a tool to support the recruitment of new members.

We have estimated a budget of £20,000 will be required for this strategic review and its launch. We are hoping to secure £15,000 of funding support through a Phase One application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme, and we are writing to enquire as to whether Mid Ulster District Council would be able to provide £5,000 of funding support to co-fund this exercise with Invest NI?

Our plan would be to commence the strategic review in mid-April, and we expect it will take 12 to 14 weeks to complete at which stage we will then apply for a further round of Phase Two funding.

Paul, whether or not you are able to support us in this funding request, on behalf of the MEGA steering committee I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mid Ulster District Council and yourself for the strong support we have received to date – not only in funding, but also in Council's ongoing positive championing of our work, which is a great encouragement to our group and very much appreciated.

The MEGA Project officially started on 1st August 2019 and to reflect the facilitator contract of 30 months it will end on 1st February 2022.

I hope I have provided you with all the information you require to consider our request for financial support of £5,000. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Curran
Programme Director
MEGA

[Manufacturing & Engineering](#)
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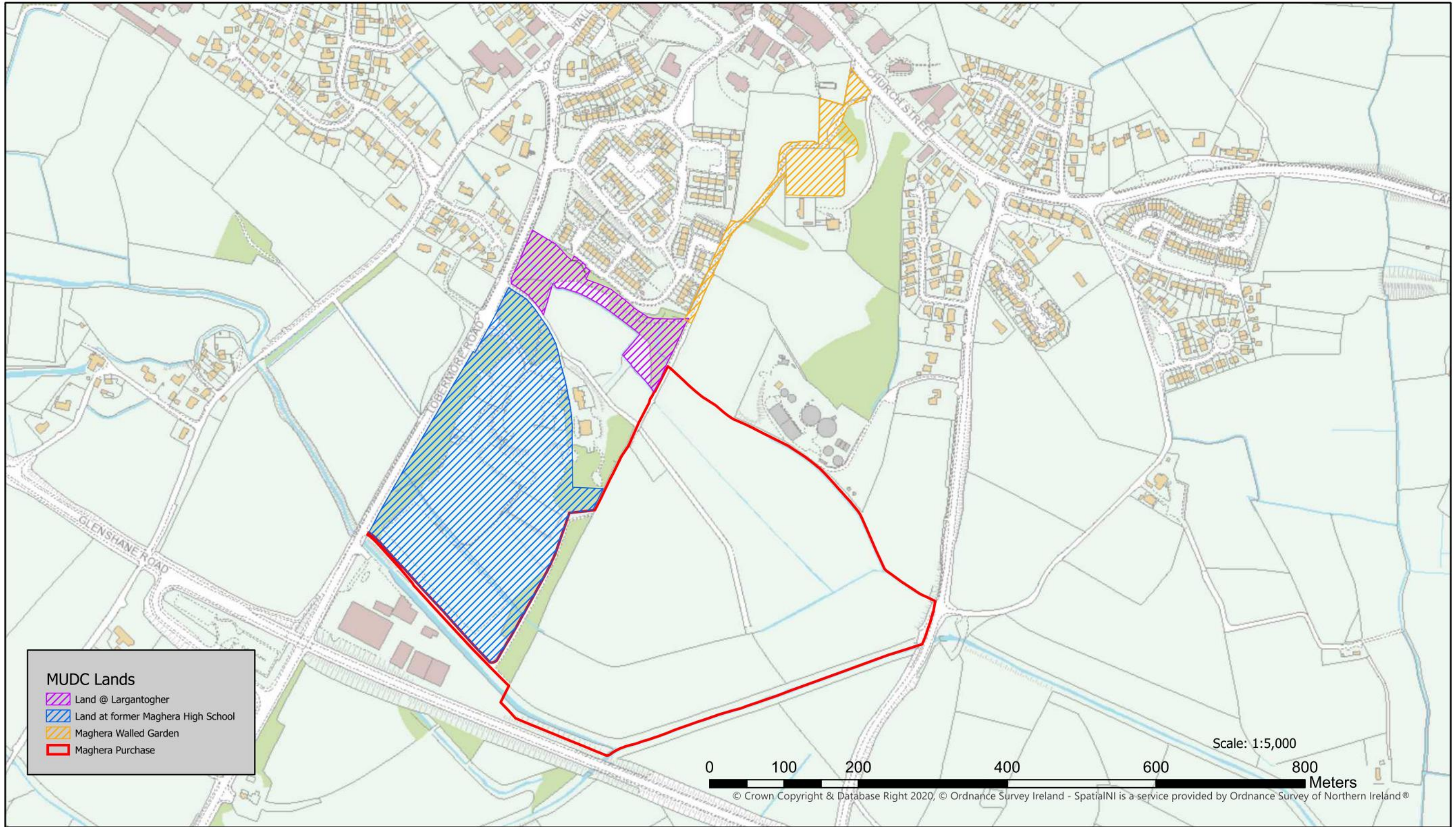
Report on	Master Plan/Business Case - Maghera Walkways
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 April 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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 seek Council approval to appoint a suitably qualified consultancy team to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area. (Land Map Appendix).
2.0	Background
2.1	As part of Council's Maghera, 2017 – 2030, A Physical Development Framework and Action Plan, the creation of an outdoor recreation space was identified as a theme for potential development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing walking / cycle trail - Potential development of Walled Garden, Rectory site and environs as recreation / amenity hub
2.2	There is an acknowledged desire for the creation of public park facilities within the Maghera area. The development of recreational green space has been welcomed and enthusiastically supported across the local community.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Council has recently acquired circa 37 acres of lands between the Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road for economic and recreational development purposes.
3.2	A significant portion of the land is identified for the provision of recreational green space, to include the creation of habitat biodiversity/conservation, natural play and a network of community trails, in response to the need for additional outdoor recreational facilities in the Maghera area.
3.3	The Master Planning process will provide for outline concept development proposals steered by further community consultations across a wide range of local stake-holders and user groups.

3.4	The Maghera scheme has been identified in the 2020-2024 Capital Framework for development.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Master Plan/Business Case for Maghera Scheme estimated cost £15,000.</p> <p>Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.</p>
	Human: Existing staff resources will work alongside appointed consultancy team. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to progress procurement of a suitably qualified Consultancy Teams to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix – Outline Land Map

Lands @ Maghera Master Map



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

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Date: 09/02/2021

Dept: IT

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Report on	Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2021/22
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Nigel Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill Head of Parks

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 agree proposals on Community Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2021/22 only.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>In the Financial Year 2020/21 the following Community SLAs were honoured and maintained throughout Covid-19 lock-down period by Leisure Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Dept. for provision of leisure services programmes including swimming activities in Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe, Fivemiletown. Cost: £50,000 per annum. Workspace, Draperstown for provision of leisure service programmes in Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown. Cost: £10,000 per annum. Workspace make a return payment to Council of £10,000 for the lease of land at Backrow Recreation Centre site.
2.2	<p>In the Financial Year 2020/21 the following Community SLAs were honoured and maintained between community groups and the Parks Services throughout Covid-19 lock-down period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour - £9,925. Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park - £3,126 Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest - £6,500 Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association (TABBDA) Ballyronan Marina - £6,000. Kildress Community projects, Killucan Picnic Area - £3,365. Traad Wildlife & Conservation Club, Traad Point - £2,000 Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) for provision of a caretaking/maintenance service at Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead - £6,000

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Council conducted a Service Level Agreement review in July 2020 to ascertain the impact of Covid-19 on the capacity of community groups to deliver on agreed Performance Indicators (PIs). Two options were presented to the Development Committee 9th July 2020 for consideration.</p> <p>Option 1. <i>Subject to Council approval, current Service Level Agreement payments can be adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the level of services provided. This approach will effect some identified service partners were services have not been possible due to the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions</i></p> <p>Option 2. <i>Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions.</i></p>
3.2	Minute D092/20 - (9th July 2020) refers to the Development Committee's recommendation to accept option two.
3.3	Covid-19 restrictions continue to apply and impact on the delivery of some Community Service Level Agreements. Committee approval is sought, subject to Full Council approval, to continue scheduled payments as per D092/20 - 9 th July 2020 for the period 2021-2022 as per Schedule of Annual Service Level Agreement Payments (3.4).
3.4	<p>Schedule of Annual Service Level Agreement Payments 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe £50,000 • Workspace Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown - £10,000 • Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour - £9,925. • Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park - £3,126 • Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest - £6,500 • Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association (TABBDA) Ballyronan Marina - £6,000. • Kildress Community projects, Killucan Picnic Area - £3,365. • Traad Wildlife & Conservation Club, Traad Point - £2,000 • Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead - £6,000
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: All Service Level Agreement payments are contained within existing budgets and there is provision within the 2021/22 Leisure and Parks budgets allocations.</p>

	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: In line with Council policy and procedures
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with Council policy and procedures
	Rural Needs Implications: In line with Council policy and procedures
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note record of Council Minute D092/20 - (9th July 2020) which refers to the Development Committee's recommendation to accept option two as presented: <i>Option 2. Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions.</i>
5.2	Members approval is sought to extend current arrangements afforded to Community Service Level Agreements under the terms of option two, subject to Full Council Approval.
5.3	Approval to make annual payments in full associated to Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements for the period 2021/22 financial year only
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation
Date of Meeting	15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation 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 seek members approval in responding to the consultation for the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, prepared by the Department for Communities (DfC). A copy of the proposed consultation response is in Appendix B.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in November 2020, members were advised that DfC had issued correspondence that they were developing a new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity – <i>“Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020 to 2030 and beyond”</i> and therefore DfC requested key stakeholders to complete a pre-consultation survey. A response was submitted by the deadline date of 30 October 2020. Members were advised that it was DfC’s intention to publish the new strategy in March 2021 and that Officers would bring back further updates to Development Committee.
2.2	DfC commenced the consultation on the new strategy on 26 February 2021 with a closing date 23 April 2021.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Previously, DfC has stated that they wish for the new strategy to build on the successful foundations of the Sport Matters strategy which was published in 2009 and which continues to guide Government policy until the new strategy is agreed and put in place.
3.2	DfC have stated that the new strategy will aim is to provide a flexible strategic framework for a cross-departmental, ambitious, and comprehensive approach to promoting participation and excellence in sport and physical activity.
3.3	It is understood that the new strategy will be cross-Departmental in nature, meaning that it will cover all the Departments of the Northern Ireland Executive. It will aim to focus on linkages and shared outcomes between sport and physical activity and other policies of the Executive, such as physical and mental health and well-being, education, transport, economic, urban and rural regeneration, good relations, community safety, social inclusion and social equality.
3.4	When published, it is anticipated that the new strategy will help inform and guide the Executive’s policies and priorities in relation to sport and physical activity over the next 10 years and beyond. It is anticipated that this will enable sport and physical activity to contribute more effectively to the outcomes within the new Programme for Government and the delivery of New Decade, New Approach.

3.5	<p>Officers took part in a focus group meeting with DfC and neighbouring Councils, and a number of issues that emerged from the discussion have been incorporated into the proposed response from Mid Ulster District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to increase participation in sporting and non-sporting physical activities. • Seek to innovate by encouraging additional and new participants into physical activity through non-traditional routes. • Aim for closer engagement and alignment with Education that should promote early years to old age participation. • Aim to support entry points to promote sustained sport and/or physical activity participation along with non-elite participation especially if individuals had never been involved previously – i.e. promotion of entry points at various age brackets. • Seek to embrace new technology and how support can be given to become more digitally advanced. • Understand Impact of Covid 19 – specifically mental health and the role of physical activity. • Action Planning as a result of Covid 19 - financial challenges current/post pandemic and impact on programming and facilities. • Aim to provide enhanced support for people development and deployment specifically with volunteers. • Seek to clarify Sport NI's role and future engagement with Councils – i.e. Previous funded Everybody Active 2020 Programme and impact of project/funding closedown in March 2021 – What next? • Aim to define the prioritisation and objectives clarity on investment between participation versus performance.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members approve the consultation response to the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland, prepared by the Department for Communities (DfC).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A – DfC Consultation Notice
	Appendix B - Proposed consultation response.



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Depairtment fur
Commonities

A New Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland

**Department for Communities
Consultation Document**

February 2021



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Introduction

The Department for Communities is consulting on the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland to cover the next 10 years and beyond.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had, and continues to have, very considerable effects on the physical and mental well-being of all. The importance of people of all ages and all abilities being more active has never been so keenly felt and it is in this context that we look to maximise the benefits of sport and physical activity as we look towards recovery.

The new Strategy is being developed by the Department for Communities acting on behalf of all the departments of the Northern Ireland Executive. The aim is 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 new Strategy brings a welcome and needed emphasis on physical activity. Fundamentally there is an inextricable link between sport and physical activity, a factor recognised by stakeholders who examined with us the broad glossary of terms and definitions linked with sport and who agreed that sport in its broadest context represents ‘all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation,

aimed at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.’

The definition for physical activity was agreed as ‘any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure to improve or preserve physical or mental health or to achieve a social or other benefit’.

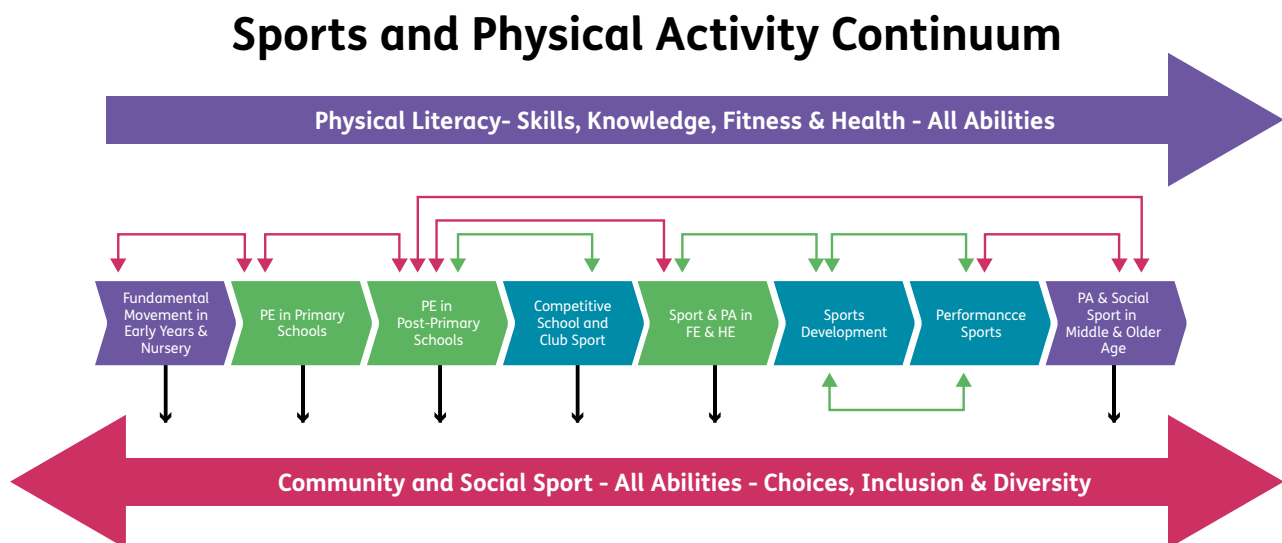
Critical factors underpin participation in sport or physical activity, such as accessibility for everybody, particularly for children and young people, alongside health, safety, fairness and tolerance and high ethical values. These factors, along with the overarching principle of physical literacy, promote the capability of fostering personal self-fulfilment at all levels in sport and physical activity.

Figure 1 provides a description of the sport and physical activity continuum as outlined through the various conversations with stakeholders during the pre-consultation phase. This describes the importance of physical activity from birth and throughout life to older age and for all abilities. It recognises the importance of choice and the building of confidence, skills and knowledge to engage. It examines the types of steps taken from learning fundamental movement skills in Early Years and Key Stage 1 at primary school through to the gradual engagement in competitive sport in Key Stage 2 at primary school and post

primary school or at club level. It recognises that not all people take part in competitive sport but ideally should remain engaged in some type of physical activity for the sake of their physical or mental health or to achieve a social or other benefit throughout their lives. The continuum also recognises the importance of volunteers, officials, coaches etc. in sports development. It recognises the importance of performance sport undertaken

by elite athletes and para athletes. After an elite athlete's engagement in competitive sport ideally they should continue to engage in sport development roles or engage in their community or in social sport acting as a role model and inspiring others to follow. Social or community sport should be available for all ages across their whole life and for all abilities with choices and inclusion and diversity at their heart.

Figure 1: Sport and Physical Activity Continuum



The development of the proposed strategic framework has been the subject of in-depth pre-consultation research and stakeholder engagement. This has been carried out virtually during the period of the pandemic and has involved over 70 focus groups with sports and physical activity stakeholders, involving over 300 participants, including the sports sector, councils, young people and youth organisations, public bodies including the education and health sectors and individuals from all the Section 75 groups.

This rich data source has been used to inform and develop the structure of this consultation document in the Key Themes and Cross-Cutting Principles. A summary of key messages from the pre-consultation engagement and research is provided at **Appendix 1** with a full report on the research being available from the Department.

This pre-consultation research and engagement have informed the following **proposed Vision** for the new Strategy:

‘Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity leads to an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence.’

It is proposed that the final Strategy be delivered under **6 Key Themes** which reflect the key messages we have heard to date:

- 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 places; and
- Promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity.

These 6 Key Themes will be underpinned by **3 Cross-Cutting Principles**:

- Developing inclusive, shared communities;
- Developing capacity and governance in sport and physical activity; and
- Developing national and international linkages.

The new Strategy provides a framework within which the Key Themes and Cross-Cutting Principles can be developed and effected over time. A detailed Sport and Physical Activity Cross-departmental Action Plan will be developed to support delivery, setting out the steps which will be taken to implement the strategic priorities for the initial 3 year period.

Through this consultation process we are seeking your views of the proposed vision, themes, and cross-cutting principles, and that we have heard correctly what those who have already engaged with us have told us.

We want you to tell us if the proposed Framework for the Strategy is representative of what you feel are the key issues facing sport and physical activity here. Does this approach capture the need for recovery, the potential for growth and for developing opportunities that deliver the real benefits

derived from getting more people, more active, more of the time? Does the framework demonstrate an ambitious future? Can you see where your club, organisation or chosen sport or physical activity fits in?

Your feedback is essential to the development of a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy that meets the needs of us all for the next 10 years and beyond.

The Sport and Physical Activity Ecosystem

We are acutely aware that the structure of sport and physical activity is varied and complex, that the sector has and continues to face significant challenges as a result of the pandemic and that it requires clear direction and support as it recovers.

In terms of the future development and delivery of sport and physical activity it is recognised that it is a sector that contributes to benefits beyond those of simply taking part in sport. Likewise, the benefits of sport and physical activity are multi-faceted and make a significant contribution to achieving many outcomes within the Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework and the Department for Communities own cross cutting themes.

The proposed strategic framework for sport and physical activity is derived from an understanding of sport and physical activity as being part of a complex wider ecosystem (as illustrated in **Appendix 2**) centred on the people, the organisations, the places, and the communities involved including: -

- Participants and non-participants;
- The places and spaces where sport and physical activity take place - Indoors and outdoors; and

- which takes account of a wide range of influencing factors which link to the wider priorities of the Executive and its Departments, the Arms-Length Bodies, and other public organisations.

All of this results in helping to make more people, more active, more of the time.

The messages from across the sporting sector and the wider community are clear. We know that we have a history of producing sporting talent and that this has been recognised by success at national and international level in sports such as gymnastics, boxing, swimming and golf. That success has come in various levels of competition including Olympic Paralympic and Special Olympic disciplines. But not all sport and physical activity is competitive in nature and for many participants it is the pleasure of taking part, the social interaction and the health benefits both mental and physical, that drives their participation.

As we aim to set the direction for delivery over the next 10 years and beyond, and to identify what success will look like over that period, it is important to establish what this complex landscape looks like and to give a sense of the interdependencies that are vital to successful delivery.

Proposed Strategic Framework

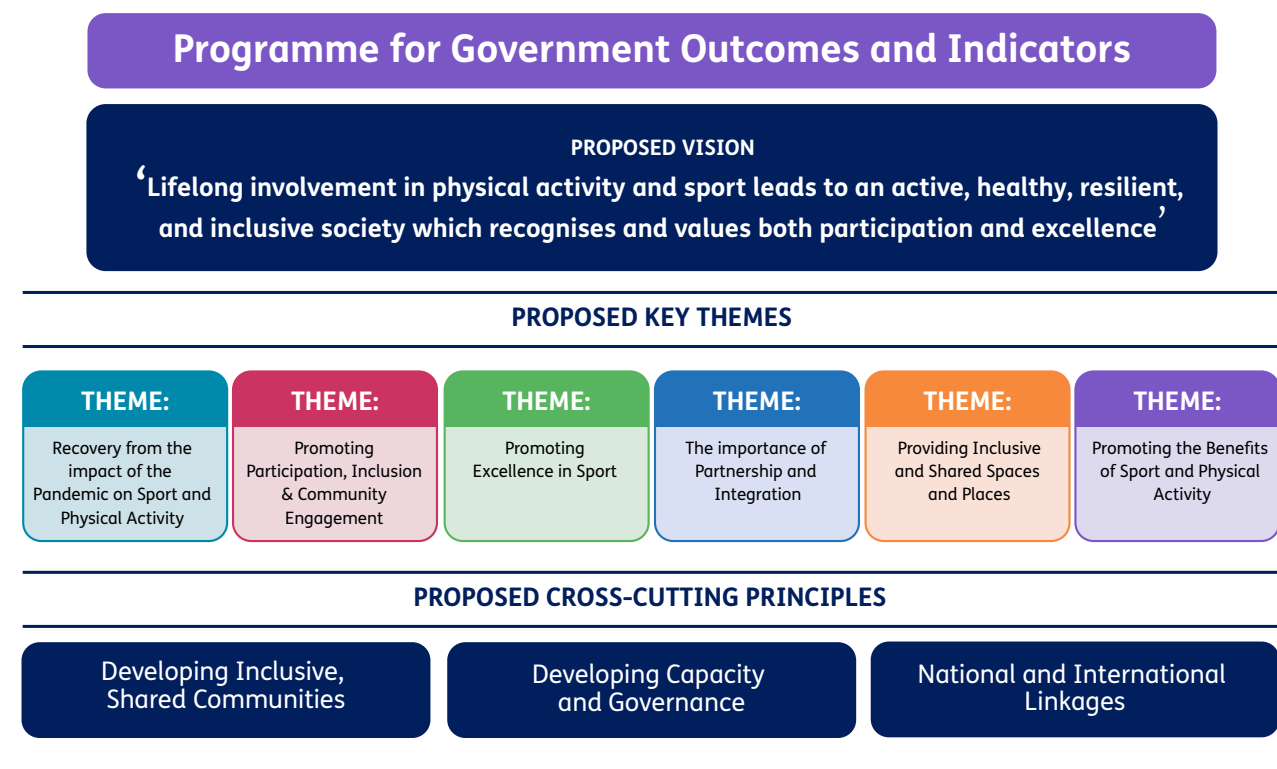
We propose the following as the strategic framework that will oversee the development and delivery of sport and physical activity for the future. This framework has emerged out of the consistency of comments provided by the wide range of respondents to a pre-consultative engagement phase held over four months from July 2020. See **Appendix 3** for the details of the full Strategic Framework.

This pre-consultative engagement and research process was carried out virtually during the period of the pandemic. As previously outlined it included over 70 focus groups with sports and physical activity stakeholders, involving over 300 participants, including the sports sector, councils, young people and youth organisations, public bodies

including the education and health sectors and individuals from all the Section 75 groups.

The following sections of this consultation document follow a clear and explanatory pattern dealing in turn with the proposed 'Vision' for the Strategy and identified proposed 'Key Themes', under which are several proposed 'Cross-cutting Principles' which will encourage collaborative delivery and provide clear channels and direction for the goals that will drive delivery going forward. They will be driven by the Programme for Government Outcomes and Indicators. Figure 2 below describes the proposed Vision, Themes and Cross Cutting Principles.

Figure 2: Proposed Vision, Themes and Cross Cutting Principles



The pre-consultative engagement and research process provided an insight into the needs of the sector and these have been developed into a number of proposed 'Goals' that reflect what delivery should look like

across both the Key Themes and the Cross Cutting Principles. Figure 3 illustrates the proposed Goals and how they link to each of the six Key Themes.

Figure 3: Proposed Goals Under Each Theme



Key Theme - Recovery from the Impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity

The Covid-19 pandemic has had major impacts on almost all sectors of the global economy and on almost all aspects of local communities and wider society. It has disrupted sport and physical activity here in ways which no one could have anticipated.

The significant impact of the Covid pandemic on sport and physical activity has been a recurring theme with almost everyone who has engaged with the Project Team over the last six months. It is recognised that any strategy for sport and physical activity will have to reflect the changing landscape and the need for a period of recovery, reset and possibly restructuring across the sector. It will also need to embrace the needs generated by an upsurge in interest around the importance of taking part in sport and physical activity, including investment in outdoor infrastructure and the importance and necessity of embracing new technologies.

Why is this important?

If the sport and physical activity sector is to make a full contribution to an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society, it first has to recover from the damage done by the pandemic. The impact of this crisis is unprecedented in modern times and so the response, in terms of sport and physical

activity recovery, needs to involve all the stakeholders and will require a significant degree of collective, creative and innovative thinking.

Who has to be involved?

This process of recovery will involve investment of time and resources by the sector's Governing Bodies, by clubs and by the public sector organisations that support sport and physical activity. It will be necessary not only to deal with the financial challenges facing sport and physical activity organisations, but it will also be important to refresh and restore leadership and volunteering structures and to rebuild membership, participation and spectator numbers.

Where does this Key Theme impact?

This Key Theme is the fundamental platform for the successful implementation of the overall Strategy. A weakened, demoralised and under-resourced sector will not be able to play the strong partnership role for the development of sport and physical activity foreseen in this Strategy. As well as efforts by the sector itself, public sector organisations, such as local authorities, Government Departments and their Arms-Length Bodies as well as the private sector have a major

contribution to make. There is an opportunity to make the process itself one which leads to a healthier, more active, more resilient and more inclusive society by creating a solid foundation for recovery and growth in sport and physical activity.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, those involved have indicated the key goals which the new Strategy should address are:

- Ensuring that the return to sport and physical activity is both safe and sustainable for all members, participants and spectators;
- Re-establishing the habit of participation in sport and physical activity across all abilities; and

- Making the sport and physical activity sectors more resilient to potential future shocks by rebuilding and developing the role of volunteers, publicising the benefits of sport and physical activity and the achievements of local people and by diversifying the sources of revenue of sports and physical activity organisations.

Conclusion

The sport and physical activity sector needs to reset and the rebuilding and recovery process will be essential to putting in place a strong foundation for the delivery of the Strategy in the short, medium and long term.

Key Theme - Promoting Participation, Inclusion and Community Engagement

While the participation rates for those engaging in sport and physical activity have risen over the last decade, including for females and those with a disability, barriers still exist and there remains a gap between the rates of participation for the population as a whole compared to those for a number of Section 75 groups. There is still much to do in increasing participation, inclusion, in closing existing gaps and in improving general levels of physical literacy.

Why is this important?

A strong theme in the pre-consultation stakeholder engagement was that being involved in sport and physical activity has multiple benefits. However, you told us that many people in our communities lead sedentary lifestyles and many don't understand or realise these benefits, with physical literacy among our young and older population in particular being a concern. You told us about a range of barriers to taking part and of the importance of access to opportunities to engage, of feeling included, comfortable, supported and safe. You reflected a range of complex issues, including social, economic, educational, health, psychological, physical and cultural that influence non-participation in sport and physical activity. To increase participation,

you suggested that barriers need to be tackled in an integrated way. Providing accessible, practical, inclusive opportunities for all people of all ages and abilities across our communities, and other appropriately accessible settings, is fundamental to encouraging more people to be more active, more often.

Who has to be involved?

Many structured inequalities remain which mean that those who are older, less well, with a disability, or who live in a disadvantaged area, rural communities or who are unemployed or economically inactive are significantly less likely to participate in sport and physical activity than their peers. If this Strategy is to be a success, then proactive and innovative engagement mechanisms need to be developed. Creating new or strengthening existing partnerships involving sports Governing Bodies, clubs and community organisations must be used to take forward and develop initiatives that cut across target groups. The role of our very active volunteering sector is essential to realising greater success for sport and physical activity for the future.

Improving physical literacy from a young age is the cornerstone for lifelong engagement

in sport and physical activity. Essential to this will be a commitment to exploring how to improve the way in which fundamental movement, physical literacy and physical education is managed from a young age through the school years and into adulthood.

Where does this Key Theme impact?

Increasing the number of people participating in sport and physical activity by creating an inclusive sector will help reduce sedentary behaviours, help create more inclusive sports clubs and organisations, reduce obesity and non-communicable diseases, and improve mental and physical health and well-being.

The delivery of this Strategy will support the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations for physical activity across all age groups and diverse abilities. This is in recognition of the fact that being physically active is a critical factor in improving good mental and physical health and well-being and improved life expectancy. It is notable that up-to-date evidence shows that active lifestyles and participation in activities of even moderate intensity can prevent life threatening conditions and improve quality of life with sporting, economic, social and cultural benefits regardless of age.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, those involved have indicated the key goals which the new strategy should address are:

- Improving physical literacy and increasing lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for all;
- Addressing the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity through co-designing programmes and initiatives in partnership with key stakeholders;
- Improving the physical and mental health and well-being of those who participate;
- Ensuring that sport and physical activity is inclusive, safe, diverse, shared and offers equality of opportunity to participate for all;
- Through a wider choice of sport and physical activity opportunities and more suitable offerings, children and young people are given the best start in life.

Conclusion

Enabling lifelong enjoyment of physical activity and sport from early years to older age, and supporting and encouraging more people, immaterial of their ability, personal circumstances, or background to participate in wide ranging, inclusive sport and physical activities throughout their lives is a fundamental building block for this Strategy.

Key Theme - Promoting Excellence in Sport

The ongoing development of a sporting sector that embraces participation by all but provides pathways for individuals to reach their full potential is recognised as a key aspect of the Strategy. We have some of the best athletes and sports teams at national and international levels in both able-bodied and para-sports who have achieved excellence and produce exceptional levels of performance, many on the world stage.

Why is this important?

It is important that this Strategy provides the framework and momentum for both sustaining and further developing top-level sport. Many of you told us that there was a tension or trade-off between supporting participation and inclusion in sport and physical activity and supporting and delivering excellence. Some considered that a strategy of 'chasing medals' in a few sports meant that adequate resources would not be available to support participation and inclusion in sport and physical activity.

Most advocated that a well-designed support system for sport can and must support elite athletes to achieve excellence in their chosen sports. Talented athletes must be identified and supported through clearly defined development pathways. Many emphasised that those fulfilling their full potential in sports are role models who can inspire young people at the start of a sporting career, or for some, just to get more active. Athletes at the

end of their sporting careers need support as they take the next steps in their working life with mental health and wellbeing and community re-engagement highlighted as important factors.

Who has to be involved?

The new Strategy needs to recognise the importance of well governed, inclusive, and diverse clubs and Governing Bodies. Inclusive and effective sports and physical activity programmes and initiatives require the recruitment, development, training and retention of staff, volunteers, coaches, administrators, finance experts, referees, sports scientists, researchers, data analysts, medics, media experts and support staff working side by side in a holistic system.

These programmes and initiatives must be supported by innovative, collaborative leaders with an understanding of the wider sector, an appreciation of the transformative power of technology and with an international perspective. Support across certain sports needs to be continually improved to ensure that emerging talent is identified, nurtured and given the best opportunities to reach its full potential. Alongside this, the current successes at international level need to lead to a continuous cycle of learning and improvement supported by the Governing Bodies, public bodies, local councils which ultimately leads to the development of local expertise and specialists.

The strategic focus on excellence extends beyond the push for medals in the narrow field of major world events to include the achievements of many athletes who strive to reach the pinnacle of their chosen sport and maximising their own performances irrespective of whether these feature on the Olympic, European or Commonwealth stages or not.

Where does this Key Theme impact?

Supporting our high performing athletes at a national level or those competing at European or world events, our Olympians, and our Paralympians, is critical in order for those on the 'pathway' to achieve their full potential. That means that the appropriate support and expertise needs to be available at different stages in the development cycle and at all stages of their journey. The provision of expertise in areas such as sports science and performance coaching and in the innovative use of technology in all aspects of sport alongside the organisational structures needed to deliver excellence must be seen as a priority. The development of successful sports people is a continually evolving environment and to pause means that opportunities and talent will be wasted.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, those involved have indicated that the key goals which the new strategy should address are:

- Improving sporting pathways that ensure that talent is recognised, and potential is realised;
- Supporting the development of a confident sport and physical activity infrastructure of clubs, governing bodies, volunteers, athletes, quality coaches, officials and leaders;
- Sustaining achievements in sport and physical activity at national and international levels through appropriate elite support; and
- Increasing community pride in the achievements of all our sporting participants.

Conclusion

We should continue to support the pursuit of excellence in our leading athletes and para-athletes and sports teams by enabling them to progress along effective, clearly defined pathways as far as their ability permits at regional, national, and international levels as they progress through their sporting lifecycle.

Key Theme - The Importance of Partnership and Integration

The new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity should feature enhanced provisions to ensure that Government Departments, public bodies, the sector, participants, spectators, and volunteers work collaboratively to deliver the best possible outcomes for all.

Why is this important?

A strong recurring theme in the pre-consultation stakeholder engagement, with both the sector and wider groups including those not currently involved in sport and physical activity, was the need to strengthen collaborative partnerships and develop integrated approaches in areas of common interest including infrastructure planning, facilities development and programming of activities. You told us that delivery channels that worked effectively under Sport Matters need now to be expanded to a whole system approach which is fundamental to turning the curve and getting more people, more active, more often.

Who has to be involved?

The new Strategy needs to reinforce the need for sports Governing Bodies and clubs (representing all abilities), community organisations, stakeholder and community groups, local authorities, schools, colleges, universities and Government Departments to work together to realise the benefits of sport and physical activity for society.

A critical enabler in this will be a focus on longitudinal research, creativity and innovation, technology and new products that can enhance sport and physical activity experiences for all.

Where does this theme impact?

The strengthening of partnership working and delivering improved integrated approaches to sports development, outdoor activities, facility usage and infrastructure planning should make for better use of limited public funding and ensure that organisational barriers that can exclude people are removed for those participating in, or interested in participating, in sport and physical activity.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders those involved have indicated that the key goals which the new Strategy should address are:

- The creation of better outcomes for communities through a collaborative approach to the development of sport and physical activity using co-design and co-production and building on enhanced partnership structures locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- The future outcomes for communities in terms of sport and physical activity will be significantly improved by a more

focused approach to co-design and co-production of support, initiatives and programmes;

- The strengthening of sport and physical activity partnerships must take place at local regional, national and international levels as well as cut across traditional boundaries/structures; and
- The creation of partnerships and better integration delivering an increased number of shared facilities across sports, clubs, schools and communities.

Conclusion

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.

Key Theme - Providing Inclusive and Shared Spaces and Places

The physical space requirements for sport and physical activities range from access to the natural or built environment, for example for walking and playing, through to community sports facilities and onto highly specialised facilities for training and competing in structured sports. They also include the need for high quality facilities developed to internationally recognised specifications that provide for the needs of those performing at, or striving to perform at national, international and world level competition. Councils will have a particularly important role in shaping this on the ground given their role in planning and community planning.

Why is this important?

Sport and physical activity will not fulfil its potential to contribute to an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society if the sector does not have access to suitable venues, facilities, spaces, and places. The absence of facilities or the existence of poor quality, inaccessible facilities or outdoor recreational spaces will limit participation in sport and physical activity, which in turn will contribute to a failure of society to benefit from the positive impacts including the economic, social, educational and health benefits that greater participation can deliver. So, for example, making infrastructure inclusive, safe and attractive, and where possible

integrating it with active travel plans, can provide the momentum for many to leave the car behind and adopt a more active lifestyle. This will contribute to the Government's Net Zero Carbon targets.

Who has to be involved?

Sports Governing Bodies, their clubs, councils and other sporting and community organisations that facilitate participation in sport and physical activity are central to this Key Theme. However, the full benefit of venues and facilities will not be realised unless there is a genuine shift towards creating spaces that are shared, inclusive and accessible to all. There is, therefore, a need for cooperation between and within sports and across communities, including greater access to schools, council facilities and other publicly funded facilities. This can only be delivered by building sound partnerships and having an integrated approach when planning and developing facilities, whether that be stadiums, club facilities, walking trails or community spaces.

Where does this Key Theme impact?

New, modernised, or repurposed, quality, shared, inclusive, affordable and accessible facilities and venues will open up new opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity at both a local community level, across council areas and at a regional

level. This must include the provision of environmentally friendly, sustainable facilities and venues that maximise the use of technology to enhance the user experience. You said that the Strategy needs to realise the transformational power of technology in sport and physical activity for participants, spectators, officials, policy makers and funders.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, those involved have indicated that the key goals which the new Strategy should address are:

- Everyone has access to inclusive, shared, welcoming and high-quality indoor and outdoor sports and physical activity infrastructure;
- A safe, economically and environmentally sustainable local and regional sports and physical activity infrastructure; and
- Our sports and physical activity sector and infrastructure are enabled by innovative and emerging technologies.

Conclusion

Investment from a range of sources in new, modernised, or repurposed, quality indoor and outdoor sport and physical activity spaces and places should prioritise projects which are high quality, shared, inclusive, accessible, safe, eco-friendly and sustainable. This will encourage increased participation in sport and physical activity leading to an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society. New, existing or repurposed high quality indoor and outdoor facilities and high quality venues must embrace new technology and be environmentally friendly.

Key Theme - Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

As part of the wider efforts to realise the social, mental, and physical wellbeing and economic benefits of a high level of participation in sport and physical activity it is important to promote those benefits.

Why is this important?

Increasing participation in sport and physical activity will contribute to the development of an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society. A significant proportion of the population does not currently engage in sport or physical activity on a regular basis and research shows that females, those with disabilities and those from socially deprived areas and many rural communities are less likely to be active through sport and physical activity.

There is evidence that an inactive lifestyle can lead to physical and mental ill health as well as having a detrimental impact on educational attainment. Encouraging a lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity brings with it cognitive strengths, improved academic attainment and achievements as well as healthy growth, physical development and sustained well-being for children and young people. It also supports positive social outlooks, healthier ageing, greater community involvement and improved quality of life, especially as we move through the different aging cycles to old age.

You told us that we need to make sure our communications and messaging are easy to understand for all and is available in a range of formats including appropriate social media platforms.

Where sedentary behaviours and a 'no interest' attitude to sport and physical activity are obvious risks to health and wellbeing and a limitation to the potential growth of social and competitive sport, becoming and staying active changes individual, family and group outlooks on what can be achieved and enjoyed.

Who has to be involved?

Promoting the health benefits of sport and physical activity to everyone, regardless of a person's abilities, disability, community background or economic status, has to be an important element of the new Strategy and must include a focus on increasing participation amongst those who are currently physically inactive, take little exercise or those at risk of becoming physically inactive in the future.

The shift to a more active society must be through a collective effort involving multiple Government Departments, their Arms-Length Bodies, Councils, sports Governing Bodies, the voluntary and community sector, the private sector and individuals.

Where does this Key Theme impact?

This theme will impact at every level of society as a better understanding of the challenges people face, alongside improved awareness and education, can have a significant impact on education, health and community wellbeing. This theme supports many of the other themes identified through engagement with stakeholders. Promoting the benefits of a more active society and removing barriers to participation will create a more vibrant and inclusive sport and physical activity sector enjoyed by more diverse groups of participants.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, both those involved in sport and physical activity and those who have been sedentary in their lifestyle have indicated that the key goals which the new Strategy should address are:

- Increased awareness of the benefits of participation in sport and physical activity;

- Positive attitudinal behavioural change, resulting in more people becoming more active; and
- An improved evidence base supported by enhanced research about the benefits of sport and physical activity to local communities

Conclusion

Promoting the benefits of participation in sport and physical activity both for the individual and for society as a whole is a key public health priority which will be given greater weight in the new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity. Embedding physical literacy early in the education journey is crucial. A fitter population in the future is critical to help tackle significant health issues including obesity, mental health, and an aging population. It will also bring benefits to the sport and physical activity sector through increased participation rates, potentially more young people realising their full potential and sustainability with prolonged involvement by more people.

Cross-cutting Principles

In the course of the pre-consultation research with stakeholders three important cross-cutting principles for the new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity were identified. These cross-cutting principles will underpin the delivery of the new strategic framework.

Developing Inclusive, Shared Communities

The Executive is committed to developing an inclusive society in which people of all ages and backgrounds are respected and supported, a society which has no barriers to people living long, healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling lives. A new cross cutting strategic approach to developing sport and physical activity has a role to play in the delivery of these ambitions.

The principles of partnership and integration, of inclusion and community engagement, and of co-design and co-production with central and local government, structured sports organisations and community partners are essential. Providing inclusive and shared spaces and places as well as developing a creative, forward thinking inclusive and diverse workforce that promotes inclusion, will contribute to ensuring that sport and physical activity becomes more shared, inclusive, and diverse and that the existing barriers to participation in sport and physical activity are further reduced. This in turn will lead to a more active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society.

Structural inequalities and the impact of poverty on participation are recognised as significant barriers to being active. The need to engage innovatively across all section 75 target groups and across rural and urban disadvantaged areas is an important aspect of the future strategic direction.

Developing Capacity and Governance in Sport and Physical Activity

At the centre of most sport and physical activity there are Governing Bodies and clubs which rely heavily on volunteers both for their future development and for their day-to-day operations such as coaching, administrators, officials, medics etc. Those volunteers have many other demands on their time and are an important resource which must be valued, developed, trained, rewarded and incentivised.

It will be important to continue to develop the capacity of clubs and Governing Bodies to manage their existing activities to the highest standards of corporate governance and to identify, develop and deliver new initiatives that sustain and develop their sport. New technology and innovative funding mechanisms will be important for the future sustainability of sport and physical activity.

There is a need to support the dissemination of best practice in these areas both within and across different forms of sport and physical activity. The sharing of knowledge, resources, expertise, and experience is

fundamental to the future wellbeing of the sector. A more joined up approach will contribute to the creation of a more agile, adaptable and progressive sport and physical activity sector based on shared values and collaboration to achieve shared goals.

Developing National and International Linkages

Competitive sport here is unique and complex in that some sports and athletes are in the UK system, with some operating on an all-island basis and others operating within Northern Ireland. Athletes can compete for Team GB or for Team Ireland while also competing for Northern Ireland at some competitions. Governing Bodies, their clubs and athletes compete at local, national and international levels and regularly achieve notable successes which in turn creates a sense of pride locally.

Competing and being successful at various levels also provides great opportunities to build relationships nationally and internationally which benefit not just local sport but can have a much wider economic and societal impact. The potential for building networks that contribute to improving sporting performance, infrastructure, investment, and access to technology will, if realised not only benefit sport but will also impact positively on all our communities.

Strong and effective linkages have an important role to play in ensuring that we are recognised as a progressive, welcoming, competitive and attractive place capable of hosting world class sporting events.

What are the Goals?

Following extensive engagement with stakeholders, those involved have indicated that the key goals which the new Strategy should address are:

- Supporting Sport and Physical Activities to be more inclusive and diverse while reducing the barriers to participation and ensuring the participation gaps for specific target groups continue to narrow;
- Developing an agile, well governed, adaptable and progressive sport and physical activity infrastructure, which is collaborative, driven by evidence and enabled by transformative technology; and
- Ensuring that Northern Ireland is recognised as a competitive and attractive place of choice for world class events with high standards of sporting governance and integrity.

Conclusion

These cross-cutting principles will underpin the delivery of the wider sport and physical activity strategy. They will be reflected in the key themes where appropriate and provide a strong foundation on which those themes will be delivered through the new Strategy.

How to Respond to the Consultation Process

The best way to respond to this consultation is online, through our survey questionnaire which can be accessed here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SportPaDfC>

A copy of the survey questionnaire is also available for you to download at the following link:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc-analytical-services-unit/sport-and-physical-activity-strategy/>

Completed hard copy survey questionnaires and general written responses can be sent to us by:

Email:
strategy2020@communities-ni.gov.uk

Or

Post:
Sports and Physical Activity Consultation
Department for Communities
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
County Antrim
BT2 7EG

Easy read and children's versions of this consultation will be made available on request.

More information and details about the consultative events which are being set up can be found on the Department for Communities website - **<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-new-strategy-sport-and-physical-activity>**

Responses to this consultation are invited until 11.59pm on 23 April 2021.

We look forward to hearing from you and are keen to engage with you. If you want to speak to a member of the Team about the new Strategy or the approach being taken, or if you or a group you are involved with would like to participate in an engagement event, please do let us know.

Note – Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all engagement activities will be conducted using a virtual platform.

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Key Messages from the Pre-consultation Research

The following is a summary of what you told us during the pre-consultation stakeholder engagement process for the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. We facilitated over 70 focus groups, spoke with over 300 participants, including the sports sector, councils, young people and youth organisations, public bodies including the education and health sectors and individuals from all the Section 75 groups. We received over 100 responses to our pre-consultation e-survey as well as receiving comments from 85 young people. Among these consultees we spoke with over 160 less active individuals which has given us a great insight into the barriers faced by many in our society to engaging in sport and physical activity. We have highlighted these findings under six key themes and three cross cutting themes.

Theme: Recovery from the Impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity

You told us...

- About the need to build more resilience into the sport and physical activity sector.
- About the need to embrace the upsurge in interest in physical activity, in particular walking and cycling, and how improvements in outdoor infrastructure such as walking and cycling routes and community trails could support this to grow.
- Some of you told us that for some their physical activity has reduced and that confidence will need to be rebuilt.
- About the debilitating effect the pandemic is having on sport and the need for support in restoring sport to its pre-pandemic condition.
- Of the need for creative and innovative thinking in how we address challenges with a focus on greater collaboration between the sector and others.
- Rebuilding confidence in the use of leisure centres and sports facilities will be important, particularly for those more vulnerable members of society.
- That there needs to be a better understanding of the sport and physical activity integrated ecosystem and how active participation impacts on areas such as health, education, justice, and the built and natural environment.
- We need to build back better by using, for example, ways of bringing new innovative forms of finance and other supports into the sport and physical activity.
- In order to recover, actions are required to make life better for society and in getting more people more of the time active.

Theme: Promoting Participation, Inclusion and Community Engagement

You told us...

- That embedding physical literacy at an early age is the cornerstone for healthy lifelong engagement in sport and physical activity and for sporting success.
- Ensuring competence in Fundamental Movement Skills supplemented with good advice on diet, nutrition and hydration enables young people to continue to move well throughout their lives and to develop sport specific specialised movement skills which helps them to reach their full potential in their chosen sport.
- That the PE Curriculum needs to be revised and updated, supported by a review of School Development Plan Guidance alongside enhanced human resources for PE across all school types – nursery, primary, post primary and special schools.
- Teachers identified a need for more CPD to update and supplement existing skills.
- The recent pandemic has shone a light on the need for improved and dedicated indoor PE facilities and storage. You also explained that in some areas, facilities needed significant improvements to make engagement more attractive for young people.
- There is a need for a more integrated cross departmental approach to investment in new, existing or repurposed indoor and outdoor facilities.
- That addressing sedentary behaviour was fundamental (often resulting from digital gaming, screen time culture and Covid Working From Home) but that this needed a bespoke approach.
- About the current barriers faced by many to engaging in physical activity and sport which included having the motivation, confidence, movement competence, knowledge and understanding to take part in physical activity and the need to provide accessible, barrier free opportunities for all ages and abilities that practically address these barriers.
- About the importance of inclusion and diversity in sport and physical activity. You explained that from a health and wellbeing perspective, “every contact counts” which can really make a difference to getting people more active through gentle persuasion, support, and buddying.
- That the strategy needs to focus on under-represented groups and narrow participation gaps for specific groups such as females, those with a disability, older people, those in disadvantaged areas or those who are economically inactive. Participatory co-designed approaches involving the voices of these under-represented groups is really important.
- There is a need to promote and support the development of inclusive communities where active lifestyles are promoted for everyone.
- That there is steep decline in engagement in physical activity in

schools at the age of 16 and of the need to find innovative ways of keeping young people active throughout their education right through to those in universities or on further education or apprenticeship programmes, especially females.

- You told us that young people needed to be part of the solutions so asking and including the youth voice in planning and initiative development was key to successful outcomes.
- You told us that embedding physical literacy among early years and promoting the value and importance of it to their parents was essential.
- Many young people told us that there was a lack of awareness of and opportunity to play in different types of sports and physical activities. They cited the need to widen choice to suit all needs, genders, abilities, ethnicities, and motivations from the age of 3-16 and at the 16 + transition stage. Offering all sports in all schools can contribute to cross community engagement and increase friendships. Understanding and proactively addressing barriers can increase participation rates.

Theme: Promoting Excellence in Sport

You told us...

- There is a need to continue to holistically support excellence among our leading athletes and para-athletes by enabling them to progress along effective pathways as far as their ability permits in regional, national, and international events before, during and after their sporting careers.

- You told us of a need to continue to use technology as a way of enhancing progression in all aspects of sport and physical activity.
- Enhancing community/ social sport opportunities to help people get back into sport or to continue their engagement later in life after their engagement in competitive sport is really important in keeping people physically and mentally active and motivated.
- To make the sporting ecosystem work as effectively as possible you suggested that infrastructure planners, including councils, should work together and take a co-design and co-production approach to developing solutions with athletes and governing bodies, and should work across government departments to reduce bureaucracy, achieve better value for money and outcomes.
- There is a need to continue to support those who seek to participate and progress to achieve their full potential in their chosen sport at whatever level is appropriate with clear and effective pathways.
- There is a need to support wider inclusion and participation in sport in urban, rural, and disadvantaged areas where gaps currently exist and that this can be helped through the promotion of role models that demonstrate that anyone can achieve their potential.
- There was a need to care for the mental health and wellbeing of elite athletes and as such some re-calibration was needed in what is meant by success for athletes. This you suggested needed to

focus on a whole life approach to the wellbeing of athletes, helping them to plan for their careers before, during and after their sporting success and focusing on a wide range of outcomes such as their position as role models for others, their mental and physical well-being, and their role in promoting key messages through active community engagement during and after their careers.

Theme: The Importance of Partnership and Integration

You told us...

- There is a need to recognise the importance and value of a collective inter-departmental, local government and community and voluntary sector cross sectoral role in addressing some of the challenging issues associated with physical inactivity and that together more can be achieved.
- A whole system, outcomes-based approach to “turning the curve” on issues such as physical inactivity was important in getting more people, more active, more often. Community Planning Partnerships and their strategic partners have an enhanced role in “joining the dots” between need and practical ways of addressing these types of issues locally.
- For an outcomes-based approach to be successful, it needs to be built on co-design and co-production with service users.
- One year funding does not enable long term planning or innovative solutions to address need. There is potential for

the development of new collaborative / partnership funding mechanisms with a focus on social value from an early stage.

- Many of you told us about the existing partnerships and initiatives upon which success could be built and the importance of leaders who drive these partnerships having a common purpose - a focus on understanding complex and interconnected problems that cross boundaries and about which collaboration could contribute.
- That in order to understand the difference that initiatives were making there needed to be ongoing connectivity with Universities and FE colleges with a focus on longitudinal research, creativity and innovation that can enhance sport and physical activity experiences for all, including new products.

Theme: Providing Inclusive and Shared Spaces and Places

You told us...

- That modernising and future proofing existing facilities is a key requirement in ensuring that the sports and physical activity infrastructure is attractive to users and makes these facilities fit for purpose and more ecofriendly.
- We can no longer afford to duplicate club, school and local authority facilities and that co-location of facilities with schools, councils and other public sector bodies can reduce duplication, increase usage and the likelihood of better outcomes.

- That providing accessible and affordable facilities that contributes to more people feeling comfortable and able to use them can really help increase participation levels.
- Multi-sport venues are important in supporting the development of and participation in less prevalent sports. You told us that some sports were not available in some areas leading to less choice for people to engage.
- Active travel is important and is often one of the first steps in getting people active and in creating habits of life, but that in order to embrace it there was a need for infrastructure to be safe and attractive. This was a particular issue for rural areas and more densely populated urban areas.
- Many of our natural assets – mountains, beaches, rivers, forests etc. are underutilised by local people for the purposes of getting people more active.
- There was a need to promote more inclusive access to outdoor spaces and places and build skills in their use in particular land and water-based infrastructure (green and blue). A link with the Community Plans and the new Council Local Development Plans was cited as an important link.
- Just over 1.8 million people live here and while it would be ideal to have multiple high-performance centres that would make accessibility easier, many felt it was important to build on the existing high-performance centre at UU with its existing outreach centres and build on its success.
- However, there was a call for Multi-sports Regional Participation Centres that could be led by one sport, but which could also encompass other less prevalent sports as a way of widening access and choice to more people.
- We needed to ensure that more of our existing or new spaces are open and welcoming to all and supportive to newcomers and are age and ability proofed.
- About the importance of using technology to enhance spectator experiences at our venues and facilities.

Theme: Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

You told us...

- That promoting greater participation in sport and physical activity is a key public health priority and has a role to play in addressing or reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases as well as keeping people mentally and physically healthy.
- Clear, consistent public health messaging, that is social media friendly, is important.
- That promoting role models of excellence, and those on the way to it, can inspire people to aspire to and achieve greatness in sport.
- That promoting role models of those who participate in community sport and physical activity can inspire people to get more active and stay active.
- As so much of society uses mobile devices and communicates via social

media, a technology driven information and promotional approach should be used to engage people with key motivational messages that encourage movement and activity. This should be supplemented with more traditional communications channels like TV ads to ensure all parts of society can access these key messages.

- That the sector needs to demonstrate more effectively the economic, social, educational, health, environmental and cultural benefits of engagement in sport and physical activity.
- Promoting this place as a national and international sporting venue can contribute to wider economic and social benefits.

Cross Cutting Principle: Developing Inclusive Shared communities

You told us...

- That greater cooperation between clubs in different sports on a cross community basis can contribute to more inclusive communities.
- Building on existing cross community multi-purpose local community hubs for sport and physical activity would enable greater entry level opportunities for those engaging or re-engaging in sport or physical activity.
- In order to really increase participation rates, addressing structural inequalities and poverty needs to be a priority.
- Many Section 75 groups with whom we engaged in the pre-consultation process (such as older women and

men, LGBTQ+ communities, black and minority ethnic communities, minority faith communities, young people, those with a disability (e.g. physical, sensory, learning), those with dependents, looked after children, travellers, carers, those in rural or urban disadvantaged areas), face multiple barriers to engagement in physical activity or sport. There is a need to develop local inclusive sports and physical activity partnerships with these groups to co-design and co-produce solutions.

- Sport and physical activity contribute to achieving wider outcomes (e.g., health education, justice). There is a need to recognise this instrumental role in developing more cohesive communities.
- Developing a creative, forward thinking, inclusive and diverse workforce that promotes inclusion is essential to the success of the sport and physical activity ecosystem.
- For inclusion to be achieved, affordable community facilities are required – incentives to encourage better use of facilities with appropriate in-house supports for all abilities is a necessity – this requires joined up thinking with other departments.

Cross Cutting Principle: Developing Capacity and Governance in Sport and Physical Activity

You told us...

- Recruiting, developing, training, and retaining high quality volunteers, coaches, leaders, and specialists at all levels in the sport and physical activity

ecosystem will contribute to success. You told us that where gaps in some skills and that these should be addressed to create a robust, forward looking, and agile ecosystem.

- Ongoing support for governing bodies and clubs is still a requirement but with a focus on greater collaboration and networking and the sharing of expertise between clubs and governing bodies and across different sports.
- Recognising the growth and value of e-sports needs to be tempered with the fact that many of these are sedentary in nature.
- Volunteers are crucial to the sustainability of sport and physical activity but there is a need to avoid putting further and unnecessary bureaucratic burdens on clubs and volunteers.
- The sector needs to embrace the transformational impact of technology and to be more ambitious and visionary.
- That ensuring financial and environmental sustainability of sport and physical activity was really important and as such innovative financing should be examined more fully.
- That the sector needed to embrace its role in helping to achieve Government's Net Zero Carbon objective.
- That quality assurance of clubs and governing bodies was important from safeguarding through to coaching and from fundraising through to talent identification.

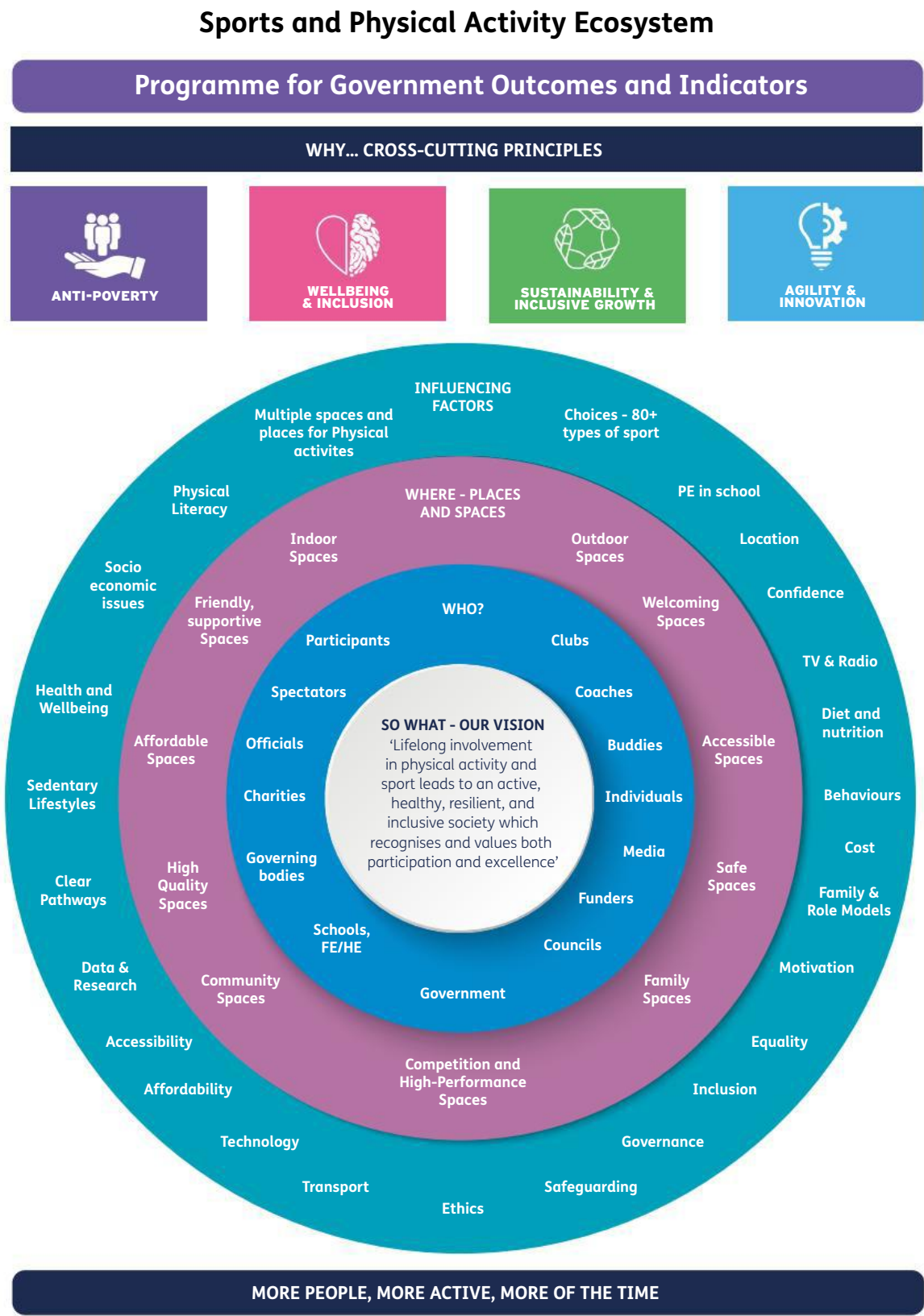
- That evidence-based planning was important and can drive change. As such a central portal that enables agile data collection, collation, analysis and reporting on outcomes is crucial.

Cross Cutting Principle: Developing National and International linkages

You told us...

- Due to the unique constitutional position of this place, sports men and women can compete for the Great Britain and Republic of Ireland in the Olympic or Paralympic Games and in other sporting competitions. This brings added complexity but also opportunities.
- Maximising existing national and international networking opportunities through our engagement at National, Commonwealth, and Olympic Games will help us raise our profile as a place to invest and do business. Developing these international links to compensate for the impact of Brexit is even more important than before. Strong leadership is required.
- Attracting world class sporting events to Northern Ireland can bring great economic and social benefits and we should continue to prioritise this moving forward.
- We should continue to learn from the experiences of others and help others learn from us.

Appendix 2: Sport and Physical Activity Ecosystem



Appendix 3: Proposed Sport and Physical Activity Framework

Programme for Government Outcomes and Indicators

PROPOSED VISION

‘Lifelong involvement in physical activity and sport leads to an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence’


PROPOSED KEY THEMES

THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:	THEME:
Recovery from the impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity	Promoting Participation, Inclusion & Community Engagement	Promoting Excellence in Sport	The importance of Partnership and Integration	Providing Inclusive and Shared Spaces and Places	Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

PROPOSED CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES

Developing Inclusive, Shared Communities	Developing Capacity and Governance	National and International Linkages
Sport and Physical Activity is more inclusive and diverse while barriers have been reduced and participation gaps further narrowed	An agile, adaptable, & progressive sport and physical activity infrastructure which is collaborative and driven by evidence	NI is recognised as a competitive and attractive place of choice for world class events with high standards of sporting governance & integrity

DEPARTMENTAL CROSS - CUTTING THEMES

 ANTI-POVERTY	 WELLBEING & INCLUSION	 SUSTAINABILITY & INCLUSIVE GROWTH	 AGILITY & INNOVATION
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PROPOSED GOALS FOR EACH THEME

RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

A safe and sustainable return to sport and physical activity for all involved
Recovered level of participation in sport and physical activity, sports clubs and opportunities
We have a more resilient sport and physical activity sector

PROMOTING PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Improved physical literacy and increased lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for all
Addressing the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity through co-designing programmes and initiatives
Improved physical and mental health and well being
Sport and physical activity is inclusive, safe, diverse, shared and offers equality of opportunity to participate for all
Children and young people are given the best start in life through sport and physical activity opportunities

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN SPORT

Improved sporting pathways that ensure that talent is recognised and potential is realised
Confident, strong, and well supported clubs, volunteers, athletes, quality coaches, officials and leaders
Sustained achievements in sport and physical activity at national and international levels
Increased community pride in the achievements of all our sporting participants

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP AND INTEGRATION

Better outcomes for communities through a collaborative approach to the development of sport and physical activity
Outcomes for communities are improved by a focus on co-design and co-production
Strengthened sports and physical activity partnerships at local, regional, national and international level
An increasing proportion of our facilities are shared across sports, clubs, schools and communities

PROVIDING INCLUSION AND SHARED SPACES AND PLACES

Everyone has access to inclusive, shared, welcoming and high-quality sports and physical activity infrastructure
A safe, economically and environmentally sustainable local and regional sports and physical activity infrastructure
Our sports and physical activity sector and infrastructure are enabled by innovative and emerging technologies

PROMOTING THE BENEFITS OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Increased awareness of the benefits of participation in sport and physical activity
Positive attitudinal and behavioural change resulting in more people becoming more active
An improved evidence base supported by enhanced research about the benefits of sport and physical activity to local communities

Appendix 4:

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

For this consultation, we may publish all responses except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public). All responses from organisations and individuals responding in a professional capacity will be published. We will remove email addresses and telephone numbers from these responses; but apart from this, we will publish them in full. For more information about what we do with personal data please see our consultation privacy notice.

Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

You can also view the Departments Privacy Statement at: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/dfc-privacy-notice>

If staff would like to discuss the content of this DPN or the template Privacy Notice please contact:

Departmental Data Protection Officer

Karen McMullan
5th Floor, Nine Lanyon
Belfast
BT1 3LP
Ext 38200

Email: Karen.McMullan@Communities-ni.gov.uk

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Commonities

A New Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland Consultation – draft response

Overview

This questionnaire, in conjunction with the consultation document represents a key step in developing a new, cross-departmental Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity for Northern Ireland to cover the next ten years and beyond.

Why we are consulting?

The proposed strategy for Sport and Physical Activity will build on the foundations established by 'Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019'.

The new strategic approach detailed in the consultation document has been prepared by the Department for Communities and seeks to provide a framework for a cross-departmental, ambitious and comprehensive approach to promoting participation in sport and physical activity across all sectors of our society.

The consultation document has been developed following an extensive pre-consultation exercise involving sports Governing Bodies, Government Departments, District Councils and community and voluntary groups. The co-design approach has helped to inform and direct the Project Team in developing the proposed vision, themes and goals as detailed in the document.

The outputs from focus groups, interviews and an on-line survey have provided a particularly comprehensive, rich and up to date evidence base to support the development of the new strategic approach. It is supported by extensive review and research work undertaken by a team of independent experts.

Now is the time for us to seek your views to assist with finalising the new strategy and to report back to all our stakeholders asking that all important question:-

“this is what you’ve told us, have we heard you correctly?”

Each of the sections of the consultation document focuses on a key theme and a range of priorities which will inform the development of an action plan.

When published the new strategy will help inform and guide the Executive’s policies and priorities in relation to sport and physical activity over the next 10 years and beyond. It will enable sport and physical activity to contribute more effectively to the outcomes within the new Programme for Government and the delivery of New Decade, New Approach.

The current Covid crisis has shown, more than ever, the importance of sport and physical activity to health and wellbeing. This questionnaire seeks your views on key structural elements of the strategy such as the draft Vision, the key strategic themes and the goals that will form the basis of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

Your responses to the content of this consultation will make an important contribution to finalising the new strategy. That final draft will be presented to the Executive for their endorsement in advance of publication.

Please note:- If you were part of the stakeholder engagement process during 2020 you may wish to by-pass questions 4-7 or alternatively you can respond to all the questions as you

desire. If you are engaging with the process for the first time we welcome your input on all eleven questions.

The information you provide in completing this survey will be controlled and processed in line with Data Protection Legislation by the DfC and its Communications Unit. To find out more about how we handle your personal information, DfC's Privacy Notice can be viewed online at www.communities-ni.gov.uk/dfc-privacy-notice. In order to facilitate the survey, Citizen Space, which is not operated by DfC, is used as a data processor. Details of Citizen Space's privacy policy can be found online at www.delib.net/legal/privacy_policy. Individuals will not be identifiable from the results; some comment within responses to this consultation may be disclosed, although they will not be attributed to anyone.

Introduction

1 I am responding as (please tick one option only)

On behalf of an organisation

Other (please specify);

2 I responded as part of the pre-consultation exercise on this strategy (e.g. completed an e-survey, took part in a focus group).

Yes

3 What is your name/organisation?

name: Mid Ulster District Council

Local Authority key staff (e.g. sports, physical activity, HWB, Community Dev, GR)

Other (please specify);

Issues, Opportunities, Benefits, Barriers and Priorities

4 What are the current issues and opportunities facing sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland? current issues and opportunities:

Issues:

- Current Covid situation and restrictions. Impact of Covid 19 – specifically mental health and the role of physical activity.
- Sustained participation issues in sporting and non-sporting physical activities.
- Poor engagement and alignment with Education - genuine collaboration should promote early years to old age participation.
- Issue with lack of genuine support for first time entry points at various age brackets to build confidence and to promote sustained sport and/or physical activity participation along with non-elite participation especially if individuals had never been involved previously.
- Seek to clarify Sport NI's role and future engagement with Councils – ie. Previous funded Everybody Active 2020 Programme and impact of project/funding closedown in March 2021 – What next?
- Issue with short term centralised funding initiatives - for example one year funding does not enable long term planning or innovative solutions to address need.
- Lack of clarity with the prioritisation and objectives on investment between participation versus performance.
- Under-represented groups and narrow participation gaps for specific groups such as females, those with a disability, older people, those in disadvantaged areas or those who are economically inactive.

- Issues with having consistent safe infrastructure - needs to be safe and attractive particularly for rural areas and more densely populated urban areas – support further promotion of active travel.

Opportunities:

- Opportunity to embrace the upsurge in interest in physical activity, in particular walking and cycling, and how improvements in outdoor infrastructure such as walking and cycling routes and community trails could support this to grow.
- Opportunity to innovate by seeking to encourage additional and new participants into physical activity through non-traditional routes.
- Opportunity to embrace new technology and how support can be given to become more digitally advanced.
- Opportunity to provide enhanced support for people development and deployment specifically with volunteers.
- Opportunity to support entry points to promote sustained sport and/or physical activity participation along with non-elite participation especially if individuals had never been involved previously – ie. promotion of entry points at various age brackets.
- Opportunity to embed physical literacy at an early age and recognise the importance this has to play in achieving lifelong engagement in sport and physical activity and for sporting success. Opportunity for collaborative action planning as a result of Covid 19 - financial challenges current/post pandemic and impact on programming and facilities.
- Opportunity to support wider inclusion and participation in sport in urban, rural, and disadvantaged areas where gaps currently exist.
- Opportunity to embrace further our natural assets which are under-utilised - ie. river pathways, forests, etc

5 What are the main benefits from more people engaging in sport and physical activity over their whole lives?

Research has shown that:

- (1) Physically active children and young people are more likely to do better academically.
- (2) An active population drives a stronger economy and has a positive effect on employability.
- (3) An active lifestyle has been shown to maintain and improve physical health and mental wellbeing.
- (4) Active workplaces are more productive.
- (5) Physical activity and sport can provide a positive environment for young people and so helps to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- (6) Those who play sport and are active are healthier, happier and more likely to be successful in academic and professional life.

6 What are the main barriers (e.g., physical, practical, cultural, personal) to increased participation in sport and physical activity for people over their whole lives?

- Physical - Perception of lack of suitable infrastructure for a complete range of activities.
- Practical - School curriculum: lack of human, equipment and time resource for PE across all school types – nursery, primary, post primary and special schools.
- Cultural - It could be argued that active healthy living messages still aren't getting through to target population and issue with lack of genuine support for first time entry points at various age brackets to build confidence and to promote sustained sport and/or physical activity participation along with non-elite participation especially if individuals had never been involved previously.
- Cultural - lack of proper cross departmental engagement and lack of a whole system approach.

- Personal - Generalised perception that the general population are unwilling to take on personal responsibility and accountability and rely on intervention measures.

7 What are the priorities for Government, given the impact of the Covid Pandemic, if more people are to be involved in sport and physical activity over the course of their life time?

- Recovery from the impact of the pandemic - promotion of a safe and sustainable return to sport and physical activity for all involved and aim to foster a more resilient sport and physical activity sector.
- Truly recognise the impact of mental health and how this has been exacerbated by the covid pandemic and recognise the role sport and physical activity has to play.
- Address the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity through genuine co-design of programmes and initiatives.
- Focus on children / younger participants and the genuine role and positive impact that meaningful collaboration by Education can have on building physical activity habits and sustained participation.
- Opportunity to support entry points to promote sustained sport and/or physical activity participation along with non-elite participation especially if individuals had never been involved previously – ie. promotion of entry points at various age brackets.
- Establishment of genuine and meaningful multi-agency working groups targeting physical activity.
- Aim to improve physical literacy and benefits of lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for all.
- An acceptance that recreational activities are as important as traditional organised sports.
- Increase in support for on the ground coaching / interaction and greater support and recognition for the role of volunteers.
- Greater Support for Local Councils.
- Further development of a quality sporting and recreational infrastructure - futureproofing - aim for all communities to have access to inclusive, shared, welcoming and high-quality sports and physical activity infrastructure.
- Stronger messaging and more focus on young to translate into generational attitude / change.
- Re-think the traditional ways of funding sport participation and embrace technology and appreciate the power it has to get people active.
- Need to consider how we make sure that everyone – no matter who they are and no matter what their ability – has the opportunity to take part.

Vision

Proposed Vision

'Lifelong involvement in physical activity and sport leads to an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence'

8 How well do you think that the draft vision reflects a strategy for delivering lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity?

- ☐ Not very well
- ☐ Not well
- ☐ Adequately
- ☒ Well
- ☐ Very well

Why do you say that?:

- The vision for sports and physical activity participation is simple. We want everyone to feel that sport and physical activity is for them, no matter if they are a seasoned athlete or a complete beginner.
- Need to recognise that for some people the very best thing about sport participation is the competition, and that is absolutely to be encouraged. For those talented individuals sport can be their life, and even their profession. But we should also make sure that people who don't want to be the elite athlete still feel that sport and physical activity is for them too.

Themes



9 How well do you think that the following themes inform a strategy for delivering lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity?

	Not very well	Not well	Adequately	Well	Very well
Recovery from the impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting Participation, Inclusion & Community Engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting Excellence in Sport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The importance of Partnership and Integration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Providing Inclusive and Shared Spaces and Places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Why do you say that? :

- Promoting excellence in sport should always come to the fore via the relevant National Governing Bodies and they will drive their own agenda and strategies so it could be argued that while it of course needs to feature in this strategy is shouldn't be to the same prominence as the other areas mentioned above.

Challenges to address:

- Due to covid pandemic, recognise the recent decline in the number of people that regularly take part in sport and how those learnings can help deliver a long-term sustainable increase in participation.
- Work collaboratively to ensure that funding goes to those who can best deliver results, how best to support participation in new and/or non-traditional sports and activities and finally how to maximise the potential of new technology to increase participation.

Principles



10 How well do you think that the draft cross cutting principles relate to a strategy for delivering lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity?

	Not very well	Not well	Adequately	Well	Very well
Developing Inclusive, Shared Communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Developing Capacity and Governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National and International Linkages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say that?:

- The development of inclusive shared communities could be argued as a priority particularly for under-represented groups. Sport and physical activity participation should be for everyone and the strategy and messaging should reflect that. Barriers need to be broken to ensure that it doesn't matter what your gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, income or health is and that everyone should be able to enjoy taking part. However, much research has been carried out that consistently shows that some groups are underrepresented in terms of participation. This includes women, disabled people, some black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, those from lower socio-economic groups and older people.

Goals

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 Places	Promoting the Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity
A safe and sustainable return to sport and physical activity for all involved	Improved physical literacy and increased lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for all	Improved sporting pathways that ensure that talent is recognised, and potential is realised	Better outcomes for communities through a collaborative approach to the development of sport and physical activity	Everyone has access to inclusive, shared, welcoming and high-quality sports and physical activity infrastructure	Increased awareness of the benefits of participation in sport and physical activity
Recovered level of participation in sport and physical activity, sports clubs, and opportunities	Addressing the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity through co-designing programmes and initiatives	Confident, strong, and well supported clubs, volunteers, athletes, quality coaches, officials, and leaders	Outcomes for communities are improved by a focus on co-design and co-production	A safe, economically, and environmentally sustainable local and regional sports and physical activity infrastructure	Positive attitudinal and behavioural change resulting in more people becoming more active
We have a more resilient sport and physical activity sector	Improved physical and mental health and well being	Sustained achievements in sport and physical activity at national and international levels	Strengthened sports and physical activity partnerships at local, regional, national, and international level	Our sports and physical activity sector and infrastructure are enabled by innovative and emerging technologies	An improved evidence base supported by enhanced research about the benefits of sport and physical activity to local communities
	Sport and physical activity is inclusive, safe, diverse, shared and offers equality of opportunity to participate for all	Increased community pride in the achievements of all our sporting participants	An increasing proportion of our facilities are shared across sports, clubs, schools, and communities		
	Children and young people are given the best start in life through sport and physical activity opportunities				

11 How well do you think that the draft goals relate to a strategy for delivering lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity?

Goals - Recovery from the impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity:

	Not very well	Not well	Adequately	Well	Very well
Recovery from the impact of the Pandemic on Sport and Physical Activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting Participation, Inclusion & Community Engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting Excellence in Sport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The importance of Partnership and Integration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Providing Inclusive and shared spaces and places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Why do you say that? :

- It could be argued that the way that sport and physical activity participation has been funded has been built around the concept of traditional sports with traditional National Governing Body structures.
- With the Covid pandemic, it could be argued that the ways in which people are physically active have changed and many may choose to seek out different sports.
- Different sports may appeal to different people, and this diversity should be celebrated and encouraged. People should be able to feel that they can take part in the sports which appeal most to them as long as its hitting the physical activity sustained objectives. It could be argued that offering what the consumer wants rather than giving them a traditional offer that they are told they need to fit into is fundamental to getting more people active. We need to ensure that these 'new' sports and activities, along

with new and more flexible formats of traditional sports, are supported in becoming established, putting in place the necessary governance structures, infrastructure and ensuring access for everyone.

Final Thoughts

12 Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Have the lessons of previous strategies failings been learnt?
- Funding linked to this strategy needs to be more reactive, accessible and be available over extended timeframes.
- Health Service needs to provide more joined up approaches when intervention programmes use District Council as delivery agents.
- A larger portion of the health budget must be available for Physical Activity - prevention as well as intervention.
- Local Council Leisure Departments often are expected to bare the brunt of costs when initial health funding ends. Mainstreaming every programme / initiative is impossible.
- Technology is playing a part in encouraging participation in a way it never has before, and every indication is that its influence will continue to grow. This needs to be recognised within the strategy. In many cases, sport is data-rich, and there is potential to harness this data in a way that helps consumers directly, but that can also help build further insight and understanding on how people participate and why.
- Opportunity to place greater emphasis on increased sport and physical activity participation and the connection with social elements - of course health related but many more that are far reaching - individuals might benefit from learning about teamwork, discipline and leadership. These can have a clear impact on their skills and job prospects, equipping them for entry into the jobs market. Sport can also have a positive impact on integration, bringing together groups and individuals who might not otherwise interact.
- The expectation is that we as a population rely on education to teach, train, and develop future generations and it could be argued that when our educational system fails to give physical activity a pre-eminent position that we will continue to struggle to enforce a life long healthy mind set.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 11 March 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*,
Cuddy*, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr*,
Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Browne**, Head of Tourism
Mr Gordon**, Head of Leisure
Mr Hill**, Head of Parks
Ms Linney**, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance**, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown**, Head of Economic Development
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor McFlynn***
Councillor McKinney***

- * 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 McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee 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.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee wished everyone a Happy New Year, he stated that last year was difficult but that there was now a vaccine and the infection rate was coming down and that he hoped the situation would improve in the coming months.

D044/21 Apologies

None.

D045/21 Declaration of Interest

The Chair Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 – Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund and Digital Technology Refresh for Visitor Information Centres.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Mid Ulster Pipe Bands under Community Development Report – Good Relations.

D046/21 Chair's Business

Councillor Molloy referred to Moy Shared Education Campus which was announced in 2014 as a project with a number of others to provide a shared education project on a same campus with Moy Regional and St.John's being chosen as part of that project. He advised that the project was now forging ahead and asked that the Council look at identifying their own site if one cannot be ascertained and urgently re-engage with the Education Authority and the design team of Moy Shared Campus to seek opportunities to maximise facilities as the people of the Moy had waited long enough for this.

Councillor Monteith agreed with Councillor Molloy and said that this had been discussed at the last DEA Capital Workshop and while he had concerns around the whole project and rational behind the Campus, there was a lack of facilities in the village of Moy and agreed if space could not be identified that the Council locate a site to provide top class recreational provision to accommodate Moy residents as they had waited long enough and would fully support the liaising with the Education Authority, but more importantly the Statement of Intention of Moy village and the people of the village. He said that the people of Moy had waited long enough and was unacceptable for a village of that size to have no Council facilities which was a poor reflection on this Council and the previous Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and would support Councillor Molloy in his proposal, but most importantly that he would support the people of the Moy in getting top class facilities which they rightly deserve.

The Head of Leisure advised that a brief discussion had taken place with the Education Authority this week and had spoken to one of the Officers which was on the project board who gave a commitment that they would engage with Council within the coming weeks. He referred to appointment of ICT team last October and they were anticipating the first draft design to be back from the team within the next number of weeks and at that time the Education Authority had advised that they would be more than happy to engage with Council and sit down and determine what this may look like. He hoped that an update could be brought back after the discussion with the Education Authority.

Councillor Corry sought an update on the theft of items at Maghera 3/4G pitch and new leisure arrangements after there were security arrangements were put in place.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation confirmed that a theft had taken place at the new 3/4G pitch at Maghera with some of the carpet being stolen within the last number of days. She advised that the security of the site was the responsibility of the contractor who were confident in their thinking that arrangements were adequate. With the length and the size of the carpet, this was not done by opportunists as it had taken an orchestrated effort to get it removed from the site which was now under investigation by the contractor and will have to be replaced by them to allow the pitch to be finished. She advised that once she had all the relevant information, members would be updated further.

Councillor Doris advised that today she had met with representatives from Kevin Barry's GAC, Derrylaughan and Council Officers regarding the club's lands which were up for lease within the next few years. She stated that it was a credit to the people of Derrylaughan as they had completed all the maintenance on that bit of ground and was extremely well used and now the club were looking to extend the lease or potentially purchase the land themselves.

It was proposed by Councillor Doris that a report be brought back to the next Development Committee with the two options so a choice could be made.

Councillor Elattar seconded Councillor Doris' proposal.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was no difficulty in bringing back a report to committee, but would have to engage with Legal and Land & Property Services and may not come back within the month, but once all the information was received that this would be brought back to committee.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a report be brought back to a future Development Committee on options for lands at Kevin Barry GAC site in Derrylaughan.

Councillor Wilson advised that some time ago a lot of funding was designated to Moneymore Recreational Centre and he was of the opinion if some work was going to be carried out at the site that local residents would be consulted. He stated that he had been contacted by a number of residents who were not consulted about the installation of flood lights.

The Head of Leisure advised that this was a Peace IV Shared Space project that was taking place in Moneymore and wasn't aware of the whole history behind the project as this was more to do with Community Development.

The Head of Community Development advised that the lighting installed was low level and low lux to light the pathways to ensure minimum impact to the residential properties and river bio diversity. She advised that there had been consultation with the wider community who identified the project for delivery; however due to it being low lighting away there had been no direct consultation.

Councillor Wilson said that although he remembers this, the residents living along Riverside Drive had advised that there was no consultation with them at all. He said that he appreciated that the lighting was low level, but a number of the residents were

elderly and were concerned about additional traffic etc. and wanted to raise his surprise at these residents not being consulted who were impacted the most. The Chair said that it was unfortunate that work had already taken place and not much the Council could not do but appreciated Councillor Wilson's point.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation referred to issue at Ballysaggart Lough where part of the retaining wall had collapsed a few weeks ago and advised that a Structural Engineer had looked at the wall and his recommendation was that it needed replacing. She sought permission to start a process for procuring a contractor or consultant to come in and repair and rebuild the wall as soon as possible as the wall was currently cordoned off due to health and safety reasons, but another report would be brought back once approval was granted to proceed once the costings involved with it were known, but this would allow for repairs to be done as soon as possible.

Councillor Molloy referred to the ownership and said that this entailed the layby and asked if there was any update on work which may be considered in partnership with Roads Service.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that as part of the process the Council would be consulting with Roads Service in terms of ownership but in this point and time nothing was committed to yet, but were proceeding to get more realistic costs to try and get repairs done as soon as possible.

Councillor Monteith said that although he would agree, he would however have a fear that this could drag on and would urge that although we need to do the job right, we need to do the job as soon as possible and need to treat this issue the same as one of our Leisure Centres having a collapsed wall and move at the same speed for getting it sorted. He said that he would have a fear when discussions take place with Roads Service there could be a lot of toing and froing with them and also be the concern in the community that this could linger on. He felt that this needed to be done as a matter of urgency.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to start a process for procuring a contractor or consultant to come in and repair and rebuild the wall at Ballysaggart Lough as soon as possible. Going forward a report to be brought back on costings once they were identified.

Matters for Decision

D047/21 Schools Sports Facilities Grant

The Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to advise Members on the advertised Schools Sports Facilities Access Grants. Details below:

- Cookstown Hockey Club – funding proposal - £4,500.00

- Dungannon Rugby Club – funding proposal - £500.00
- St John's PS Swatragh – funding proposal - £1,864.00

Councillor Black referred to £10,000 for the grant with award coming in under £7,000 and enquired where the remainder of the £3,000 was being allocated. He also sought clarification on sentence within the report on “*Council recognises that a few underrepresented sports may be constrained by lack of access to suitable facilities*” and enquired what those sports were.

The Head of Leisure advised as Council were reaching the end of the financial year, he wouldn't anticipate reallocating the remainder of the budget, however it would be the intention to go out with this grant programme within the next number of months, towards the summer to give clubs and schools an opportunity to apply again. In terms of criteria for the grants, it was to facilitate access for a shared collaboration where Council do not have synthetic sport facilities to try and increase participation between clubs and schools for underrepresented sports to help fund the ongoing costs.

In response to Councillor Black's query, the Head of Leisure advised that unrepresented sports were normally guided criteria by Sport NI, with an example being non mainstream sports like Women's & Girls and Youths.

Councillor Cuddy agreed that it was a good programme but asked if schools could apply for using other schools or sports facilities.

The Head of Leisure advised that this wasn't the case but clubs could make a request for access from schools in which they use, so as to increase this collaboration between the community groups and the local schools.

Councillor Wilson referred to comments regarding non mainstream sports being targeted towards Youth and Women and no mention of sports which this grant was set up to target for instance cricket and hockey etc. and felt that it would be useful to have a list of the sports rather than the target group.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the recommendation for successful grant applications as detailed above.

Councillor Burton referred to the youth annex at Fivemiletown College and stated that two different parties had contacted her this week advising that none of the football grounds were floodlit in the Fivemiletown area and asked if the Officers could work with some of those people to try and investigate opportunities as there was some antisocial behavior ongoing within that area with the young people and some community activists considering this as a possible deterrent of getting these young people of the streets at night.

The Chair advised that this would be investigated.

D048/21 The Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland – Key Stakeholder Consultation

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought Members approval in responding to the Provision for Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland – Key Stakeholder Consultation, prepared by DAERA.

Councillor Corry thanked Council staff on the hard work they had put into the consultation response as it was well answered and correct in what they were saying about opportunities but there was still many improvements to be made with walkways to be better used and so on. She referred to the Public Rights of Way and the special website and advised that she had went on to it and bar the well publicised walkways, she couldn't see any of the other walks and asked how these could be located and asked if these could be raised as only well publicised walks were advertised.

The Head of Parks said that in regards to Space NI, where Public Rights of Way were advertised and recognised for anyone to check on the website. The Council has other ways of promoting walking routes like WalkNI which we contribute to the material which was posted on those portals and said that Officers could certainly check if there were any omissions, but there were also other websites which carry relevant information in a tourism capacity for Mid Ulster area. He agreed to investigate this issue.

Councillor Doris commended the report as it was good to see and said she may have to declare an interest in the following correspondence. She advised that she grew up in Derrylaughan and to the rear of her mother's home there had been a lot of moss they were fortunate to walk on, with a very unique landscape and unique wildlife at the area such as the Curlew. She said that concerns were being raised that more of the moss was being dug up lately and was devastating to see a change in the landscape within the last 10 years. She said that she realised that Officers may not have an update on the situation tonight but would like officers to correspond with the Moss Group in Derrylaughan and the Lough Neagh Partnership to act very quickly before more of that area was destroyed forever.

Councillor Clarke agreed with Councillor Doris and said that it was important to look after that landscape. He commended Officers on providing a good report and would be happy to propose it.

Councillor Black said that he would like to put it on record his thanks to Council Officers on their response to this consultation. He said that he noticed that there were 16 asserted Rights of Way that we currently have and to pick up on Councillor Corry's point of these being advertised online and the fact the Council always doing their own types of publicity themselves through our own website, wondered if there was something else that could be done to reflect the Rights of Way that there are within our own area and to encourage people to go to them. He also stated that under the Access to the Countryside NI Order 1983, we've been working with landowners to develop Rights of Way and enquired if there was a template around maintenance on the Rights of Way and potential Rights of Way so we know where responsibility lays going forward.

The Head of Parks in referring to the first point stated that information was put on Space NI and certainly some of those Rights of Way were an attractive locations to visit as they offer good access to the countryside as not all public Right of Ways provide that as sometimes these can be very short and limited. He said that most popular walkways were promoted in other ways using different vehicles also. In response to member's second query, the Head of Parks advised that the template on legislation covers those areas with regards to Council as they do not automatically have a responsibility to maintain and spend money on public Rights of Ways as it was a discretionary role which Councils have and they can do the works and claim that back from the riparian landowners. This was part of the legislation and guidelines that provides that information.

Councillor Black said that if there was any kind of promotion around our own website that this would be a good idea and good to be able to direct people to that and good to know that there would be no ambiguities around where responsibilities lay going forward.

The Head of Tourism advised that Officers were developing a tourism destination website with outdoor activities being very prominent including walking so that will be there also.

Councillor Monteith said that he had no difficulty with the report as it was a good piece of work and commended the Officers on the response but referred to question 10 and asked if the legislation could be strengthened to give the Council the power to push past through wherever they see fit. He felt there needed to be an in-between place to deal with the current situation where there was very little power for the Council to try and develop a path in a particular area. He said there could be an argument for some strength in the legislation to put back some more powers to give the Council more authority on part of the community to try and ensure the paths were developed and put in place as the current situation as things seem to go around in circles with everyone crying out for a path within a certain area around a geographical feature or particular community. He felt that these type of things don't happen as there were no powers in place to initiate and make it happen and felt that there was an opportunity there at question 10 where it talks about current issues with legislation and we should be saying that legislation be strengthened to give the Council more power, but not to override completely. He said that communities were crying out for access to local beauty spots.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation agreed that Councillor Monteith's suggestion be included in Question 10. She advised that Question 12 was identified as an opportunity for strengthening the legislation, but the difficulties were not identified but this could be reworded and incorporated into Question 10.

Councillor Molloy referred to litter being the epidemic within the pandemic and said that many landowners may be reluctant to open up their lands due to irresponsible people discarding rubbish and members just had to look at the roadsides to see the amount of litter in ditches.

Councillor Burton said that she took on the points raised by the two previous speakers and would be in total agreement with them. She referred to some forestry areas

where were licensed and some which were not for the public to walk and would be very keen as part of futureproofing in investment for the area and push forward for a new project at Favour Royal. She said that this was about getting agreement with everyone that the Council can work with. She advised that the points raised by Councillor Molloy were very valid on places which were opened up like Knockmany where local people were getting concerned about how their local area was being treated in terms of inconsiderate car parking and the generating of litter and felt that there was a need to have a process that works for everyone. She enquired if the meeting went ahead with the Forestry Service and also asked for an update on Lumford's Glen and wanted it recorded on where Forestry Services was being linked into that there was a necessity for them to ensure that maintenance work was carried out in terms of the trees as there were literally trees hanging over the roadside and other trees which may a danger and fall onto a road. She felt that it would be very beneficial to get a good working partnership with Forestry Service and would be keen to progress this going forward.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the response to the Provision for Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland – Key Stakeholder Consultation, prepared by DAERA. Also to include reference to investigate a way of strengthening up legislation.

The Head of Parks in reply to Councillor Burton's query advised that the meeting with Forestry Service was anticipated to take place on 29th March 2021 with all relevant information on Lumford's Glen would be brought back after the meeting. He confirmed that this issue had been raised with Forestry Service in the hope of moving it on and was within the block licence held for Knockmany which was important to the Council as a solution was needed to assist us and would be looking at outdoor recreation strategy funding to match from other sources to make this happen at Lumford's Glen

He referred to concerns around unsafe trees and advised that he was aware of some at Glenhoy Road and Parkanaur and had engaged with Forestry Service this morning in regards to their responsibilities to inspect and maintain these trees along these sections of the road and any other trees in other areas which they have responsibility for.

Councillor Burton advised that it was Cullenfad Road not Parkanaur which was opposite Parkanaur up a side road just in case there was any confusion of the matter.

The Head of Parks agreed that this was still part of Parkanaur Forest.

Councillor Clarke advised that in recent years Forestry Service did not carry any amount of manpower to do work on the ground and this may be one of the reasons why they were slow or unable to carry out any maintenance.

The Chair advised that the issue of manpower could be raised at the meetings arranged for the next few weeks.

Councillor Burton referred to Councillor Clarke's comment and said that Forestry Service should not get away with neglecting their responsibilities on maintenance and referred to meeting last year where a young girl made a presentation to committee regarding the death of her father due to a falling tree. She felt that as an organisation, the Council should hold Road Service to account and make them aware of any trees which were deemed unsafe and the same should go for Forestry Service if a tree falls within a forest and a person was injured or killed.

Councillor Kerr agreed with Councillor Burton and said although there may not be manpower, there was an onus on them to prioritise as these trees were very dangerous. He referred to his own employment where risk assessments were continuously being carried out and felt that the same should be done regarding dangerous or overhanging trees and suggested that a stern discussion was needed with Forestry Service on their responsibilities.

D049/21 Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund and Digital Technology Refresh for Visitor Information Centres

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report and sought approval from Members to apply to Tourism NI for Cooperative Marketing funding and avail of the Digital Technology Refresh Scheme.

Councillor Doris said that there was real good work being done through the Tourism Development Group and wanted take the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Clarke and Mary on their appearance on BBC regarding Davagh Dark Skies and the Stone Circles.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to avail of the funding opportunity for both Cooperative Partnership Marketing Fund and Digital Technology Refresh for Visitor Information Centres from Tourism Northern Ireland.

Councillor Kearney enquired if livelinks were still operational in schools in the area.

The Head of Community Development advised that these were still operational in some post primary schools, but could use a lot more if there was something to go on them.

D050/21 Corporate Events

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update to Members on the Corporate Events Calendar 2021.

Councillor Molloy said that he fully agreed with the proposal and advised that he had been approached by some groups enquiring about the future possibility of utilising and opening up of the Events Space on the Hill of The O'Neill. The groups involved

included musicians who felt that the Event Space was a prime location to practice due to ample ventilation.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that he would investigate the issue and report back to members. He asked members if they were aware of any groups to refer them to his team and they would liaise with them.

Councillor Ashton enquired if the same budget was there for events this year, the same as last year event though there was an intention there now not to hold them.

The Head of Tourism advised that at this current time the budget was there, however this would be reviewed as we go along in terms of what happens to that budget.

Councillor Cuddy said he totally agreed with the Head of Tourism regarding the larger events. He referred to St. Patrick's Day event which was very good and a useful tool for virtual technology and said he would be interested to see how it works out. He felt that this allowed people to mark the day as no-one knew how long this pandemic was going to last and asked what kind of budget was being used for St. Patrick's Day events and enquired if this kind of thing could be transferred to other days throughout the summer like the 12 July celebrations in the event of an actual day being postponed.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that in the terms of transferability and process that any events planned for St. Patrick's Day at the Burnavon and the Hill of The O'Neill, could be transferable to events delivered by external organisations and this is something that has been done before, but obviously now we need to be mindful of Covid restrictions. In terms of transferability this certainly could be done and in terms of cost implications, the delivery would be significantly less compared to events delivered pre Covid, but there would obviously be cost implications for the hire of professional sound and lighting equipment and sound and light technicians which needed to be invested in to stage the events in a way to attract an online viewing audience.

Councillor Cuddy said that it would be interesting to hear the feedback and felt that it was a good idea as there was an onus on the Council to improvise as people were unaware how long this pandemic was going to go on for.

Councillor Burton said that she would also like to be involved in a meeting with members going forward.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that after the St. Patrick's Day events officers would touch base with the Councillors and issue an email to arrange a meeting via Zoom with any interested member linking in and having a discussion.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

- (i) Council not to organise any formal or planned events that would attract mass gatherings until the restrictions will facilitate such events.
- (ii) Events team submitting a further report in the months ahead to agree plans to celebrate Halloween and Christmas.

D051/21 Council Support for Mid Ulster (Heaney) Cluster

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to seek support from Mid Ulster District Council for the Mid Ulster (Heaney) cluster of businesses in their application for Phase 2 Collaborative Growth Programme funding.

Councillor Kearney congratulated HomePlace staff on their delivery of successful virtual events and their work on St. Patrick's Day and wanted to commend that.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that support be granted to this cluster in their request for financial support of £12,500 over the next three years.

D052/21 Community Development

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

(i) Community Grants – agree the rolling grants for Good Relations

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Good Relations Grants, noting that the Desertcreatives is for 2021 – 2022 year activity. (£2,040.00) as appendix 1.

(ii) Derrynoid Forest and Future Strategic Use – agree Council Support

Councillor Corry referred to the Rural College and said it was a terrific asset to the area and very popular with people outside the district. She said that it was very sad to see it not being used and was aware of the hard work by Workspace in trying to get it utilised and felt that it was now a liability due to damage being done to it. She proposed that the Council to do whatever they can to support Workspace in their negotiations with Forestry Service. She said that this base was used as a hub and was a central point for Mid Ulster from other areas and was very popular with local people and was an ideal tourism area.

The Head of Community Development said that Officers were working very closely with Workspace and were anticipating taking forward a number of issues particularly with DAERA to seek flexibility for private sector use, to make connections with community planning regarding the potential of the asset and to support Workspace in its bid for it to be considered as a potential government hotdesk location. Councillor Elattar seconded Councillor Corry's proposal and said she echoed her sentiments entirely regarding her proposal for the Council to get this up and running again for the good of the community.

Councillor Wilson advised that this issue had become before LAG and would be supportive of that, but unfortunately they lost out and asked that any support that the Council can give them would be welcomed. However, he was somewhat concerned to read that the Council were heavily involved in negotiations and working with the public sector enquired if the Council done this for every group that came before Council.

The Head of Community Development advised that no actions had been undertaken as yet and was proposing to support Workspace in trying to get a use for the site; through a supportive role. It was confirmed that Council do not do this for all groups and this was the reason to bring it for members agreement.

Councillor Wilson proposed to see what we were actually going to do on this as it seemed and looked like the Council were taking a lead on this issue regarding Workspace and see what members were agreeing to.

The Head of Community Development advised that the role of Council would be to write a letter to DAERA Minister with regard to look at the potential for flexibility if there was any private sector interest in the site. Secondly, Officers were planning to send the site profile to Community Planning partners to identify if there was any interest or need for the space. Finally, Workspace has put in a proposal to see if the Rural Centre could be used as the new 'out of office hubs and hot-desking' which Council support was sought and we would be confirming Council support for this.

Councillor Wilson said that he was happy to agree to this as the matter was clarified.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that support be provided to Workspace in seeking potential usage for the Derrynoid Rural Centre.

**(iii) Paupers' Grave (South Tyrone Hospital site) Dungannon Memorial –
To update members and agree way forward**

The Head of Community Development provided an update to the paper. She advised the original proposal was to partner the Trust on the commemoration garden; however the Trust confirmed they were undertaking the project directly themselves and did not wish to partner Council. They confirmed they were working with the Historical Society as a stakeholder but did not see the Council as a key stakeholder. She said that the Council has asked if they could be a stakeholder and still waiting on a reply on that.

Councillor Molloy said that he welcomed the work which was ongoing behind the scenes but took exception to the name of 'Paupers' Grave' as it was a workhouse where people endured horrific conditions and buried in unmarked graves. He felt that it would be important to stay from these type of titles and suggested that it be renamed 'Workhouse Graves' going forward.

Councillor Monteith agreed with Councillor Molloy's sentiments regarding terminology and also the renaming to 'Workhouse Graves'. He felt that these people were forced into poverty and once they were in this position it was virtually impossible to get out of the Workhouse where people were emotionally impacted on regarding separation from their families. He advised that the community were now a lot more confident that this was going in the right direction and conveyed their thanks and appreciation to Council Officers on their work to bring the Trust back into discussions again with the local History Group. He felt that there was still an opportunity to get involved and proposed that a meeting be arranged with the Trust and if they were unwilling to get involved with the Council then suggested Council provide funding support to the Historical group to allow them to be involved in marking the site.

The Chair felt that a meeting with the Trust shouldn't be a problem as Cookstown had created a simple site to mark Workhouse Graves which weren't expensive.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to support the provision of a memorial site at the Workhouse Grave site Dungannon, through the Historical Society, and for Council to write to the Trust for an update on this.

(iv) Good Relations Plan 2021-2022 – for Members' consideration and approval

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the annual Good Relations Action Plan 2021-2022.

Councillor Ashton enquired if the Good Relations plan give consideration to the 100 years commemoration.

The Head of Community Development noted that this is under the Decade of Anniversaries, where there is included the annual lectures and annual grant programme as per the update report provided by the Head of Arts and Culture and a further £5000 towards for an educational project led by the Arts and Culture Section.

(v) Community Development – Note Community Development update

Noted.

Councillor Wilson advised that there would be no pipe band happening this year at the first week of June and may have to be carried over to August or September if it takes place at all.

Councillor Wilson said he raised this issue each year regarding the Clergy Forum across the district and enquired how many new members were on these and not only on these but on other programmes we have or was it the same people which benefit from it all the time.

The Head of Community Development advised that the Council had signed up two years ago to a three year plan with the TEO Office and to minor updates for the 3 years. An audit is being carried out of the programme to help inform a new 3 year plan and will give consideration to this. In relation to the delivery of the good relations programmes each year, they would have different audiences particularly the school and youth, however Clergy Forum and the Churches Forum's membership changed very little if someone left or someone came on and would say that 75% of the people were the same each year. They did deliver projects, engagement activities, talks etc. The review will give consideration to this and future plans for the following three years was something for discussion.

Councillor Burton asked that Aughnacloy and Fivemiletown be used for the Sports programme.

The Head of Community Development advised that she would investigate this and come back to the member with an update.

D053/21 Economic Development - OBFD

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following:

(i) ICBAN Funding Request (2021/22)

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve funding request from ICBAN for up to £15,000 from Council's Economic Development Budget (2021/22), to be paid in two equal instalments twice yearly, subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation (application form, confirmation of match funding, copies of accounts, insurances, financial report and progress updates).

Councillor Monteith commended Officers on the engagement works with Traders which had taken place recently on business recovery and welcomed the use of new technology in doing so, as old models doesn't suit modern working. He also commended Officers on their efforts on securing a meeting with senior officials from the Bank of Ireland to address the anticipated closure of the Dungannon branch.

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in ICBAN.

The Chair stated that Traders should be happy about the recent good news story relating to rates relief extension for this year.

(ii) Coalisland Great Places Projects

Councillor Kerr welcomed the contribution from Council towards the coalpits and Coalisland Canal and said it was something that residents should cherish and should be proud of.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve reallocation of funds for year 3 of Coalisland Great Places Project, and make provision for Council's final contribution of £3,000 to Lough Neagh Partnership in the new financial year (2021/22). This flexibility will allow final works on the project to be completed, having been delayed as a result of the pandemic, with no additional costs to Council.

Matters for Information

D054/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 February 2021

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 11 February 2021.

Councillor Corry referred to Community Planning Poverty Plan and made reference to Mr Harvey's publication last week on Social Inclusion Strategies - Expert Advisory Panel report which will now form part of the work to co-design strategies alongside communities on poverty, anti-poverty, children's poverty, gender disability and LGBTQI equality and hopefully this Council can be part of that alongside our communities.

The Head of Community Development stated that Officers would get the reports and send to members and do a link in on these and hope to get an update session with DFC and members regarding these and links to our own plan.

Councillor Doris referred to D035/21 – Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan and said that although she wasn't looking at update tonight, she wanted to raise an issue with was raised through Coalisland Town Centre Forum regarding better access and installing of ramp at Brackaville Playpark. She said that there was a meeting due to take place shortly and asked if there was any movement on that.

The Head of Parks advised that Officers were aware of access issues at Brackaville Playpark and a review of the current lease which also has to take place but will bring back a more clearer update regards to the access issue.

Councillor Monteith referred to D032/21 Community Development – Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan and said that it was around the same issue previously raised by Councillor Corry on affordable housing. He stated that people

would be aware of letters being sent out to tenants regarding the increase in rent by Housing Associations which was totally unacceptable during these unprecedented times. He felt the Council had a onus on their residents to challenge these rent increases as Housing affordability was a problem, whether for people to purchase or rent homes for themselves or their families. He advised that families were paying over £600 per week in Dungannon for social housing and this was supposed to be affordable and some not fit for purpose.

He proposed that the Council write to the relevant Housing Associations which may be proposed the rent increase to say in our strongest terms that this increase on working families was not acceptable and request a meeting, but in the meantime, representations be made immediately on this increase not being acceptable and a duty of care and a public responsibility on the houses that they own being paid by the public purse and not acceptable to cost more to rent than some private houses.

He said that this was a major issue which had arisen in the last while and would commend the work which had been done on housing issues around Dungannon.

He also asked for an update on the same item – Timorese Association Inclusion Group Engagement. He said that last month it was stated that a meeting was being organised for a reengagement for the East Timorese Community and asked where the Council was sitting with that.

The Chair stated that the issue of affordable housing would be raised through the Housing Forum as well.

The Head of Community Development stated that research would be carried out on the rent increase issue and a meeting could then be organised with the Housing Working group as it was the time to have another housing meeting.

In response to East Timorese she advised that this would be actioned as soon as possible and advised members that due to work constraints within her section on the fuel vouchers this had been not followed up as quickly as first hoped.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

He said that he wished to be associated with Councillor Monteith's comments as it was absolutely ridiculous that when people were in the middle of a global pandemic and families struggling financially, that a Housing Association decides to raise their rents. He felt that this was unacceptable.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to research the rental issue further and write to the relevant Housing Associations which may have proposed the rent increase to say in our strongest terms that this increase was not acceptable and request a meeting and urgent representation on this not being acceptable.

The Head of Community Development agreed that suggestion by Councillor Monteith would be carried out and a meeting will be organised with the Housing Working group as it was the time to actually do that.

In response to East Timorese advised that this would be actioned as soon as possible and advised members that due to work constraints within her department regarding fuel vouchers this had been not followed up as quickly as first hoped.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

He said that he wished to be associated with Councillor Monteith's comments as it was absolutely ridiculous that when people were in the middle of a global pandemic and families struggling financially, that a Housing Association decides to raise their rents. He felt that this was unacceptable.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to the relevant Housing Associations which may have proposed the rent increase to say in our strongest terms that this increase was not acceptable and request a meeting. In the meantime, representations to be made immediately on this increase not being acceptable and a duty of care and a public responsibility on affordability and fit for purpose.

Councillor Kerr referred to item D035/21 – Parks & Play Five Year Strategic Plan and sought update on upgrading of equipment at Killen Playpark as he had been approached by residents of the area concerned about the damage to swings, damaged kerbing and other issues which were highlighted regarding safety asked that Council Officers be more forthright on their response and provide an adequate timescale as residents were very concerned about the safety of their children.

He also sought an update on Washingbay Walking Shoreline regarding flooding issue and also if there was any strategy in place to deal with dog fouling on the walkway. He advised that he had met with a community representative and done a lap of the walkway and dismayed to say that over 25 pieces of dog excrement, with representative advising that during the month of January over 50 pieces were lifted. He asked that a more serious attitude be shown towards Washingbay and other areas where there was a high level of concentration of dog fouling.

Councillor Kerr referred to D034/21 – Scoping Studies for Altmore & Cappagh and proposed that a meeting be facilitated between Council, Roads Service, Housing Executive and Electricity Board to try and solve the flooding issues the residents of Altmore View experience after heavy rainfall out their bank entries.

He also referred to Cappagh Main Street and requested that Council organise a meeting with Road Service to discuss the ongoing issue of who is responsible for maintaining and refurbishment of road maintenance issues particularly around the street islands. He stated that there were legacy issues there and Council needed to stand by the residents of Cappagh.

The Head of Parks in referring to Killen Playpark advised that the Council took the safety of children very seriously and this was the case with Killen also. He said that Killen Playpark was identified with the strategy for the investigation for additional age-related play which was being investigated and conducted a survey in relation to available room for that site was a very narrow, long piece of ground with a limited number of play equipment on it. The provision of play equipment depends on having safety zones in and around free pass areas which all come into play with regards to any redesign or additional equipment to be brought onto a site. He said that this was being looked at within the strategy and as there wasn't a timescale within the strategy and this was what the Council were working to, but would undertake to investigate further and bring back further information back to committee. In referring to safety he advised that a seating had been replaced and a number of items were not safety related and were maintenance of axillary items relating to kerbing etc had been noted and would be identified under the maintenance process and would continue to work through issues with the local community.

He referred to Washingbay and stated that officers were aware of persistent dog fouling along the walkway. He said that officers had spoken to community representatives relating to the Gaelic Football club and Muinteach Community Group and Council reacted with making a clean-up which was on record. He said there definitely was an issue relating to dog walking and fouling on the site and felt there was an issue for the wider community to respond to cleaning up after their dog, but there would be more resources being put into the issue with more Council staff being deployed to carry out clean up around that area. It's anticipated that a wraparound campaign would be introduced around a litter campaign and dog fouling as part of a proposed action plan.

The Head of Parks advised that the Washingbay Shoreline Walk has now been inspected which showed erosion and currently waiting on a report on appropriate action to be taken, which is hoped to be done as quickly as possible and in hindsight it was now recognised that the pathway was too close to the Lough resulting in some significant erosion issues. Appropriate costings for the works were now being identified for a permanent solution and hoped within the next few months water levels would remain low so as to not cause any additional erosion.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation in response to issue relating to dog fouling advised that it was anticipated that approximately 50 staff which were to return from furlough would be redeployed to Technical teams to go out and support litter teams across the Parks and other areas of need which would allow for a solution to improve the dog fouling issue.

In relation to Altmore View and Cappagh Public Realm, the Director advised that this would be followed up.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council:

- (i) That a meeting be facilitated between Council, Roads Service, Housing Executive and Electricity Board to try and solve the flooding issues the residents of Altmore View experience after heavy rainfall out their bank entries.
- (ii) That a meeting with Road Service be facilitated to discuss the ongoing issue of who is responsible for maintaining and refurbishment of road maintenance issues particularly around the street islands.

Councillor Wilson referred to issue previously raised regarding Open Water Swimming at Ballyronan and said that this now came under the government body of Swim Ireland and would do no harm to contact them around safety issues.

Councillor Burton referred to matter around Mobile Catering Concessions and said that it was her understanding that a tender would be coming out any day now. She said that this was a slow process to get to this stage but felt frustrated that traders were still blatantly operating at Forest Parks when they have been advised to follow the tender process. She felt it was unfair on other Vendors who follow the guidelines on tendering process whilst others proceed to operate regardless. She asked if this left offender's opportunity lesser as she was aware of staff speaking to Vendors advising them to follow the process for them to return the following weekend which was totally unfair on the other traders.

The Head of Parks advised that the tender was almost ready to go out and was currently with procurement with anticipation of it being going out next week and in his opinion the sooner the better. He said that he totally agreed with Councillors sentiments as he was aware of Vendors trading at Brantry but they were not on Council owned land but on private ground, communication was sought by Environmental Health in relation to requirements for inspections and visit the unit to make sure that everything was in place. He advised that these Vendors would be spoken to and advised that respect the procurement process going forward.

The Chief Executive advised that litter was now the epidemic within the pandemic and that Council were doing their utmost to try and deter this through social media platforms. He said that there was now a strategy in place, with a meeting taking place three weeks ago with members to look at options and out of that an action plan would be collated and worked upon. He said that it was encouraging to see such community spirit each weekend by volunteers to go out on a litter picking exercise and in turn these litter champions were commended through Council's social media. He advised that Community Development would be trying to promote grants for such projects going forward.

Councillor Ashton felt that if Vendors refuse to follow the tendering process at Forests or Parks, then they should be advised that they would not be considered in the process as it was unfair to the other Vendors who follow the appropriate guidelines.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Officers would be liaising with Environmental Health team and if they felt there was a breach then Procurement could be liaised with to discuss options.

D055/21 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- BT Openreach: Delivering the Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) in Mid Ulster

Councillor Clarke referred to BT Openreach and the activity at the moment and felt that there was a lot of misunderstanding amongst the general community on what was going on. He said that in the middle of the Department for the Economy and Fibrus rolling out Project Stratum, there has been a high number of scam phone calls and emails being sent to consumers on all sort of prices and deals and during discussions with people they were receiving all this information and were totally confused. He felt that clarification was needed and referred to correspondence from BT leading to people in the Stratum programme could take up the BT offer and leave them outside Project Stratum. He suggested that some sort of a media campaign be identified to explain and simplify the difficulties which were in front of consumers who were not able to avail of decent broadband service at the minute.

The Head of Economic Development concurred with member's comments on BT Openreach USO which they had brought forward at this time which has caused some confusion in the midst of Project Stratum. She advised that the Broadband Working Group had recommended that this matter be brought to Members attention to raise awareness that 2873 premises in Mid Ulster are receiving correspondence from BT Openreach on Universal Service Obligation (USO), indicating that every home and business has the legal right to request that BT provide a 'decent' broadband service, defined as 10 mbps download speed and 1mpbs upload. BT Openreach advise in their letter that they are likely to meet the cost if it is lower than £3,400 per premise and if more than that, BT Openreach will provide the customer with the option of paying the difference. The BT service upgrade works are estimated to take place within 12 months.

The Head of Economic Development advised that DfE and Fibrus are rolling out Project Stratum to households and businesses in Mid Ulster on their "white postcode list", identified as not currently receiving a 30mbps broadband service, whilst concurrently BT Openreach are contacting residents and businesses to advise of their USO upgrade offer. She added that it is important residents and businesses choose carefully whether to opt for the short term gain of availing of the 'wireless option' under the Broadband USO, as doing so may result in them being removed from Project Statum's white postcode list, where they may be deemed eligible to receive a long term future proofed fibre broadband solution.

The Head of Economic Development concluded by saying that DfE and BT Openreach have the right to rollout their individual solutions and ultimately it will come down to customer choice. However, she indicated before doing so, it is important that residents and businesses have all the facts and said it was important Members are aware of this, should any business or resident contact them.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest as his employer carried out work for Project Stratum and BT Openreach.

The Chair stated that it was good for this to be brought to members' attention tonight and was confident that Broadband Working Group would be working on it.

- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 07.12.20
- Virtual NI Apprenticeship Week (NIAW 2021) – 26-30 April 2021

Live broadcast ended at 8.45 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of 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 D056/21 to D057/21.

Matters for Decision

D056/21 Catering Provision at Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Matters for Information

D057/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 February 2021.

D058/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.53 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Report on	1. Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement
Date of Meeting	15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Economic Development

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>Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement</p> <p>A series of Trader engagements took place across the five towns within Mid Ulster. Led by the three Regeneration Managers the meetings were designed to provide an opportunity to our local Traders to discuss what further support and initiatives they would welcome from the Council over a 4 month period as they re-open after the lockdown</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement</p> <p>Over the week commencing 7 March 2021 there were 10 Traders meetings across the five main towns within Mid Ulster. In each of the three main towns Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt 20 Traders were invited to the meetings and in Coalisland and Maghera, 10 traders were invited in each of these towns. Generally, the meetings were well received by the Traders. The overall feeling was positive and Traders are looking forward to shops opening up.</p> <p>There were many areas discussed and the issues of rates relief, grants for utilities or rent assistance were important and the Traders hoped that the Council would be lobbying these matters on their behalf at the highest level.</p> <p>Appendix 1 includes a table which summarises the traders comments from each town and details the name of businesses that contributed.</p> <p>Key points summarised across the 5 towns are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Holiday extended for 12 months, with a phasing in of rates thereafter. • All would like to see Council lobbying Government for further support measures.

- Click n Collect – would like to see this available for all businesses as some businesses felt the current arrangement is unfair, allowing only some businesses to provide this service.
- Financial Assistance towards
 - Utility Costs
 - Stock – assist with purchase of new stock and loss of old stock
 - Recovery Start Up Grant
- Substantial Investment for Town Centres such as in England - e.g. Future High Street Funds but not available in NI. Taskforce needs to extend membership to include rural independents & come forward with a substantial financial package for Town Centres.

Car Parking discussions are summarised as:

- Introduce a reduced car parking rate similar to Christmas for Dungannon and Magherafelt
- Do not provide all day free car parking in Dungannon and Magherafelt
- Maintain free car parking in Cookstown for foreseeable future
- Look to increase parking time to 2 hours for on Street car parking in the towns

Immediate Actions to be considered:

- Marketing and Promotion
 - Need a sustained social media video/promotional campaign for each of our five towns to support traders
 - Trader videos to be sustained over six months post lockdown and reflecting the needs of the towns
 - Influencer videos to be rolled out
 - Develop a Mid Ulster Gift Card which has the support of Traders
 - Focus on building business & customer confidence
 - Marketing needs to be town focused
 - Tourism now seen as a key ingredient going forward for towns
 - Need a sustained approach to marketing – not all at the start when businesses reopen.
 - The distinct characteristics of each town should be reflected in our support going forward
 - Regular music activity to happen in each town when it is safe to do so.
- Dereliction
 - Focus on dereliction and schemes to help such as LOTS scheme, Wraparound scheme, Empty to Occupied Scheme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research potential grants programmes as rolling programmes for assistance in recovery phase & targeting businesses whose shop front/internal layout needs updated. ○ Research potential extension to Covid Scheme to assist with businesses reopening • “Support Local” is a key message • Voucher Scheme proposed by NI Executive – needs to be spent locally.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement Officers time
	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>Mid Ulster District Council Traders Engagement Note update report on officer engagement with a representative sample of Mid Ulster traders which details the initial types of support they require assistance with to re-open after lockdown.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 – Traders Engagement Report and Consultees – March 2021

Appendix 1 – Traders Engagement Report and Consultees – March 2021

Main Issues Raised at Traders Meetings held week commencing 7 March 2021

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Rates	Support with Rates payments Rate relief/ holiday/ utility relief, support package/ rent relief.	Rates holidays extension for 12 months, followed by a phased return of rates Reduction in rates in Town Centres Five year rate break for smaller businesses to use vacant buildings for office space. Sectoral rates relief- sectors which are dying	Rates Relief supported Bounce Back grants to support businesses to reopen supported	Reduced rates, rents etc.	Rates Relief supported Bounce Back grants to support businesses to reopen supported
Utility Costs	A Utility Support Package for Traders is needed	Need for a financial package to assist with ongoing running costs which have occurred in the last 12 months and the forthcoming 12 months on reopening One business £1000 electric bill for a quarter has been closed	A Utility Support Package for Traders would be welcomed	A Utility Support Package for Traders would be welcomed	A Utility Support Package for Traders would be welcomed
Recovery Start Up Grant	Any support that will help less money going out. Support of more Covid support money. Some Traders felt they had enough PPE Support. £300 grant to all town centre businesses for PPE	Need to lobby Executive to roll out a similar recovery start up grant as per England (£6,000)	Support for more Covid support money.	Any support would be welcomed	Any support would be welcomed

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Dereliction/ Vacancy	<p>Help to repurpose the vacant units.</p> <p>Lack of Accommodation provision within the Town Centre area.</p> <p>Use the vacant building to be used for display purposes for either commercial uses.</p> <p>Town Centre Development- central atmosphere, café culture, seating in the pedestrian section of the square.</p> <p>Adaption of court yards</p> <p>No more social house in the town centre.</p> <p>Fort Bar premises is lying closed and building lying empty in Perry Street, can there be an incentive to attract new shops or repurpose the building</p>	<p>Consideration of schemes similar to England run by local Councils- loan scheme- financial support towards redecorating/refurbishing/repurposing of vacant space/rent/rates relief</p> <p>Wrap around scheme- grants scheme to encourage businesses to locate/relocate into the Town Centre, for example, financial support for utility set up, unit fit out, reduced rent & rates, support towards marketing, mentoring support</p> <p>Scheme rollout as per ABC empty to occupied scheme 60% of the total eligible capital costs submitted and approved through a successful application, capped at a maximum of £80,000 grant award – whilst ensuring it is new businesses rather than current businesses relocating</p> <p>Need to encourage people back to live in our towns- large number of first floor/second floor premises vacant- Scheme like Living Over the Shops is required</p>		<p>Anything to be done as an initiative to help to fill vacant units</p>	

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Marketing	<p>Micro influencers brought in, smaller ones from the town and round the town such as “Everything Emma”, Aileen Mallon, Patricia McVeigh, and daughter etc. to Promote Dungannon Town centre.</p> <p>Schedule of promotion developed.</p> <p>Support of outdoor catering facilities and support needed for evening economy.</p> <p>Radio coverage placed in the town for a few days for a few weeks.</p> <p>Business to speak about their own selling points and why they are unique.</p> <p>TV advertisement to heighten business brand presences.</p> <p>Can MUDC Social Media promote Town Centre businesses, bus services etc</p> <p>Marketing of Town Centre all year round</p>	<p>TV/Adverts dated and a waste of financial resources</p> <p>Influencer videos are welcomed as social channels are the top form of marketing & communication at present</p> <p>Marketing to build consumer confidence along the Roadmap and thereafter; build confidence within the Town Centre again</p> <p>Sectoral campaigns for the town to showcase what Cookstown has to offer i.e. retail then hospitality etc.</p> <p>Link our Tourism assets and Town Centre offering to market as a destination</p> <p>Social Media page to promote & showcase the businesses of Cookstown & what they have on offer & a place to ‘staycation’</p> <p>Encourage businesses to locate/relocate from business parks to Town centre- questioned legitimacy of retail operating in business parks based on their planning approval</p>	<p>Traders focused on Magherafelt being a destination town and people travel a distance to visit the businesses.</p> <p>The town needs to be advertised across Ireland not just locally</p> <p>Independent shops are a real draw for people</p> <p>Marketing should focus on local people and local stories “people buy from people”. Use businesses to tell the story of the town.</p> <p>Local people should be ambassadors for the town. Support local is a key message</p> <p>Best influencers are the business people of the town.</p> <p>People are missing one to one personal service and this needs highlighted as we open up.</p> <p>Need to focus on getting people back into Magherafelt and supporting local.</p>	<p>Revisit the structure of Coalisland Connects, funding for a salary for someone to do the social media.</p> <p>Communication support e.g. Coalisland Connect</p> <p>Assistance with social media</p> <p>Make Coalisland unique/ Mission statement</p>	<p>Creation of a brand for Maghera</p> <p>Town centre marketing initiative (digital screens)</p>

	<p>To encourage the public to support business via social media just as online “eat out to help out” but to engage and encourage public to leave positive reviews for local business as well as like and share marketing promotion.</p> <p>Social Media grant – Traders do not have the money to hire Influencers etc.</p> <p>Enhancement with the evening economy incentive Town Flowers – an overload this year to add colour to the Town, even if a grant was given to all shops to do window boxes. Use local suppliers to supply and fit to brighten everywhere up.</p>	<p>Booklet/Brochure – promoting town centre businesses/hotels to be located in tourism hotspots and accommodation venues</p> <p>Council to promote and advertise local businesses on their platforms</p> <p>Continue with competitions such as Small Business Saturday – small schemes do have an impact</p> <p>Rolling grants scheme</p> <p>Available Grants - Apply to access financial support to assist with each individual businesses marketing</p>	<p>Voucher Scheme proposed by NI Executive – needs to be spent locally.</p> <p>Need a sustained approach to marketing – not all at the start when businesses reopen.</p> <p>Marketing needs to build confidence of people so they feel safe returning to town</p>		
Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Gift Card/Voucher Scheme	Town Centre Gift Card to be used in any participating business.	<p>Mid Ulster Gift Card- some supportive; some not. If progressing, there is a feeling it should be solely Cookstown</p> <p>If a gift card/voucher scheme up and running, have a draw/lottery alongside it with a chance of winning a prize on a monthly basis</p> <p>NI Voucher Scheme – if this happens ensuring that large retailers are excluded from participating</p>	<p>Gift Card seen as a good initiative to support local businesses.</p> <p>Gift Card should be limited to independent businesses.</p>	Supported	Introduction of Gift Card seen as good for the town

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
NI Taskforce		<p>Membership make up questioned- rural independents lack a voice</p> <p>Need for financial backing needs to be more than a 'talk shop'.</p> <p>Need for funds such as Future High Street Funds to make impact and deliver strategic and tangible projects over a period of time.</p>			
Stock		<p>Compensation for stock needed that hasn't been sold</p> <p>Financial assistance towards the forward buying of seasonal stock/loss of stock</p>			
Click n Collect		Click n Collect must be extended to all businesses with immediate effect			
Loans		Banks refusing loans to businesses due to retail being seen a 'vulnerable sector'			
Christmas Lights		<p>Enhance the asset we have in Cookstown</p> <p>Lights need to be on all the time day & night</p> <p>Additional/improved Christmas lights along the side streets- LED as like Town Centre</p> <p>Need music playing in town when lights on to create an atmosphere</p>			

		Possible collaboration with schools to encourage choirs to perform in the town (reducing costs and encouraging families into the town)			
Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Tourism	<p>Play park/ fun attraction on the Hill green space.</p> <p>“Train” from Beechvalley/Tesco’s to Hill of The O’Neill would be a great novelty idea and a sure winner.</p> <p>Playpark on Hill of The O’Neill at the top for kids after their train ride.</p> <p>Support of the train/ tram Support of a train/ tram up round the town.</p> <p>Town park and utilising the event space at the castle hill Castle hill not bringing people into the town even pre-covid.</p> <p>Hill of the O’Neill- shame that know no knows about it, feels closed off and inaccessible.</p> <p>Information Board so people know where key places are of interest or shop location maps visitor.</p>		<p>Link in to encourage people to stay overnight – opportunity when things open up to encourage people to visit.</p> <p>Link with Seamus Heaney HomePlace needs explored and exploited. Experience is key – developing experiences for people.</p> <p>Telling the history of the area.</p> <p>Developing walking tours of the town. Market Yard is a key opportunity to develop a hub in the town centre.</p> <p>Opportunity to run courses /activities in The Bridewell.</p> <p>Developing walking tours throughout the district.</p> <p>Hospitality Sector needs dates for reopening.</p> <p>Support for live musicians</p>	<p>Better Signage</p> <p>Information boards to highlight the key dates and landmarks. And promote the industrial heritage.</p> <p>No Council initiative re Tourism, rich heritage in the area re Coal and Canal.</p> <p>Potential of Canal and lineside walk – very popular with locals.</p> <p>Walking Tours, Heritage Tours</p>	<p>Lighting up St Lurach’s Old Church (Maghera Development Association).</p> <p>Street Art Murals.</p> <p>Creation of walking routes around town.</p> <p>Development of walking tours based on the history of Maghera.</p> <p>Build on existing heritage projects in Maghera</p>

	<p>Nobody is aware of what is on the Hill and it there are opportunities to link to Town Centre.</p> <p>Extra chairs and sign posts.</p> <p>Sunday opening hours.</p> <p>Idea of a train/ tram/ free transport up to the town and a tour of the town.</p> <p>Put a “roof” over some of the Streets.</p>				
Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Communication		<p>Communications needs to start in Council.</p> <p>Communications needs to be improved with traders</p>	<p>Support for digital marketing.</p> <p>Grants to support businesses to reopen – hygiene equipment / air purifiers</p> <p>Influencers – less is more needs to be very focused and specific</p>		
Public Buildings	<p>Ranfurly House and Hill Of The O'Neill – focal point of town</p> <p>Better signage in town centre for Ranfurly House and Hill Of The O'Neill</p> <p>Do something around entrance/barrier/gate and make it more inviting to go into the Hill Of The O'Neill</p>	<p>Burnavon is an underutilised resource within the town as a centre of information</p> <p>Directional information to the Burnavon</p> <p>Large screens located to showcase events or promotions in the town</p>			

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Gateways	Signage in town centre	<p>Development of the strategic entries to Cookstown from Omagh and Moneymore – with features</p> <p>Improved directional signage into the town centre</p> <p>Street lighting from A29 Roundabout out the Dungannon Road- all other roads off the roundabout have street lighting</p>			Develop Public Art Entrance Features / signage
Business/Community Initiatives	<p>Better use of public space</p> <p>Entrepreneurship, for the local area.</p> <p>Need work space/ industrial space for potential.</p>	<p>Business/community initiatives work in Cookstown- perhaps a floral scheme where each premise along the main thoroughfare is encouraged to have hanging baskets to brighten the town i.e. Mid Ulster in Bloom and village participation in past (Stewartstown particular example)</p> <p>Shop Window displays</p>			
Town Centre Events	<p>Market days- Thursday flowers, Tuesday flowers and the food market in Tesco's.</p> <p>Pedestrianise the core of the Town Centre to create a café culture by day</p> <p>More social and coffee spaces</p>	<p>Continental Market & Christmas Lights switch ons are welcomed and bring footfall and atmosphere to the town.</p> <p>Caution was voiced on events, if additional ones, as some can be detrimental to Town Centre</p> <p>Ensure inclusion of local businesses to assist/be a part of the events</p>			

Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Covid Requirements		<p>Assistance with the ongoing cost of Sanitisation equipment/liquid</p> <p>Council may be able to buy cheaper & in bulk.</p> <p>Further grant aid programme to assist businesses now that reopening is insight</p>		<p>Coalisland Credit Union was ruled out of the Covid grant was a challenge</p> <p>No support for charity or funding.</p> <p>Social Media Grant</p>	
Street Cleansing	<p>Regular in depth cleanse of streets as was carried out last year.</p> <p>Cleaning of links between streets such as Wilsons Lane</p>		More bins in the town		
Property Improvement Scheme		<p>Similar to spruce up only on a rolling basis</p> <p>Beneficial scheme to businesses</p> <p>Need internal fit out/refurbishment grant</p>			Painting buildings
Cookstown Market		<p>Query raised if Council has bought the Market Rights;</p> <p>Modernisation of the Market</p> <p>A business has recently closed in town and Saturday Market contributed to decision- stall holders blocking front of shop, being obstructive- busiest day went to quietest day.</p> <p>Underutilised asset unique to Cookstown; Potential to</p>			

		<p>rebrand showcasing local produce- Artisan; shape & structure needs assessed. Local talent playing at the Market- may not be every week</p> <p>Christmas Eve market to continue with stalls located outside vacant premises</p>			
Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Masterplan		Major investment required in Town Centres- renewed Masterplans with a large financial investment			
Evening/Night Time Economy	<p>Evening economy- enhance the hospitality sector.</p> <p>Laser lights creation Cruise (youth).</p> <p>Organise an East Timor evening.</p>	Need to try and bring the town to life after 5 even for a few hours			
Town Centre		<p>Modernise the market</p> <p>Too many coffee shops/charity shops</p> <p>Entice new businesses to Cookstown 'retail focused' especially ladies boutique – incentives to take up a vacant property</p> <p>Need to have attractive Town Centre- it needs to be desirable for people to come to shop & Visit</p>			Additional planting.

		Shop Fronts/Paving/Street Lighting/Floral Displays			
Issues	Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Mid Ulster District Council	<p>A bit more flexibility with Environmental Health and the tobacco officer to acknowledge the companies are trying to working within the Law but there customers under the influence might not be prepared to listen.</p> <p>Council should rent out stalls to local artisans selling homemade crafts.</p> <p>Roadworks to be scheduled for evenings in the Town Centre</p> <p>Support of the outdoor catering facilities and outside evening economy.</p> <p>Extra help with bin collections and collecting of cardboard to help with the reduction of over flow litter on streets.</p>	<p>Like to see some examples of council trying to cutback expenses as well. From the private sector looking in there is a lot of waste - applies to the entire public sector.</p> <p>Consult and agree a Mid Ulster Town Centre Action Plan – with a collaborative approach for 2-3 years</p> <p>Council Grants- complicated and issues when enter discussions with planning etc...failed on awnings side of things</p>		<p>The Enterprise centre is outside of the Coalisland Town Boundary, bring in.</p> <p>Support of the public realm.</p> <p>Expansion of the public realm.</p>	<p>Public Realm Scheme is a key project for Maghera's redevelopment and Traders looking forward to it.</p> <p>Review licencing costs for outdoor entertainment</p> <p>Restrictions need to be enforced sensibly not a heavy handed approach.</p>
Car Parking	<p>Off street to be reduced to 10p per hour to avoid staffing taking up.</p> <p>Car parking 2 hr free on street.</p> <p>The car park opposite the bank hotel to find out who owns the site to reopen the car park.</p>	<p>Maintain free car parking</p> <p>On Street Parking need extension of stay time- 1hr is too short – but aware there needs to be a limit to deter staff from parking in the bays</p> <p>Clarification on future parking plans for town i.e. will pay and display be introduced in the future</p>	<p>Reduced fees like the 10p for 3 hours. Used as part of marketing campaign for town.</p> <p>Do not support free parking as this encourages all day parking.</p> <p>Needs control to ensure turnover of spaces.</p>	<p>Don't want to see charges being introduced.</p> <p>Car parking concerns regarding car wardens.</p> <p>Question whether the car park at the library will be pay and display- not in support of this.</p>	

	<p>Reopening of private Car Park at top of William Street.</p> <p>Free Car Parking from 10am – 5pm (up to 4 hours) so staff can't park in them.</p> <p>Car Parking – staff parking in free spaces and none left for Shoppers.</p> <p>Free off street parking everywhere, even if workers take the spaces Trader not annoyed.</p> <p>Staff are using free car parking leaves nowhere for customers and key spaces.</p> <p>Not what Dungannon need right now. Possibly need to reduce on street Parking, only restrictions for only hour. The hour isn't long enough to spend time in the town with covid restriction and extra cleaning between clients.</p> <p>Parking in the town needs to be free to help incentivise shoppers to come in.</p>				
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Trader Consultees

Dungannon	Cookstown	Magherafelt	Coalisland	Maghera
Dolphin Takeaway	Thompson Footwear	Alexandra Barfoot Photography & Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce.	Coalisland Credit Union	Crawford's
Maura's Beauty	Time Bar & Venue		Lilac	Burns & Co
Sloan's Newsagents	Cartwheel Bar	Shady Dolphin	Sole Sister	Walsh's Hotel
Solo/Snooty Fox	Adrian & Co Jewellers	Blue Box Media	Freshly Baked	The Dug Out
James Taggart Hairdressers	Helens Flowers	Blu Rinse Electric Hairdressing	Michael Dormans Pharmacy	Eurospar
Hagans Bar	Little Fashion Boutique	The Fashion House & KK Schoolwear	Michael Heron Architects	Glenview Gift Centre
Those that could not attend but wanted to contribute –	Sheehy's		Those that could not attend but wanted to contribute –	Noones
Café Latte	Black Shoes	The Coachman		
Cuba	Penny Farthing	Slims / Secrets	Brian McKernan & Co - sent comments	
Hagans Bar (attended meeting but had more points after).	Solo Retailing	Mary's Bar		
	Serephina	Jude Law Boutique	Plunkett Teague & Sons – forwarded comments	
Hegarty's Bakery	McConnell Shoes	Sportique		
James Taggart Hairdressers (attended meeting but had more points after).	The Royal Hotel	Off The Diamond		
	Gordons Chemist	Cuddy's.		
Beauty Within	Precious			
The Gas Works	Glenavon Hotel			
Professional Travel	Wallaces/Kees Clothing			
K9 Pet Shop				

Report on	Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group minutes of meeting of 3 rd March 2021
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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 receive and consider for approval the minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 3 rd March 2021 at Council offices Dungannon and via remote link.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council previously resolved to establish a Language Working Group to assist with policy development and to support the implementation of Mid Ulster District Council's Irish Language and Ulster Scots language policies and associated work.
2.2	The Working Group Terms of Reference confirms that the business of the Regional and Minority Language Working Group be reported through Mid Ulster District Council's Development Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The minutes of the meeting of 3 rd March 2021 is attached for members' consideration (Appendix 1).
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As per approved Council budgets for Regional and Minority Languages
	Human: N/a

	<p>Risk Management: All risks identified and arising from the delivery of the Regional and Minority Language Programme are discussed and addressed through the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The language policies are implemented in a way that is sensitive to the concerns of certain sections of the community, that is inclusive, and that aspires to promote good relations between all sections of the community in the longer term.</p> <p>The language policies are introduced so as to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the promotion of a good and harmonious environment, either among Council staff or within the District as a whole.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs implications are considered as part of the implementation and delivery of the regional and minority language programme of activity</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working group of 3 rd March 2021 (appendix 1)
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of 3 rd March 2021.

APPENDIX 1



Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District Council

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 in the Council Offices, Dungannon.

Attendees Members: In attendance and via virtual link: Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Wilbert Buchanan, Cllr Sean McGuigan, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Cora Corry. Cllr Ian Milne

Officers: Tony McCance, By Remote link: Déaglán Ó Doibhlin.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Apologies	
	Adrian McCreesh, Seán Mac Nia, Cllr Kim Ashton	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
	Declaration of interest submitted by Cllr Corey in regard to an application for Seachtain na Gaeilge funding by Moneyneena and District Dev Association.	
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th October 2020.	
	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting of 5 th October 2020 was presented to the Working Group. T. McCance provided an update on the progress of Item 4 of the minutes of the 5 th October meeting of the RML working group. With regard to road signage, procurement and installation is	

	<p>continuing at pace although Covid restrictions in place in the Electoral Office continue to impact on the work of officers as they need to gain access to electoral database.</p> <p>With regard to bi lingual signage programme across the Council estate, T. McCance advised the Working Group that the procurement exercise involving the re-tendering of this work as mentioned at previous meeting was now complete and a successful contractor has been identified both for facility bi lingual signage and road name signage.</p> <p>With regard to staffing arrangements T McCance informed the meeting that the temporary appointment of a second Irish language officer was ending and the recruitment process to fill the vacant post on a permanent basis had been initiated.</p>							
4.0	Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 update							
	<p>D Ó Doibhlin informed the meeting that there had been 11 applications in total for funding for Seachtain na Gaeilge projects, with 10 successful and the remaining applicant asked to re-apply under the upcoming Irish language Activity Grant scheme. Details are as follows:</p> <p>Mid-Ulster District Council Seachtain na Gaeilge Awards 2021</p> <table> <tr> <th>Applicant</th><th>Project Title</th><th>Award</th></tr> <tr> <td>Moneyneena and District Development Association</td><td> <p>“Being Seen, Being Heard</p> <p>In order to increase the visibility and encourage the use of the language we will engage with the local community in Moneyneena and District during Seachtain na Gaeilge to make the language more visible and to encourage people to use the language in everyday life. We wish to make the Irish language more visible on the An Ráth Dubh site with a view to supporting and encouraging its use within the Moneyneena area of Baile na Scrine. We propose that this would include bilingual signage within the An Ráth Dubh Centre, on</p> </td><td>£1,000</td></tr> </table>	Applicant	Project Title	Award	Moneyneena and District Development Association	<p>“Being Seen, Being Heard</p> <p>In order to increase the visibility and encourage the use of the language we will engage with the local community in Moneyneena and District during Seachtain na Gaeilge to make the language more visible and to encourage people to use the language in everyday life. We wish to make the Irish language more visible on the An Ráth Dubh site with a view to supporting and encouraging its use within the Moneyneena area of Baile na Scrine. We propose that this would include bilingual signage within the An Ráth Dubh Centre, on</p>	£1,000	T McCance
Applicant	Project Title	Award						
Moneyneena and District Development Association	<p>“Being Seen, Being Heard</p> <p>In order to increase the visibility and encourage the use of the language we will engage with the local community in Moneyneena and District during Seachtain na Gaeilge to make the language more visible and to encourage people to use the language in everyday life. We wish to make the Irish language more visible on the An Ráth Dubh site with a view to supporting and encouraging its use within the Moneyneena area of Baile na Scrine. We propose that this would include bilingual signage within the An Ráth Dubh Centre, on</p>	£1,000						

		its 2 acre site incorporating childrens, playpark, community garden & walkway.		
	Granaghan Womens Group Swatragh	“Lá Fhéile Pádraig ar Líne” (Online Seachtain na Gaeilge event) A cultural celebration with Irish language learning, poetry and song	£180	
	Cairdeas Eoghain Cookstown	“Ceangáilte” (Connected) Our project is all about connections and using our Irish language skills. Due to the current pandemic the young people have missed out on using their language skills in social settings as all clubs and afterschool activities have been cancelled and even meeting up with their friends has been restricted. We plan on organising the following: - online workshop with Seamas Mac Eochaidh who will read snippets of his newly published book - Is mise Úna. This book is based on the move to secondary school and finding your feet as a teenager. Each child will receive a copy of the book. (For those in R5-R7) - 2 online cartooning workshops with Jarla (For those aged 7+) - online chat with Seo Linn and the young people will take part in singing of some popular pop songs as Gaeilge (€450). (For young people aged 11-14yrs)	£700	
	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	“Craic agus Cultúr” (Fun with Culture)	£1,200	

	Dungannon	<p>We want to give our families and children the chance to sample all aspects of Gaelic culture during the festival.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Music workshop with Clann Mhic Cionnaith covering a range of musical instruments. Concert at the end of the workshop. 2. Traditional dance workshops with “Tura”. 3. Sport – Two sessions with Óga Ioga 4. Language – poetry competition with prizes 		
	Piarsaigh an Ghallbhaile GAC Galbally	<p>“Lá Fhéile Pádraig sa Bhaile agus Thar Sáile” (St Patrick’s Day at Home and Abroad)</p> <p>An online bilingual festival and project recording the memories of the older generation.</p>	£500	
	South Derry Cultural and Historical Society	“Infheiceacht na Teanga – Ceardlann Feasa” (Online event looking at ways to increase the visibility of Irish in the community)	£300	
	Naíscoil Aodha Rua Dungannon	<p>“Ag Cur Síolta na Gaeilge sa Phobal” (Sowing the seeds of the language in the community)</p> <p>We wish to give our community the chance to learn about St Patrick, the story of the shamrock, and the most common Irish language prayer associated with the saint. We will send a pot with soil and shamrock seeds home to the families, with a copy of the prayer “Críost Liom” composed by the saint and encourage them to grow</p>	£300	

		the plants, learn the prayer and say it as a family every night during the festival.		
	An Clochar Éire Óg GAC Clogher	<p>“Logainmneacha An Chlochair” (A Celebration of the Placenames of Clogher);</p> <p>Research and presentation online of key placenames in the district to celebrate the Irish language heritage of the Clogher area.</p>	£300	
	CLG Naomh Pádraig Eglish	<p>‘Logainmneacha na hEaglaise’ (The Placenames of Eglish)</p> <p>Hosted by Dónal Mac an Ailín, Cultural Officer of CLG Naomh Pádraig, Caoimhín Mac Dhónaill will speak of his study of the placenames of the District of Eglish. The talk will be followed by an online debate for members of the community can learn and give input. The event will be followed up with a digital publication of the placenames and their meaning and history.</p>	£150	
	CLG Naomh Colmcille Coalisland	<p>“Canúintí Gaeilge Éireann agus Alban” (Gaelic Dialects of Ireland and Scotland)</p> <p>Dr Art Hughes</p> <p>An online bilingual talk delivered by Dr Art Hughes</p>	£150	
	Total		£4,780	

5.0	Irish Language Implementation Plan update	
	<p>D Ó Doibhlin gave an update on progress in the delivery of the current Irish Language Implementation Plan. Most actions had been achieved with the exception of services adversely impacted by the pandemic, in particular the Irish in the Primary programme and the RML Bursary scheme, while a number of other actions such as adult language tuition and Irish language heritage promotion had been refocused to allow their delivery online. This had required the successful development of a range of online resources by Mr Seán Mac Nia (temporary Irish Language Officer). Also as yet to be completed was the development of a bilingual website by Council and the development of a bilingual settlement signage programme.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson asked if details could be provided as to the number of enquiries received in Irish by Council reception staff over the course of the year.</p> <p>Following a question from Cllr McNamee, T McCance stated that development of a fully bilingual website would necessitate the expenditure of £15,000 to £20000 to mirror the existing website content in Irish. Cllr Corey felt that key elements of the site could developed at a much lower cost rather than the whole site. Cllr McGuigan also felt that some parts of the site were suitable for development initially with the rest coming at a later stage. T McCance offered to speak with Marketing and Communication who have responsibility for the website to see what is achievable.</p> <p>Cllr McNamee enquired as to the delay with the settlement signage programme. T McCance stated that no policy or mechanism existed at a corporate level for such a programme. Cllr Milne asked if the same process as was in use for road signage could be used, T McCance replied that whatever process were to be developed would need to be applicable across the region. Cllr McPeake asked if officers could follow up on the development of a settlement signage programme. Cllr McGuigan added that there was much community support for such a measure and that it may help to investigate what other councils are doing in this regard. Cllr Corey pointed to the success of the Turas, Irish language project in East Belfast and stated that the shared heritage of the Irish language could help to offset any potential</p>	<p>D Ó Doibhlin</p> <p>T McCance to ascertain whether this information is kept by Council at present. If not, request that a recording mechanism is introduced</p> <p>T McCance to liaise with Marketing and Communications</p>

	<p>negativity around this issue. Cllr McNamee stated that there was a need for Council to deliver on unachieved aims and asked that information on this matter be brought back to future meetings. Cllr Milne suggested that Senior Management within Council could take this matter forward for discussion.</p> <p>Cllr Kearney welcomed the recent achievement of An Carn Centre in Tirkane in winning the Glór na nGael, All Ireland language awards stating that it was a timely reminder of the unique contribution the language makes locally as a heritage asset and congratulating the local community in Carntogher on their well-deserved success.</p> <p>Cllr Milne relayed a recent discussion with members of the Cineál Eoghain heritage group where the issue of the use of townland names was raised, stating that it was necessary to support and encourage householders to use their townland in their address. T McCance agreed to investigate mechanisms internally where this could be taken forward.</p>	T McCance to liaise with relevant Council Services
6.0	A.O.B.	
	It was agreed to schedule the next meeting for the end of May	T. McCance
<i>Meeting concluded at 6.50pm</i>		

Reports of Working Groups: Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on committees@midulstercouncil.org with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting

Report on	Community Planning
Date of Meeting	15 th April 2021
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Martina Totten, Celene O'Neill Community Planning

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	Community Planning – to note the community planning update.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Planning – Council currently facilitates the Community Planning process for Mid Ulster District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Council currently facilitates the Community Planning process for Mid Ulster. The Community Plan is being led by a number of partners and Council. A summary of activity currently being progressed by the Community Planning team of Council is detailed below:</p> <p>Social and Affordable Housing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Ulster Housing Working Group – A meeting is being arranged for May for the working group members to address issues raised by members on: Housing Association rents & NIHE LHA and rent related poverty DFC Private Rented Sector Review DFC Right to Buy Review Infrastructure and Housing Area Plan and Social Housing – housing units, mixed tenure and quality environment Social and affordable housing need and provision – land review for potential housing Housing quality and standard review 2. NIHE Engagement Housing Association rents & NIHE LHA and rent related poverty – formal letter for a review to commence Issues as per the Working Group Latent demand tests; requests and promotion of these to community when commence 3. Social and Affordable Housing proposals – linking with planning to monitor applications being proposed for housing re design and environment

4. Member Engagement – Session to be arranged end April with all members on the 2 forthcoming consultations

Right to Buy Review

Private Rented Sector Review

And forthcoming NIHE Social House delivery proposals

5. Dungannon Town – a pilot housing and regeneration place shaping plan is currently being completed for Dungannon town in partnership with the NIHE.
6. Mid Ulster Women's Aid – supporting on the development of housing for users of Women's Aid.

Poverty

1. Engagement with DFC regarding a planned session with members on the new DFC Poverty Strategy
2. Working with NILGA on engaging on the Poverty initiatives of Government.
3. Sessions held with Council departments on taking forward the Mid Ulster Poverty Plan and co development of schemes.
4. Sessions and ongoing engagement with the community planning partners on taking forward poverty initiatives.

Health and Wellbeing

1. Mental health lobbying for greater investment and integration in services.
2. Support to the Schools for Hope programme as a pilot.
3. Support to community led counselling network
4. Consultation responses e.g. Stroke Services, Regional Trauma Centre, Sport & Physical Activity etc.
5. Ongoing engagement and liaison with Trusts on strategic investment for Mid Ulster – e.g. Ambulance response and Mid Ulster hub, Oakridge, Health Hubs across the District etc.
6. Overseeing the GP Forum regarding service provision across Mid Ulster
7. Health and Wellbeing local plans being developed-areas across the district

Economic Development and Infrastructure

1. Overseeing strategic road Bypass meetings with Economic Development, DfI and Members.
2. Engagement with NI Water Service on infrastructure development.

Education & Skills

1. Responding to the Department for Education's SEN Framework consultation, the EA's special education provision and Area Planning consultation and Member engagement with Department for Education SEN Team.
2. School engagement support – regular meetings with Area Learning Partnerships – Dungannon (including Cookstown) and Magherafelt on programmes to engage with, careers support, peer mentoring programmes
3. Labour Market Partnership Model – working with Economic Development to establish model and link engagement between DfC & MUDC
4. Engagement with the programmes in schools by Council – Positive Relations and Good Relations programmes to ensure linked to community plan actions.

	General <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Planning Board and thematic group meetings and sub group facilitation. 2. Monitoring, data collection and analysis of all community planning actions 3. Reviews of Community Plan with DFC 4. Response submitted to the Programme for Government on the community planning priorities. 5. Engagement with community groups and members through DEA forums along with the community team. 6. Representation at meetings where issues are cross departmental
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> None. <u>Professional Support</u> None
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the Community Planning update.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None

