



04 July 2018

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Wednesday, 04 July 2018 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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| 4. | Strategic Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough | 3 - 6 |
| 5. | Washingbay Wetlands Park Development Plan | 7 - 14 |
| 6. | Visitor Signage at Lough Fea | 15 - 18 |
| 7. | Economic Development Report | 19 - 108 |
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| 9. | Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme | 123 - 130 |
| 10. | Learning Journey to The Boyne Valley for 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers | 131 - 132 |
| 11. | Loan of Council Equipment to External Groups or Organisations | 133 - 146 |
| 12. | Project Coordinating Officer for the Sperrins | 147 - 152 |

Matters for Information

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| 13 | Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018 | 153 - 170 |
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| 16 | Visitor Information Centres Mystery Shopper 100% Achievement | 219 - 222 |

17	Corporate Events	223 - 224
18	WorldHost Ambassador Training - Lake Torrent, Coalisland	225 - 226
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20	Upskilled and Ready for Business	229 - 232

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

21. Maghera Town Centre Forum - Proposed Membership
22. Cyclical Replacement Plan for Leisure Fitness Equipment

Matters for Information

23. Minutes of Confidential Business of Development Meeting held on Thursday 14 June 2018

Report on	Strategic Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 for progressing the proposed developments at Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough to the next stage as outlined in the strategic business case.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>In 2014, Mid Ulster Council submitted a funding application to the funding programme, Space and Place for the purchase and development of 6.5 acres of derelict land adjacent to Railway Park, Dungannon as a community greenspace. Although the application was unsuccessful, the Council nevertheless purchased the land and initiated further consultation with the local community, on developing the whole of Railway Park (20 acres) as a welcoming place for recreation and leisure.</p> <p>Since then, draft design concepts of the proposed development for the Park were produced, detailed design was completed for a pump track and further consultation taken place with the local community the District Electoral Area (DEA) Councillors and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI). With the potential to submit a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Parks for People Programme), in February 2018, the Council commissioned this study to further develop the proposals by reviewing all previous work undertaken in the area related to Railway Park namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council's Space and Place Business Plan (2014), - Macro design of pump track – Railway Park (Arron Cartwright, 2015) - Designing out crime – Railway Park (PSNI, 2017) - Draft design concepts – Railway Park (Herron Architects, 2017) <p>and to consult further with those stakeholders who had been omitted from previous consultation. In addition, the Council has recognised the importance of linking the Park to Ballysaggart Lough. Ballysaggart Lough, often referred to the 'Black Lough' is situated 0.25 miles from Railway Park and is recognised by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) as a significantly important wetland area in the Council area after Lough Neagh.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In November 2017, Mid Ulster Council commissioned Outdoor Recreation NI to undertake a Strategic Outline Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon.

3.2	<p>Development proposal for Railway Park provided three indicative cost options</p> <p>Option 1 at £0 (do nothing) Option 2 £944,500 Option 3 £555,800 (bare minimum).</p>
3.3	<p>Railway Park could be turned into a quality, shared and accessible green/open space. It would open the site to new members of the community, increasing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion. Ideally, the full project would be delivered in one phase, but with limited external funding available, phasing the project is considered a more realistic proposition moving forward. If a phased approach is taken, it must be of sufficient scope and scale to make an obvious impact on the ground. Consequently, consideration should be given to delivering the western section phase of Railway Park initially, followed by the eastern section and finally the central area.</p>
3.4	<p>Delivery of the phases would be subject to funding and securing additional external funding support.</p> <p>Development proposal for Ballysaggart Lough provided four indicative cost options</p> <p>Option 1 £0 (do nothing), Option 2 £610,500 Option 3 £239,500 Option 4 £163,500 (bare minimum)</p> <p>Ballysaggart Lough development poses significant constraints in relation to securing land ownership which is likely to prevent options 2 or 3 going ahead in the immediate future. Option 4 (bare minimum) costed at £163,500 would enhance the overall experience to the site mainly through providing toilets and upgrading the existing trails and visitor services.</p>
3.5	<p>Delivery of the proposal would be subject to funding and securing additional external funding support.</p> <p>The next stage of the development programme is to seek the appointment of suitable qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Costs attributed to the appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to manage the project through to appropriate RIBA Stage with agreed stage breaks subject to funding. Capital Project cost of £431,500 for Phase 1 which will be subject to funding availability. Additional external funding is being sought.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate initial project development objectives.</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	Approval for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for Phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Railway Park and Ballysaggart Strategic Business Case (Appendix 1)

Report on	Washingbay Wetlands Park Development Plan
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4 th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 for Washingbay Development Plan and financial contribution to project costs as presented.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster district Council own and manage the four hectare Local Nature reserve at Washingbay. Local community group Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership (LNLP) have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery, Sports Council, Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Rural Development Programme to deliver a comprehensive development plan for the site. The development proposals are requesting that council be a key partner to endorse and provide financial and project management support to progress the development plan for the site. The proposed schedule of works for Washingbay Wetlands Park will provide an overall strategic focus for the development of the site as an environmental and recreational hub that would complement proposed developments for Coalisland, Blackwater catchment & SW Lough Neagh Peatlands. Scoping for the project has been informed through the community planning process identifying priority themes and projects which would complement the current MUDC Community Plan, MUDC Tourism Strategy, Washing Bay Village Plan and LNP's Landscape Conservation Plan.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Partnership previously presented the Masterplan for Washing Bay to Development Committee. At that meeting, Council was asked to support the development plans to the site. The project proposes to create new and improved access opportunities for healthy living, tourism, outdoor recreation and environmental education & interpretation. The provision of a "wild campsite" and associated infrastructure will add accessibility to the existing Lough Neagh Canoe Trail complimenting access opportunities for recreation, healthy living & heritage interpretation, alongside improved children's play facilities on site. The project will seek to upgrade infrastructure within the nature reserve and improve shoreline access and create a circular walking route that boundaries the properties owned by MUDC and Derrylaughan GAC. The Washing Bay Wetlands Park Development Plan is sub-divided into two delivery projects.</p>

	<p>Proposed potential projects: Project 1) Walkway with park lighting (£175,000)</p> <p>Project 2) Lough Neagh access project (£119,850)</p> <p>Legal issues: Main development site owned by MUDC with current Service Level Agreement with Muintir na Mointeach. Approval for SLA amendment to include extension of inspection/maintenance responsibilities. Approval from Derrylaughan GAC for access to development public path route on club lands.</p> <p>Financial issues: Project 1 - Stage 2 business case application with Sport NI "Everybody active, Outdoor spaces" - £75,000 secured on business case. £75,000 Match Funding Offer from DAERA. Match funding required from MUDC £25,000.</p> <p>Project 2 - Secured funding of £23,650.00 from the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. Potential RDP Cooperation Programme £96,200k.</p> <p>Technical issues: Both proposals need developed to technical design stage (RIBA Stage 4).</p> <p>Project 1 Sport NI have requested that Council lead on design, procurement and project management elements along with the £25k financial contribution.</p> <p>Project 2 Technical design has been costed at £2,600.00. LNLP can cover up to £1,600.00 leaving a shortfall of £1,000.00, which is being requested from council. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership will project manage the scheme. Match funding required from MUDC £1,000</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Council contribution to the Washingbay Development Plan is calculated to be £26,000 based on the development proposal submitted by Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. The £25,000 capital funding will leverage £150,000 additional funding into the development of the Council owned Washing Bay site. The SLA for maintenance of the site will need amended to include the additional infrastructure. This has yet to be negotiated but it is likely to incur additional expenditure from the Parks Service annual budget. The £1000 match funding for Project 2 can be allocated from the Parks Service revenue budget.</p> <p>Human: Council are asked to lead on Project 1 design, procurement and delivery.</p> <p>Risk Management: Project will be managed in compliance with council policies and normal operating procedures.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	N/A
	Rural Needs Implications:
	Increasing access in the rural community and contributing to rural economy opportunities
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval for the endorsement the Washing Bay Masterplan as presented by Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership.
5.2	That a request be made to Policy and Resources Committee to allocate £25,000.00 contribution to Project 1 through the Councils' Capital programme.
5.3	Approval for Council to act as lead partner on Project 1 to manage design, procurement and delivery aspects of the scheme with the appointment of and ICT design team.
5.4	Council approval to allocate £1,000.00 contribution to LNLP for Project 2 Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to MURDP Lough Neagh Cooperation programme.
5.5	Approval for SLA amendment between MUDC and Muintir na Mointeach to include extension of inspection/maintenance responsibilities associated with the improved infrastructure.
5.6	Council to seek Permissive Path Agreement with Derrylaughan GAC for creation of additional public path to provide loop trail at Washing Bay Wetlands park.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Washingbay wet lands Park Development Plan presentation by Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. (Appendix 1).

Washing Bay Wetlands Park

“A centre for recreation, healthy living & heritage interpretation”

Presentation to Mid Ulster Council's Development Committee

Wednesday 9th May 2018

Mr Conor Corr (Muintir na Mointeach & CSWAN)

Dr William Burke (Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership)

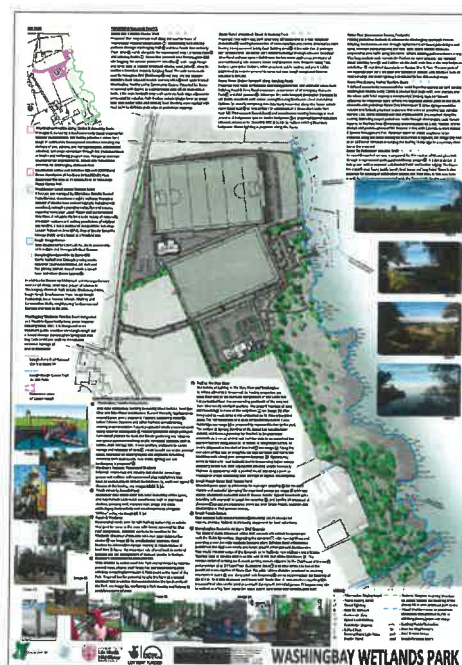


Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



Concept Masterplan developed in 2017 to:

- a. Provide an overall strategic focus for the development of the site as an environmental and recreational hub that would complement proposed developments for Coalisland, Blackwater catchment & SW L. Neagh Peatlands
- b. Informed by consultation via
 - i. Community planning process
 - ii. Rural development engagement
 - iii. Lough Neagh Heritage review
- c. Identify and prioritise projects which would complement:
 - i. MUDC Community Plan
 - ii. MUDC Tourism Strategy
 - iii. Washing Bay Village Plan
 - iv. LNP's Landscape Conservation Plan
- d. Maximise opportunities for securing externally sourced capital funding from Sports Council, RDP, HLF and others



What are the opportunities?

- New "wild campsite" and shore land infrastructure that will complement L. Neagh Canoe Trail
- Improved access opportunities for recreation, healthy living & heritage interpretation
- Improved children's play facilities
- Extended Healthy Living Centre that will facilitate greater community use
- Management plan to improve conservation value of Nature Reserve
- Improved site access from main roads
- New interpretative and information signage throughout the site



What are the opportunities?

New and improved access opportunities for healthy living, tourism, public recreation and environmental education & interpretation.

- Upgrade work in nature reserve
- New shoreline access
- New long distance circular walk
- Link to new peatland walk connecting to Canal and activities linked to the newly secured HLF Great Places programme
- New access links to the Blackwater



Development considerations/Summary

- **Current potential projects:**
- Project 1) Walkway with park lighting (100k)
- Project 2) Lough Neagh access project (100k)
- Legal issues:
 - Main development site owned by MUDC with current gatekeeper SLA with Muintir na Mointeach
- Financial issues:
 - Project 1 - Stage 2 business case application with Sport NI "Everybody active, Outdoor spaces" - £75,000 secured on business case and match funding in place . Match fund required 25k.
 - Project 2 - Secured funding of £23,650.00 from the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. Potential RDP Cooperation Programme being investigated by LNP and MURDP (£75k)
- Technical issues:
 - Need to bring both proposals to technical design stage (RIBA Stage 4). Project 1 can be delivered by Council or Community if match funding of £25k were available. Project 2 has been costed at £2,600.00. LNLP can cover up to £1,600.00 leaving a shortfall of £1,000.00. LNLP would manage the Developmental stage.
- Partnership
 - Need to Identify lead partner in delivery of each project

Next Steps

- We would request that:
 - a. Council give consideration to endorsing the Washingbay Masterplan
 - b. Council give consideration to providing a £25,000.00 contribution to Project 1
 - c. Council approve relevant permissions for Muintir na Mointeach working in partnership with LNLP and MUDC Officers to progress Project 1 as Lead partner
 - d. Council give consideration to providing a £1,000.00 contribution to LNLP who will take Project 2 to Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to MURDP Lough Neagh Cooperation programme

Report on	Visitor Signage at Lough Fea
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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	Upgrade of current visitor information signage and user data collection methods at Lough Fea.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council have been contacted by a members of the public regarding whether or not cycling around Lough Fea is permitted. Cyclists have been using the paths without any conflict issues.
2.2	There are several signs positioned around the Lough stating ' <i>No bikes or quads along the path</i> ' however it is very unclear as to whether this refers to motorised bikes or a bicycle, (Appendix 1). In order to address this identified area of confusion for current and potential visitors to the local beauty spot, clarification is required.
2.3	It is proposed that motorised cycles, motor bikes and quads will remain prohibited from the pathways at Lough Fea, and that pedal cyclists will be permitted.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Lough Fea is a very popular destination within MUDC, attracting just over 51,000 visitors in 2017. A Public Path Agreement was set up in 2004 between the then Cookstown District Council, Department of Regional Development and Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to dedicate a public path around the Lough. This agreement allows for members of the public to pass and repass on foot and the right to ride a pedal cycle.
3.2	An audit was carried out on site to establish the feasibility of a dual use path, for walkers and cyclists. The majority of the path is between 2 – 3 metres wide, however there are a few pinch points at 1.2 m wide. It is recommended that the path around Lough Fea be established as a dual use path with appropriate signage erected for users to show respect to each other, cyclists ring bell or dismount where necessary to do so.
3.3	Forest Service NI have been made aware of this proposal and have no issues with it as it complies with regulations they have for other sites.
3.4	Current visitor information collection methods to be reviewed to facilitate the accurate capture of cyclist data on site.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Additional signage required (Share with care signs) estimated cost £350.00 Upgrade of current data collection equipment £1500.00</p> <p>Above expenditure available in Parks Services annual budget for 2018/19.</p>
	<p>Human: Existing staff resource sufficient to deliver on project.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Appropriate signage erected to reduce risk at pinch points and areas with reduced sight lines.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval is sought for the erection of appropriate signage for clarification of the dual use trail options for both walkers and cyclists to Lough Fea.
5.2	Approval is sought to review and upgrade current data collection methods were necessary to accurately capture visitor usage figures.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Current visitor signage at Lough Fea (Appendix 1).



Report on	1) Revitalisation Projects 2) Broadband Working Group 3) Mid Ulster Business Awards 4) Village Renewal Project 5) Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland 6) Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022 7) GDPR Business Seminar Update - 16 May 2018
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, 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	Revitalisation Projects The Department for Communities has requested Council to prepare and submit 'shelf ready projects' in anticipation of funding becoming available for 2018/19.
2.2	Broadband Working Group A Broadband Working Group is to be set up to develop proposals for Broadband enhancement within the Mid Ulster area and write to the Secretary of State to lobby for the release of the allocated funding to be spent on broadband provision especially in rural areas in Mid Ulster.
2.3	Mid Ulster Business Awards At the Development Committee meeting in June 2018, Members requested further information be sought from Johnston Press with regard to sponsoring an award category at the Mid Ulster Business Awards.
2.4	Village Renewal Project Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014 -2020. Council will make an application to the Local Action Group for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the

	implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to complement the funding from RDP.
2.5	<p>Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland</p> <p>BT recently commissioned a report on “Fibre Broadband in Rural Northern Ireland”. This was presented at Parliament Buildings on 4 June 2018. It primarily focuses on the economic benefits that would be accrued by the rural areas particular in the west of Northern Ireland if Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) could be delivered.</p>
2.6	<p>Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022</p> <p>At a meeting of the Development Committee in September 2017, the provision of Council match funding towards the following ESF Programmes was approved from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022: SUSE+ (South West College), Up for Work (Network Personnel), Job Match (Network Personnel) and Exploring Enterprise 4 (Enterprise NI).</p>
2.7	<p>GDPR Business Seminar Update - 16 May 2018</p> <p>GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) was implemented from Friday 25th May 2018, replacing the Data Protection Act, but with greater scope. It will have fines for those who fail to comply with new regulations in relation to storage and handling of personal data.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Revitalisation Projects
3.1.1	<p>Magherafelt Project</p> <p>One of the projects identified within the Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project is the upgrading of two pedestrian walkways on Broad Street in Magherafelt, incorporating a public art project. The two pedestrian walkways are located from Broad Street to the Union Road Carpark on the West and Central Carpark on the East. It is proposed that an application is submitted to Department for Communities (DfC) for funding to deliver this project. The estimated cost of this project is approximately £180,000 (DfC £150,000, Council £30,000).</p> <p>As Magherafelt town did not receive any revitalisation funding from DfC in 2017/18, during the public realm scheme, the Department is keen to prioritise funding for Magherafelt first, should funding become available.</p>
3.1.2	<p>Cookstown Project</p> <p>The preferred project that Cookstown would require assistance with during the 2018/2019 financial year is the A29 roundabout project, located on a key gateway to Cookstown. The project would involve refreshing the ‘Cookstown’ brand, and associated works related to upgrading lighting and hard stand area. It is proposed that an application is submitted to DfC for funding to deliver this initiative. The estimated cost is approximately £40,000 (DfC £32,000, Council £8,000).</p>
3.1.3	<p>Dungannon Project</p> <p>Shambles Lane has been identified as the preferred project, should funding become available in the financial year 2018/2019. The lane provides a key linkage between Scotch Street and Irish Street / Ann Street within the town centre, particularly in light of the Council’s plans to develop the Ann Street site. The Dungannon Masterplan identifies the Ann Street / Irish Street area as a unique opportunity to create an area with a distinct character and poses an opportunity to develop a unique gateway into the town centre.</p>

	<p>There is currently a poor standard of public realm in Shambles Lane which is an integral linkage to allow pedestrians to circulate easily and safely between different areas of the town centre.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the scheme will involve paving refurbishment, installation of street furniture, lighting, signage and associated landscaping works, and the work will greatly enhance the overall visual appearance of the street. All works will be agreed with Transport Northern Ireland (TNI) as the adopting authority. It is proposed that an application is submitted to DfC for funding to deliver this project. This estimated cost of this project is approximately £100,000 (DfC £80,000, Council £20,000).</p>
3.2	<p>Broadband Working Group</p> <p>Council has agreed to establish a Broadband Working Group. Two options have been provided for membership of the Working Group based on the D'hondt system;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Option 1 - 5 Members – 2 SF, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 SDLP Option 2 - 10 Members – 5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP</p> <p>Members are asked to consider which option they wish to proceed with and nominate the appropriate number of Members accordingly to serve on the Group.</p>
3.3	<p>Mid Ulster Business Awards</p> <p>Following the Development Committee in June 2018, additional information was sought from Johnston Press with regard to funding a business category at the Mid Ulster Business Awards. Appendix 1 sets out details of how Johnston Press will provide additional support to address any deficiencies in coverage in the Clogher Valley area. From the information provided on available business categories to sponsor, it is recommended an update be provided at the meeting, as the current categories for sponsorship have been offered to last year's sponsors first, and the closing date for responses is 22 June 2018. Johnston Press have been asked to provide a further update once responses have been received and considered.</p> <p>Members also sought details of Council business events during 2018/19, these are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI Chamber of Commerce Business Networking Event • Mid Ulster Engineering Event 'Facing the Future' • Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue College at Desertcreat • Digital Seminars • Social Enterprise Event • SMART Construct Event • Brexit Event – Mid Ulster Skills Forum • Launch of Skills Study - Mid Ulster Skills Forum • Launch of New Economic Development Programmes • Enterprise Week – Event to promote new business starts
3.4	<p>Village Renewal Project</p> <p>Underspend has been identified from some contracts coming in under budget at tender stage in the procurement process. Approval is sought to reallocate £87,978 of underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes,</p>

to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.

Knockloughrim/Curran	£40,000
Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush	£40,000
Dunamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan	£40,000
Ballymaguigan/Creagh	£40,000
Washingbay/ Killeen	£40,000
Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/ Donaghey	£40,000
	£240,000

3.5 **Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland**

An independent report was commissioned by BT and undertaken by economic consultancy Dot.Econ to assess the potential benefits from an investment focused in rural areas (Report available on Appendix 2). This was presented at Parliament Buildings on 4 June 2018.

It stated that the key beneficiaries would be the Fermanagh & Omagh District and Mid-Ulster District Council areas, currently the most disadvantaged in terms of high-speed broadband availability in Northern Ireland.

The report suggested that investing in ultra-fast broadband would help to realise several of the goals set out in the Department for the Economy's Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, which include reducing economic inactivity, improving collaboration, increasing global competitiveness and supporting digital intensive sectors.

The report found that increased employment would be the largest source of benefit, amounting to £890 million by 2033, or about £6 for every £1 invested.

The expansion of ultra-fast fibre broadband in rural areas could also lead to carbon abatement through home or teleworking, e-commerce and the use of cloud computing, while fibre broadband would also facilitate digital inclusion, improving rural communities' access to public services. The report also concluded that the economic, social and environmental benefits of the government's proposed £150m investment in ultra-fast fibre broadband in rural areas of Northern Ireland has been estimated at £1.2 billion and estimates that, for every £1 spent, there would be a benefit of around £8 to the region's economy over 15 years.

3.6 **Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022**

All four Programmes are now in receipt of Letters of Offer from the Department for the Economy and an Update Report on the final funding packages and targets to be achieved by each over the 4 years is included in Appendix 3 (attached).

3.7 **GDPR Business Seminar - 16 May 2018**

Prior to the implementation of GDPR, Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Workspace delivered a GDPR Business Seminar. This took place on Wednesday 16th May 2018, 8.00am-10.00am, Burnavon, Cookstown, with 120 businesses in attendance. Prestige HR GDPR delivered an overview of the regulations and how businesses can prepare and implement processes to comply with the regulation. Feedback from the seminar has been extremely positive.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Revitalisation Projects – If the three revitalisation projects are successful in being awarded 80% funding from DfC, provision of 20% match funding is required from Council's Capital budget as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magherafelt Project - £30,000 • Cookstown Project - £8,000 • Dungannon Project - £20,000 <p>Mid Ulster Business Awards – Sponsorship of an award category of £1,750+Vat from Council's economic development budget 2018/19.</p> <p>Village Renewal Project - To reallocate £87,978 of underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes up to the value of £240,000, to the six villages which have not been allocated funding –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000 • Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000 • Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000 • Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000 • Washingbay/ Killeen - £40,000 • Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000 <p>ESF Programmes (4 No.) 2018-2022 – provision made in economic development budget for match funding of up to £271,596 over a 4 year period</p> <p>Human: Officer time.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked;</p> <p>Revitalisation Projects To approve recommendation to prepare and submit 'shelf ready' applications to DfC for Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown revitalisation projects during 2018/19. Furthermore if the projects are successful in attaining funding from DfC, then approval is sought to provide 20% match funding from Council's capital budget, of approximately £58,000.</p>

5.2	<p>Broadband Working Group To select Option 1 (5 Members) or Option 2 (10 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group, based on the D'hondt system and nominate the appropriate number of Members accordingly.</p>
5.3	<p>Mid Ulster Mail Business Awards To consider sponsoring an award category in the Mid Ulster Business Awards at a cost of £1,750+Vat.</p>
5.4	<p>Village Renewal Project To approve reallocation of £87,978 underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000 • Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000 • Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000 • Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000 • Washingbay/ Killeen - £40,000 • Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000
5.5	<p>Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland To note report on Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland.</p>
5.6	<p>Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022 To note ESF match funded programmes Update Report.</p>
5.7	<p>GDPR Business Seminar - 16 May 2018 To note GDPR Seminar Update</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Business Awards</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Deployment of FTTP in Rural Northern Ireland</p> <p>Appendix 3 - ESF Programmes Update Report - July 2018</p>

APPENDIX 1 – MID ULSTER BUSINESS AWARDS

From: Julie Forde [mailto:julie.forde@jpress.co.uk]
Sent: 15 June 2018 15:00
To: Fiona McKeown <Fiona.McKeown@midulstercouncil.org>
Subject: Mid-Ulster Business Awards November 2018

Hi Fiona

Thank you so much for your call today, I really appreciate the opportunity to provide you with information which I trust addresses the points you made earlier in our chat.

Circulation & Outreach to Clogher Valley Area:

Our Mid-Ulster Mail and Tyrone Times titles circulation includes Clogher, Augher, Fivemiletown and Ballygawley.

Awards Venue:

We are considering several hotels as venues for this year's awards including Corick House Hotel & Spa

Promoting Awards Entry Forms & Voting of Reader Favourite Categories:

- We will spend time on foot in person in the Clogher area visiting business to business in the area, promoting our Award entry forms.
- We will also promote the awards at Clogher Valley Show 25th July
- We'll also spend time on foot in person in the Clogher area visiting businesses, coffee shops, community meeting places etc when it comes time for Readers to vote for their favourites in our three reader vote categories.
- When promoting our awards face to face with people, we will encourage people to sign up to and follow our Mid-Ulster Mail and Tyrone Times on Facebook and Twitter
- We will also encourage people to visit our dedicated Awards Website to sign up to receive information about the awards

Social Media & Online:

We will promote the awards and reader category voting on both our titles, facebook and twitter platforms

Categories: (see overleaf)

- SME Business of the Year and Best Retailer are definitely available and are great categories to mirror the Council's endeavour of supporting local small businesses
- Lifetime Achievement, if no Main Sponsor is secured, will be available
- Business Person: is annually supported by the 3 Business Centres, we expect they will be keen to, again this year
- the following category is out with last year's sponsors for re-confirming until Friday 22nd June:; Best Manufacturer

Council:

- If Council have or know of any iconic venue or landmark in the Clogher Valley area, we would be more than happy to look at launching our awards there
- We can provide artwork for Council to share news about the awards with Councils Clogher Valley contacts, customers, businesses

To fund one category is £1750+vat, but if you were interested in securing two of these categories, I can offer you a reduced rate of £2500+vat for two categories.

I trust this covers off what we discussed earlier Fiona but if there's anything I can help with else at all, please just let me know

Many thanks

Julie Forde

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EventsJPNI>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JPNIEvents>

14 Award Categories

Non Reader Vote Categories (11 No)

Best Retailer

Best Export Business

Best Manufacturer

Business Person of the Year

Best Digital Initiative and Use of Social Media

Best Environmental Impact Business

Excellence in People Development

SME Business of the Year

Best Community Impact

Excellence in Tourism

Lifetime Achievement Award

Reader Vote Categories (3 No)

Best Customer Service Business

Best Café/Takeaway

Best Restaurant

Deployment of FTTP in rural Northern Ireland

A DotEcon report for NI
Networks, part of BT

22 May 2018

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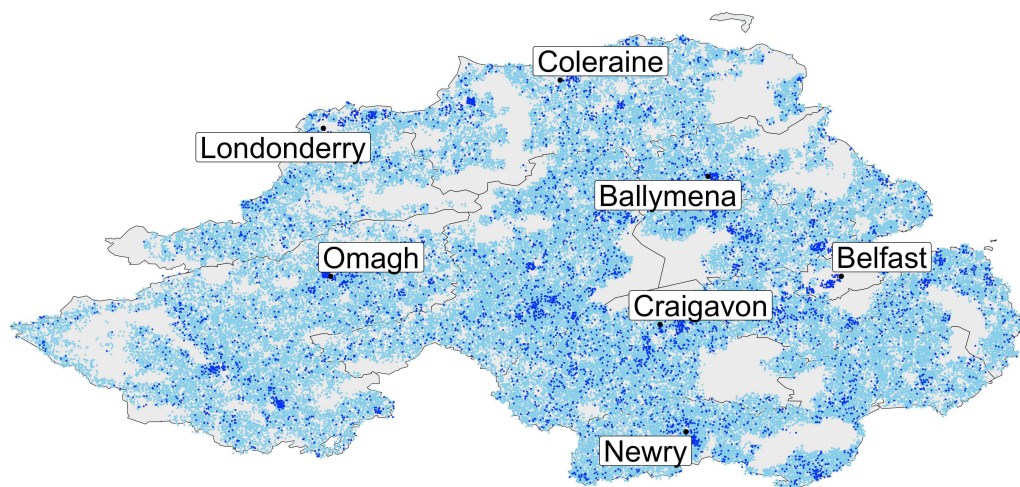
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Executive Summary

This report estimates the benefits for the Northern Irish economy from extending ultrafast broadband. BT is supportive of the proposed investment, outlined under the DUP and Conservative Confidence & Supply Arrangement, which will see £150m of public funds allocated to a public procurement. For this reason, we have been commissioned by NI Networks, part of BT, to provide an independent assessment of the potential economic and wider social and environmental benefits that might result.

Roll-out plans

BT's roll out plans for the investment (shown below) would see approximately 140,000 additional households and business premises provided with ultrafast broadband with download speeds of at least 30 Mb/s. The roll-out is phased but would be largely complete by 2021. We estimate that roughly 6,900 business premises would benefit. Given the rural focus, we can expect these to mainly be small and micro businesses, plus some agriculture.

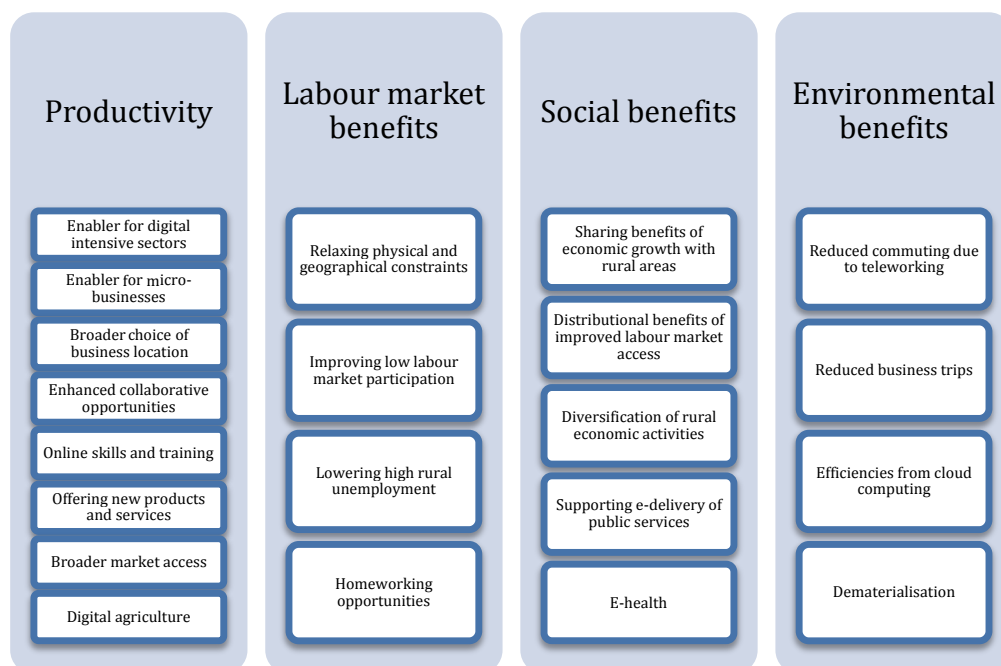


Categorising benefits

The key benefits of ultrafast broadband fall into four categories:

- increases in productivity;
- improvement in labour market participation and employment levels; and
- social benefits, including distributional benefits and greater digital inclusion; and
- environmental benefits.

The main generators of these benefits are summarised in the figure below. Productivity benefits arise when there is an increase in the value of the output produced per hour of work. Such increases can arise from more effective working, time savings, introduction of new products and services, skilling sharing and greater collaborative opportunities and greater market access. Labour market benefits arise both from improved employment opportunities and greater participation in the labour market.



Rural areas are disadvantaged in broadband provision

There are good reasons to expect an intervention raising rural broadband speeds to be particularly effective in Northern Ireland, where geo-demographics and planning regulations provide unique challenges in broadband provision to rural areas. Rural areas in Northern Ireland are relatively disadvantaged in terms of the availability of high-speed broadband both relative to urban areas in Northern Ireland and relative to other rural areas in the UK.

Benefits through enhanced productivity and employment

The proposed fibre investment will help to realise several of the goals set out in the DfE's Industrial Strategy, which include reducing economic inactivity, improving collaboration within Northern Ireland, increasing global competitiveness and supporting digital-intensive sectors. At present, Northern Ireland's economy – and particularly its rural areas – struggles with low productivity, high economic inactivity and high unemployment. Faster and more reliable broadband could play a significant role in helping to address these issues by allowing businesses to work more efficiently, encouraging business relocation and opening up labour market opportunities through remote working.

Environmental and social benefits

High-speed broadband can lead to carbon abatement through teleworking, dematerialisation, eCommerce and use of cloud computing. Better broadband will also facilitate digital inclusion, improving individuals' ability to access public services, such as online Universal Credit applications and e-health.

Using previous evaluations of intervention to forecast benefits

A number of studies have evaluated the impact of previous interventions to improve broadband in the UK, finding significant benefits. In our approach, we focus on a small selection of studies that we consider relevant to the Northern Irish setting. We seek to reapply their findings, taking into account local circumstances. These studies are:

- The UK Broadband Impact Study
- The Broadband Voucher Scheme Impact and Benefits Study
- The Superfast Cornwall Final Evaluation Report

We draw on experiences from previous broadband interventions in the UK, especially in Cornwall, to illustrate the impact channels through which ultrafast broadband might benefit firms, households and the economy as a whole. High-speed broadband should improve the productivity of firms' existing operations. Reviews of Superfast Broadband in Cornwall show that access to high-speed broadband also enables businesses to offer new services, such as opening online shops or using Wi-Fi in the hospitality industry. It may also affect business location decisions. Increased options for teleworking may increase labour participation, improve productivity and bring environmental benefits.

Estimating benefits

To estimate benefits, we have largely reapplied the methodology used in previous ex post assessments of broadband interventions. However, we have made certain changes where this leads to more robust results, where there are data limitations or to bring the delineation of benefits into alignment with our four categories. Throughout we have sought to make conservative assumptions.

Benefits are considered over a 15-year horizon and discounted according to HM Treasury Green Book assumptions. A conservative rate of underlying productivity growth across Northern Ireland (1% per annum) is assumed.

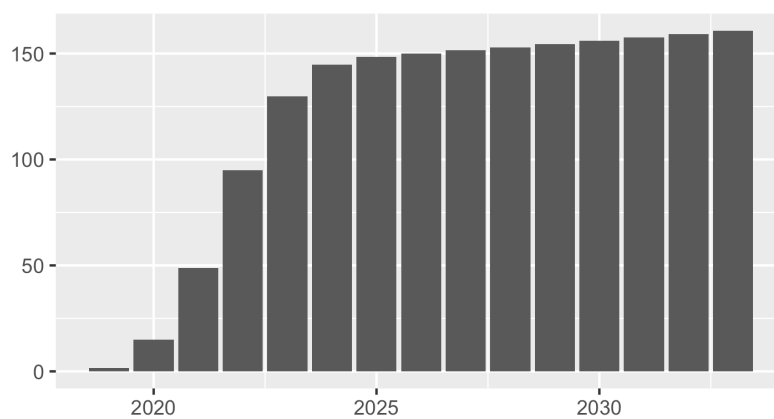
Our preferred, central estimate of benefits is based on using:

- the UK Broadband Impact Study to estimate productivity growth;
- the Superfast Cornwall evaluation to estimate employment growth; and
- the methodology of UK Broadband Impact Study combined with our own regression model to estimate increased teleworking.

Around £8 of benefit for every £1 spent

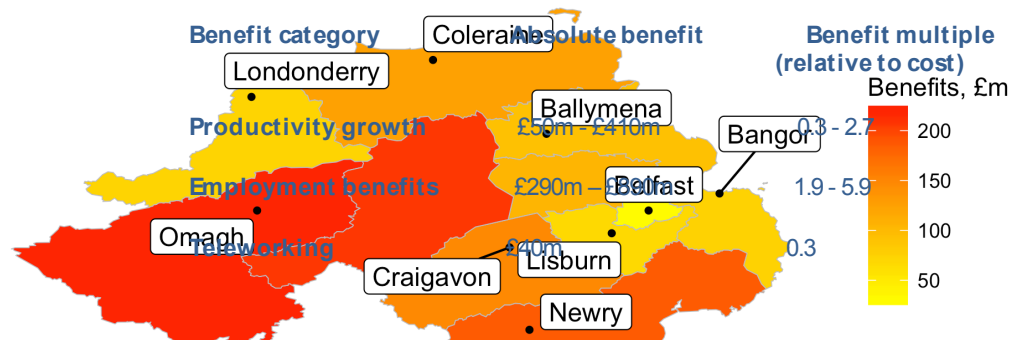
On this basis, total benefits to the NI economy until 2033 are estimated to be £1.2 billion for a subsidy cost of around £150m.

Yearly (undiscounted) benefit, £m



This implies that every £1 of subsidy could create £7.90 of economic benefit.

To assess the robustness of this conclusion, estimated ranges for benefits using different methodologies are summarised below.



Total benefits are anticipated to be in range of **£380 million** to **£1.33 billion** as compared with a subsidy cost of around £150m. This implies that every £1 of subsidy could create between £2.50 and £8.90 of economic benefit to the Northern Irish economy.

Additional
environmental
benefits

In addition, we find that, as a lower bound, the investment will lead to at least 230,000 tCO₂e of carbon abatement over the 15-year period.

Stable benefit flow
achieved by around
2025

The time profile of benefits until 2033 for the central case is shown below. The phasing of benefits arises from our assumptions about roll-out and take-up. By 2024, the annual (undiscounted) benefit is about £150m per annum, with subsequent increases being driven by general economic growth.



Benefits accrue
mainly where
productivity is
currently low

The regional breakdown of the benefits, split by eleven Local Government Districts, is illustrated below.

The largest benefits accrue in Fermanagh and Omagh, and Mid-Ulster districts, where the roll-out plans are focussed. The intervention is thus directed towards the western part of the country, where output per head is currently about half that of Belfast.

1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

BT is supportive of the proposed investment in ultrafast broadband, outlined under the DUP and Conservative Confidence & Supply Arrangement, which will see £150m of public funds allocated to a public procurement. This would extend the availability of ultrafast broadband with at least 30Mb/s download speed to about 140,000 additional households and business premises in rural areas of Northern Ireland.

DotEcon has been commissioned by NI Networks, part of BT, to make an independent economic appraisal of the net benefits that arise from this intervention. This includes estimating the Gross Value Added (GVA) created against the counterfactual of no extra public funding. We also identify potential additional social and environmental benefits.

1.2 Overview of our approach

Speeds in the order of 100Mb/s enabled

The characteristics of the new services enabled by this investment will depend on how communications providers make use of the infrastructure operator's new optical fibre in these areas. The speeds on offer to customers will depend primarily on choices those providers make about their backhaul capacity, rather than any limitation arising from the fibre. We expect speeds in the order of 100Mb/s to be offered, with future upgrade paths to higher speeds being enabled.

NI's particular circumstances enhance potential benefits

Northern Ireland's geo-demographics and planning regulations have led to unique challenges in broadband provision¹ due to the population outside urban areas being less clustered into villages and groups of houses than the UK Mainland and most other EU Member States. However, this also creates opportunities for the intervention to enable new business activity, especially amongst micro-businesses, in the intervention area.

Our approach relies on quantifying the benefits of high-speed broadband by considering how benefits may manifest themselves

¹ Despite a high proportion of VDSL (FTTC) penetration, the proportion of premises with sub-24Mb download speeds is one of the highest in any UK region. This is attributable to the particular difficulty associated with provision in rural Northern Ireland where planning regulations have led to 'a house in every field' (see Connected Nations 2015 - Northern Ireland report, Ofcom).

Productivity improvements, new services, business formation and increased labour force participation

to businesses and individuals and estimating the benefits under a number of mutually exclusive headings.

We can group impacts into four categories, which we quantify separately:

- Increased productivity;
- Increased teleworking;
- Increased employment levels; and
- External benefits, such as environmental benefits.

Our estimates are largely obtained by reapplying estimates of impacts estimated from previous interventions and adjusting them for Northern Ireland's specific circumstances. We focus on three studies that provide ex post reviews of interventions:

- the UK Broadband Impact Study;
- the Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme Impact and Benefits Study; and
- the Superfast Cornwall Final Evaluation Report.

The Cornwall study in particular is very relevant to our analysis, as it involves an intervention in a largely rural area.

We have also undertaken some analysis directly from Ofcom and ONS data to estimate the impact of broadband speeds on the propensity to telework.

1.3 Structure of this report

The report is organised in the following way:

- Section 2 provides a brief review of previous evaluations of high-speed broadband provision;
- Section 3 considers the Northern Irish context, and what features of the economic, geographic and social landscape may imply for the magnitude of benefits. We also discuss how a fibre network investment might help achieve the goals set out in the Department for the Economy (DfE)'s Industrial Strategy;
- Section 4 provides an overview of the likely impact channels by which broadband availability may generate benefits;
- Section 5 gives the quantitative benefit assessment itself;
- Section 6 concludes.

This section discusses previous studies on the economic impact of interventions to increase broadband availability. We focus primarily on interventions that have occurred in the UK. The relevant studies are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Relevant impact studies of broadband availability interventions

Study Geograph-	Date	ical area	Author / sponsor	Methodology
UK Broadband Impact Study	Nov 2013	UK	SQW for DCMS	Cross-sectional study of BB speed on macroeconomic variables
Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme Impact and Benefits Study	Aug 2017	UK	DCMS	Impact study of intervention based on surveys
Superfast Cornwall Final Evaluation Report	June 2015	Cornwall	SERIO and Buckman Associates	Quantitative and qualitative review of the benefits of SFBB in Cornwall, primarily based on surveys.
SME Benefits and Business Opportunities with Superfast Broadband: the Virtuous Circle of Connectivity	Sep 2013	Cornwall	Lacohée and Phippen for Superfast Cornwall project and BT TSO	Primarily qualitative study on impact of Superfast Broadband on business processes.
Delivering Britain's Digital Future	Sept 2015	UK	KPMG	High-level assessment of growth rate impact

To quantify benefits, we focus on the UK Broadband Impact Study, the Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme Impact and Benefits Study, and the Superfast Cornwall Final Evaluation report. Lacohée and Phippen provide a number of interesting case studies showing how superfast broadband has helped businesses in Cornwall, which help in understanding the likely impact channels. The KPMG paper relies primarily on an estimate of the long-run impact of broadband

speed on productivity; this is derived from an earlier academic paper², which is also used in the SQW study for DCMS.

We provide brief summaries of the three key studies' focus and methodology below.

2.1 The UK Broadband Impact Study

The UK Broadband Impact Study was published in 2013 by a consortium led by the consultancy SQW. It tries to measure the benefits to the UK economy from the overall increase in fixed broadband speeds in the UK since 2008. The authors separate out the increases attributable to public interventions, of which there have been several in the relevant period.

Productivity gains are by far the most important benefit

The study relies on a top-down approach. It uses macroeconomic data and territorial aggregates to construct models of productivity, propensity to telework and employment in relation to broadband speed in territorial categories grouped into 10 deciles by density of premises. SQW find that productivity gains are the largest contributor to overall benefits (over 80% of the benefits attributable to the intervention). A critical assumption of the study is the estimate of the elasticity of productivity with respect to broadband speed.

Relevance to Northern Ireland

In contrast to survey-based review, this study relies on analysis of various data sets relating broadband speed, economic outcomes and various controlling factors. The responses of businesses and workers to increased broadband speeds are modelled separately for areas with different population densities. This is helpful, as it provides a ready way to correct for Northern Ireland being more rural than England and Wales.

The key parameter for estimation of productivity effects is the elasticity of productivity with respect to broadband speed. This has been estimated using data from all OECD countries and, therefore, should be broadly representative of Northern Ireland.

2.2 The broadband voucher scheme

The Connection Voucher Scheme, which ran from March 2014 to March 2016, provided thousands of small firms with subsidies that they could use to improve the Internet connection. 54,000 firms had their grants approved and the 42,500 of them who utilised the grants found their new connections to be 18 times faster on average.

² Rohman, I. and Bohlin, E., 2012. Does broadband speed really matter for driving economic growth. Investigating OECD countries.

Evidence of
employment
increases

The Voucher Scheme Study provides a simple survey-based framework to quantify the effect of the scheme. It concludes that it delivered £8 of benefit for every £1 invested through increased profit and increased employment (with the latter being significantly more important). Despite analysing a demand-side intervention (i.e. vouchers) rather than a supply-side intervention (i.e. an infrastructure subsidy), the scheme helped small businesses with unsatisfied connection needs and is therefore relevant to our analysis.

Relevance to
Northern Ireland

The profile of the businesses connected by the Voucher Scheme is broadly similar to the businesses that will be offered new connections in Northern Ireland, as these are also likely to be SMEs with below-average speeds due to their relatively remote locations.

2.3 Superfast broadband in Cornwall

The Next Generation Broadband Infrastructure project, otherwise known as 'Superfast Cornwall', was developed in 2011 with the intention to provide fibre-based broadband to 80% of premises in Cornwall, but a promising start meant that this was soon extended to 95% coverage by March 2015. The project was jointly funded, at a total cost of £132 million, by BT investment and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The evaluation, conducted by SERIO and Buckman Associates for BT, attempts to understand the benefits of superfast broadband (SFBB) both in qualitative and quantitative terms, making extensive use of surveys. These compare the behaviour and performance of connected businesses and households to their non-connected counterparts, as well as more high-level counterfactual comparisons of Cornwall with regions that did not receive funding for superfast broadband deployment.

More efficient
working, increased
employment and
digital inclusion

The study reports how the SFBB has impacted businesses' operations by allowing them to work more efficiently and to offer new services. It also discusses cross-cutting themes such as how the programme has improved digital inclusion, and the strategic added value of the programme. Although these benefits are found to be potentially very large, the paper does attempt to quantify them directly. The primary quantitative focus is on benefits achieved through growth in full-term employment (FTE) in terms of gross value added (GVA).

Employment and turnover of connected businesses is compared with non-connected businesses. The authors found that SFBB brought a net additional GVA of £91.8m to the Cornish region by June 2015 and forecast that the benefits were likely to reach £124m by June 2016.

Relevance to Northern Ireland

The Cornish survey respondents (as opposed to Cornish companies in general) are fairly similar to Northern Irish companies. The key difference is that agriculture is more strongly represented in Northern Ireland, and that there are a larger number of microbusinesses in Northern Ireland than in Cornwall.

The sectors likely to benefit most from fast broadband (such as information & technology, professional, scientific & technical activities, financial & insurance activities and education) are less prevalent in Northern Ireland than in Cornwall (with the exception of information & technology, although this could be attributed to the different time periods). Therefore, it is possible that benefits could be somewhat smaller in Northern Ireland than might be suggested by the Cornish study. However, surveys also find that relatively less productive businesses in Cornwall attributed their increased employment to SFBB; given relatively low productivity in Northern Ireland, this suggests the impact of broadband might be enhanced. Therefore, the overall picture is not clear enough to warrant any systematic adjustment for the different sectoral composition of the Cornish and Northern Irish economies.

If we compare Cornwall in 2011 to Northern Ireland today, they are fairly similar in macroeconomic terms. In both cases, there is scope to reduce economic inactivity through measures that increase labour market participation (e.g. flexible working). There are also similar, relatively high levels of unemployment that suggest that there is capacity to meet any increases in labour demand.

Business births and deaths, business density and self-employment are relevant for considering the entrepreneurial landscape of NI. Self-employment is higher in Northern Ireland than Cornwall, although not substantially so. Rates of business births and deaths are relatively similar, with the implication that the identification of 'safeguarded jobs' in the Cornish study should be broadly applicable in Northern Ireland.

2.4 Other relevant macroeconomic studies

General growth and productivity effects

Productivity impact of general ICT investments

The broader macroeconomic literature on the growth effects of IT and computerisation also demonstrate the potential for significant productivity gains. Cardona et al³ comprehensively review different empirical methods from measuring the effect of ICT investments (in general, rather than for broadband specifically). They find a general consensus that ICT investment leads to productivity growth, with

³ Cardona, M., Kretschmer, T. and Strobil, T., 2013. ICT and productivity: conclusions from the empirical literature. Information Economics and Policy, 25(3), pp.109-125.

the mean output elasticity of ICT investments between 0.05 and 0.06; that is, a 10% increase in ICT investments increases output by 0.5-0.6%.

Significant growth
impact of
broadband
investments

The impact of broadband investment on productivity, and other economic indicators, is generally found to be positive. Czernich et al⁴, using data from 1996-2007, find that a 10% increase in broadband penetration increases annual growth of GDP per capita by 0.09-0.15%. Qiang et al⁵ find that the same level of increase led to a 1% increase in growth of GDP per capita. There has also been debate about classifying broadband as a General Purpose Technology, which is considered to have the potential to affect not only subsets of the economy but the entire system, including businesses across all sectors and households.

Regional impacts

Evidence that
broadband affects
business location
decisions

Studies have found that broadband investments can affect both productivity and the location of economic activity at a sub-national level. McCoy et al⁶ find that the location of business establishments in Ireland is positively correlated with broadband infrastructure, but that pre-existing levels of human capital impact the magnitude of these effects.

Reduction in
regional inequality

There has also been some research into the regional impact of superfast broadband. For example, Jung's 2014⁷ analysis of broadband in Brazil found that that broadband yielded higher productivity gains in less developed regions, and that higher speeds and network externalities play an important role. Mack and Faggian⁸ also conclude that positive impacts are only found if accompanied with high skill levels. Several studies have found that broadband has a greater economic impact in low-income countries. Whilst these are not necessarily directly comparable situations to Northern Ireland, they illustrate the potential for broadband improvements to reduce regional inequalities.

⁴ Czernich, N., Falck, O., Kretschmer, T. and Woessmann, L., 2011. Broadband infrastructure and economic growth. *The Economic Journal*, 121(552), pp.505-532.

⁵ Qiang, C.Z.W., Rossotto, C.M. and Kimura, K., 2009. Economic impacts of broadband. *Information and communications for development 2009: Extending reach and increasing impact*, 3, pp.35-50.

⁶ McCoy, D., Lyons, S., Morgenroth, E., Palcic, D. and Allen, L., 2017. The impact of broadband and other infrastructure on the location of new business establishments. *Journal of Regional Science*.

⁷ Jung, J., 2014. Regional inequalities in the impact of broadband on productivity: Evidence from Brazil.

⁸ Mack, E and Faggian, A., 2013. Productivity and broadband: The human factor. *International Regional Science Review*, 36(3), pp.392-423.

Estimates of the impact of high speed broadband

Table 2 below gives a summary of some recent estimates of the impact that high-speed broadband has on various economic indicators. Many studies rely on old data and are often based on experiences in the US or developing countries, which may differ substantially in economic and social terms. Therefore, we have tried to restrict attention to relatively recent estimates in countries that should be broadly comparable to Northern Ireland.

Figure 3 : Premises unable to receive a download speed greater than 10Mbit/s

	Total	Urban	Rural
UK	3%	1%	17%
	(↓ 1pp)		
England	3%	1%	15%
	(↓ 1pp)		
Northern Ireland	7%	1%	23%
	(↓ 1pp)		
Scotland	5%	1%	26%
	(↓ 2pp)		
Wales	5%	1%	19%
	(↓ 4pp)		

Source: Ofcom analysis of operator data

Table 2: Relevant studies

Study Geograph-	Date	ical area	Author/ sponsor	Findings
Superfast Broadband - Boosting Business and the UK Economy	March 2012	UK	Regeneris for BT Group	SFBB implies an annual increase in GVA of 0.3% pa over 15 years for rural areas, 0.5% for UK towns and 0.4% for UK cities.
The Effects of Broadband Deployment on Output and Employment: A Cross-sectional Analysis of US Data	July 2007	USA	Robert Crandall, William Lehr, Robert Litan	Every one percentage point increase in broadband penetration in a state is projected to increase employment by 0.2-0.3% a year.
Economic Impact of Broadband: An Empirical Study	Feb 2009	14 European countries, the USA	LEOG Ltd. for Nokia Siemens Networks	One additional broadband line per 100 inhabitants increases productivity by 0.1% in "medium or high ICT countries"
Early effects of FTTH/FTTx on employment and population evolution	2012	Sweden	Forzati, Mattsson and Aal-E-Raza	Weak correlation that suggests a 10% increase in FTTH/B coverage increases employment between 0 and 0.2 percent
Economic value of the take-up of ultra-fast broadband in New Zealand	July 2016	New Zealand	Murray, Davies, Blick and Ryan (Sapere Research Group)	An additional 10% of employees gaining access to UFBB is associated with a 29% increase in firm-level labour productivity, and an overall 1.62% increase in GDP.

This section highlights how the Northern Irish economy and geo-demographics vary from the rest of the UK. We show that there are good reasons to expect the benefits of broadband improvements to be particularly large for Northern Ireland.

3.1 Population distribution

The default definition of urban and rural areas for statistical purposes differ between Northern Ireland and other areas of the UK⁹. In Northern Ireland, urban areas are largely defined as groupings of at least 5,000 people, whereas for England and Wales a cut-off of 10,000 people is usually used.

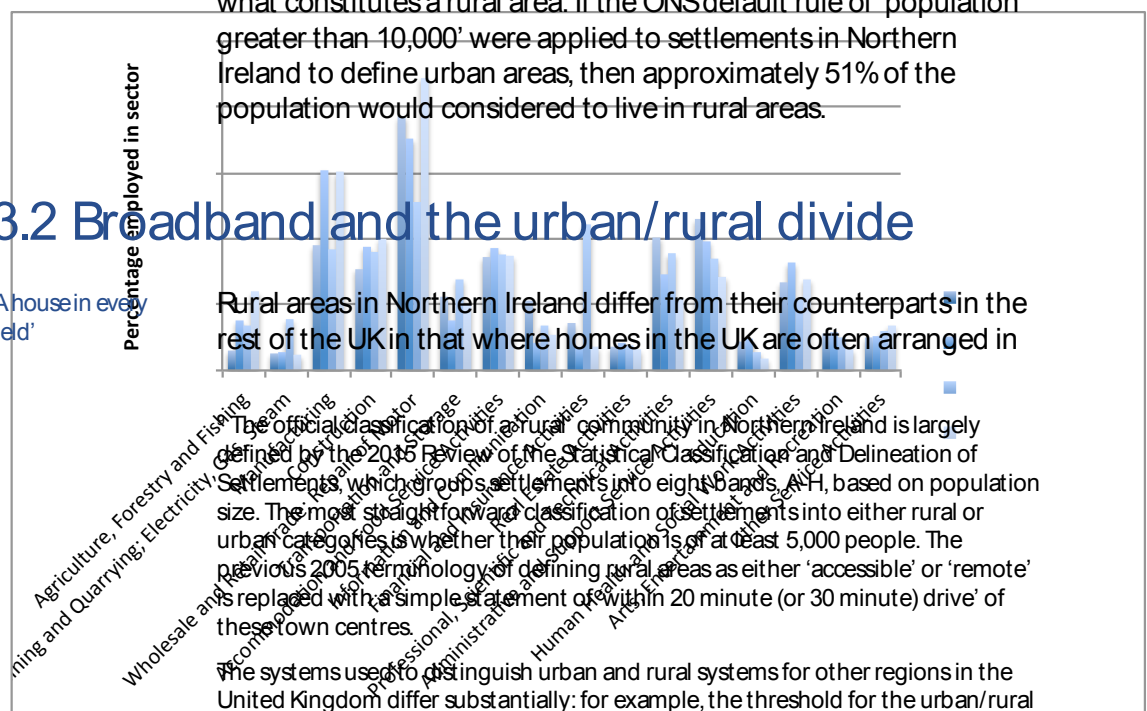
Northern Ireland's population is much more rural than the rest of the UK

The NISRA classification scheme estimates that approximately 35% of the Northern Irish population lives in rural areas, which make up about 46.4% of the land area. In comparison, under the ONS system of rural/urban classification, only 17% of the English population is considered to live in rural areas¹⁰, despite the broader definition of what constitutes a rural area. If the ONS default rule of 'population greater than 10,000' were applied to settlements in Northern Ireland to define urban areas, then approximately 51% of the population would be considered to live in rural areas.

3.2 Broadband and the urban/rural divide

'A house in every field'

Rural areas in Northern Ireland differ from their counterparts in the rest of the UK in that where homes in the UK are often arranged in



¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-population-and-migration/rural-population-201415>

Deploying FTTC to isolated homes may be challenging

'clusters' of housing, dwellings in Northern Ireland are often isolated from other homes. This feature, sometimes described as 'a house in every field', poses a challenge for the delivery of broadband.

High-speed broadband provision is often achieved by deploying 'fibre to the cabinet', FTTC. Data is sent over fibre to a cabinet located ideally near the centre of a cluster of households. Provision to individual homes is then achieved through the use of copper wires, which can be kept short to avoid degradation of service.

The proliferation of isolated single dwellings in the rural areas of Northern Ireland raise the costs of deploying broadband to all premises. It also implies that, because the length of copper drops from the cabinet to an individual home must be substantially longer, broadband speeds are markedly lower for these homes.

Large speed disparities in Northern Ireland

These factors have led to significant disparity in availability of high broadband speeds between rural and urban Northern Ireland, with the percentage of premises unable to achieve 2Mb/s speeds varying from 0% in Belfast, to 12% in Fermanagh and Omagh¹¹.

Furthermore, rural areas in Northern Ireland are also relatively disadvantaged in comparison to other rural areas in the UK, as demonstrated in Figure 1 below, taken from Ofcom's 2017 'Connected Nations – Northern Ireland' report.

Figure 1: UK rural/urban broadband connectivity differences

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Report 2017 – Northern Ireland

¹¹ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/108813/ni-connected-nations-2017.pdf

(footnote continued)

Disparity of speeds for SMEs

Inequality in access is even greater for SMEs than for households. Although superfast broadband coverage for SMEs in urban parts of Northern Ireland is jointly highest in the UK at 92%, coverage for rural Northern Irish SMEs is second lowest at 47%¹². This has the potential to put rural entrepreneurs at a competitive disadvantage relative to their urban counterparts and may even be an impediment to starting a business altogether.

Social benefits

There are also social aspects to this rural urban split; rural dwellings tend to be more geographically isolated, and so are more susceptible to social exclusion. Therefore, rural areas stand to benefit more from improvements to telecommunications infrastructure in terms of social inclusion and community involvement, which in turn may have associated economic benefits if labour market participation improves (for example, through home working possibilities).

The 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures report found that 95 of the 100 areas considered most deprived of service access were rural; tasks such as visiting a doctor or shopping become more difficult and time consuming when there are less services in near proximity, and online alternatives to access could alleviate these disparities substantially.

3.3 Labour market conditions

High rates of economic inactivity in Northern Ireland

The most recent labour market data¹³ shows that the seasonally adjusted employment rate in Northern Ireland was 69% (between September and November 2017), and 75.3% for the entire UK. However, the percentage of individuals considered 'unemployed' is also lower in Northern Ireland (3.8%) than in the whole of the UK (4.3%). This can be explained by differences in economic inactivity, as defined by the percentage of population who are neither employed nor looking for a job. Northern Ireland's economic inactivity rate of 28.2% is the highest in the UK, and significantly above the next highest region, the North East of England, at 23.7%. The UK average is 21.2%. These large inactivity figures are historically typical of Northern Ireland and are considered a top priority for improving the competitiveness and performance of the Northern Irish economy.

¹² Ofcom, *Connected Nations Report 2017*. This notes that SFBB coverage for SMEs in rural areas is lowest in Scotland, at 45%.

¹³ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2017, 'Percentage of total employed (16-64) by industry and NUTSII area, 2016', nisra.gov.uk.

(footnote continued)

Potential for reducing economic inactivity

As nearly 20% of the economically inactive population in Northern Ireland stated that they would like a job¹⁴, there appears to be considerable room for expansion in employment. Improvements to digital connectivity allow for greater flexibility in working and open up labour markets by relaxing physical and geographic constraints. Individuals whose mobility is restricted, for example because of disability, illness or carer obligations, may particularly benefit. Improvements in productivity or the creation of new businesses due to increased broadband speeds could also lead to more jobs in rural areas.

Youth unemployment is a particular problem in NI

A large proportion of unemployment in Northern Ireland is long-term, with 45.2% of unemployed individuals having had that status for at least 1 year in May 2017, compared to the 25.3% UK average¹⁵. Long-term youth unemployment is a particular problem, which at 43.3% is markedly higher than the UK average (25.7%)¹⁶. The most recent labour statistics found inactivity rates amongst 16-24 year olds as high as 48.1%, a marked increase from 2015 levels and the highest of any UK regions. This is relevant to the case for improving broadband, as young people are likely to possess relatively advanced digital skills and are therefore well-placed to take advantage of any increased demand for computer-based skills.

Lower employment and greater economic inactivity in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast

The labour market in Northern Ireland also features a rural-urban divide.¹⁷ At an aggregate level, employment rates in urban areas are in fact lower than in rural areas, at 68.2% and 71.2% respectively. However, this aggregation into 'rural' and 'urban' settlements hides a number of subtleties, and a further disaggregation of the rural settlements reveals an interesting pattern.

Employment levels for rural areas that are more than an hour from Belfast are much lower than not only other rural but also urban areas at 63.1%. This pattern is replicated for economic inactivity rates, where inactivity is 5.6 percentage points higher in rural areas more than an hour from Belfast than in urban areas (and 11.5% higher than rural areas less than an hour from Belfast).

Relative importance of self-employment in NI

The most recent Labour Force Survey in Northern Ireland shows that about 15% of employed persons are self-employed, in line with the UK average. However, a recent review¹⁸ found that self-employment levels in Northern Ireland were much more volatile than elsewhere, although the authors could not find a reason for this. A potential explanation may be that large employers are not as

¹⁴ ONS, HI12 Regional labour market: Headline indicators for Northern Ireland, 21 February 2018

¹⁵ PDF NISRA, May 2017, 'Labour Market Report,' nisra.gov.uk

¹⁶ NISRA, May 2017, 'Labour Market Report,' nisra.gov.uk

¹⁷ DAERA, 30 November 2017, Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey: Urban-Rural Statistics, daera-ni.gov.uk

¹⁸ Eóin Murphy for the Northern Ireland Assembly, 16 January 2015, 'Self-Employment in Northern Ireland'.

diversified in Northern Ireland, and so self-employment absorbs more of the swings in employment. The relatively large volatility implies that superfast broadband may actually have a greater effect on the number of self-employed than elsewhere in the UK if individuals have a greater propensity to start a business.

3.4 Sectoral composition of the economy

The sectoral composition of the Northern Irish economy is somewhat different to other parts of the UK. Whilst it is difficult to anticipate exactly how this might affect the overall scale of benefits from improving broadband in rural areas, there are good reasons to expect those benefits to be enhanced.

Figure 2 below shows which sectors are comparatively more important in Northern Ireland than the rest of the UK. These are primarily agriculture, fishing and forestry, and to a lesser extent wholesale and retail trade. On the other hand, the number of employees in the Professional, Scientific and Technical activities, as well as Administrative and Support Services, are particularly low.

Figure 2: Percentage employed by sector in each region



Source: ONS data

Agriculture creates need for rural broadband

The Northern Irish economic has a relatively high dependency on agriculture. Although construction is currently the largest overall employer in Northern Ireland, the agricultural sector represents a

much greater share of microbusinesses. With 69% of land devoted to agricultural purposes, this sector is of even greater importance to the rural areas of Northern Ireland than to the economy as a whole.

Digitisation and so-called 'precision agriculture' are widely expected to be important in increasing agricultural productivity and reducing the environmental impact of agricultural activities. Clearly, access to high quality, reliable connectivity in rural areas will be important to support these developments.

Trade sectors

Northern Ireland also has relative large retail and wholesale trade sectors. Again, there are likely to be benefits from digitisation in these sectors that will benefit from wider availability of high-speed broadband in rural areas, both in terms of consumers accessing e-commerce sites and through digitisation of supply chain management for businesses located in those areas.

Opportunities for expansion of skill-based sectors

Skills-based sectors form a smaller share of the Northern Irish economy as compared with the rest of the UK. However, ensuring that – regardless of location - individuals have access to suitable broadband speeds to be able to learn and develop skills, and thus accommodate technological change, is important and a key aspect of the DfE's industrial strategy.

3.5 Productivity

Productivity in NI is low in relative and absolute terms

Northern Ireland's productivity is much lower than the UK average. GVA per head is approximately £20,000, compared with the UK average of £26,000. This is in the context of productivity in the UK as a whole already ranking second to last among the G7 economies. The wider UK's growth rate from 2015 to 2016, at 1.6% in real terms, also exceeded Northern Ireland's 1.1%. A recent study by Ulster University¹⁹ found that productivity is the most significant explanatory factor of the income gap between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

There are two main components to the productivity gap between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. First, Northern Ireland's sectoral composition is heavily biased towards relatively low-productivity sectors, such as agriculture. High-speed broadband would allow for more rapid expansion of relatively high-productivity sectors, which usually rely heavily on digital connectivity.

¹⁹ Ulster University Economic Policy Centre, September 2016, 'Understanding productivity in Northern Ireland'

(footnote continued)

Second, Northern Ireland is relatively less productive within each sector. Sectoral productivity is lower for 16 of 20 sectors, and on average lags 15% behind UK productivity.²⁰ In IT, the 2014 differential was 22%. Universal provision of high-speed broadband should address this gap both directly, by streamlining processes and increasing the digital skill base, and indirectly if it leads to greater competition within NI.

3.6 The importance of SMEs

SMEs and microbusinesses are relatively important

SMEs account for over 75% of private sector employment in Northern Ireland, far exceeding the UK's share of 60% and roughly comparable to Wales²¹. Microbusinesses (businesses with less than 10 employees) alone make up 89.2% of businesses by number²², and account for 39% of employment and nearly 28% of total private turnover; by comparison, UK figures are 32.8% and 22.1% respectively. Only 2% of businesses employ over 50 people.

These very small businesses are the most likely to benefit from the introduction of ultrafast broadband, as they can operate remotely from urban centres where costs are lower and make use of flexibility to work from home. The 2017 Connected Nations Report for Northern Ireland found that only 74% of microbusinesses (excluding sole traders) had superfast broadband available to them, compared to 80% for small businesses (between 10 and 50 employees) and 81% coverage for medium businesses (between 50 and 250 employees). Although there is insufficient information to establish causal links, providing high-speed broadband to these microbusinesses could allow them to compete more effectively with larger businesses – a key goal of the 2017 Industrial Strategy.

Relatively little dynamism

Although Northern Ireland has some of the lowest business death rates in the UK, it also has amongst the lowest business birth rates. A comprehensive introduction of superfast broadband in rural areas could lower barriers to entrepreneurship as individuals would no longer need to relocate to urban centres to easily build networks or to attract talented employees. A larger number of firms should lead to more competition in the Northern Irish market and so improve the competitiveness and dynamism of the Irish economy.

²⁰ Ulster University Economic Policy Centre, September 2016, 'Understanding productivity in Northern Ireland'

²¹ Ulster University SME Centre for Federation of Small Businesses, 'The contribution of Small Businesses to Northern Ireland'.

²² Department for the Economy, "Economy 2030: A consultation for the Industrial Strategy of Northern Ireland", January 2017.

3.7 Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland

DfE is consulting on an Industrial Strategy

This section provides an overview of the Department for Economy's (DfE) Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, and the role that increased digital connectivity and improved broadband infrastructure across Northern Ireland could have in achieving its aims. As the final version of the strategy has not yet been published, we rely on a 2017 consultation document²³ that sets out the government's central priorities and measures.

Inclusive and balanced growth

The overarching aim of the strategy is to increase the global competitiveness of the Northern Irish economy to promote export-led economic growth, keeping it sustainable, inclusive and balanced at a sub-regional level. Improving economic productivity and reducing the historically high levels of economic inactivity in Northern Ireland are identified as stepping-stones to achieving these aims.

The Strategy emphasises inclusive growth, where all sections of society share the benefits. Growth should not only be measured by increases in per capita income, but also by an additional broad set of metrics in areas such as health, education, opportunity, social capital and personal freedom. Promoting digital access in rural areas will help by not only improving the economic opportunities of individuals in the historically disadvantaged rural areas, but also by addressing broader social issues surrounding digital exclusion.

Growth strategy

Based on the success stories from small yet advanced export-led economies like Singapore and Switzerland, the DfE highlights the need for Northern Ireland's economy to specialise in certain key sectors where it can develop and build on expertise and world-class capabilities.

Need for telecoms infrastructure to support the target sectors

The strategy therefore strongly focuses on export growth, particularly in view of the relatively small domestic market. Whilst it acknowledges that there is no simple universal path to success, it has identified six broad sectors of the economy in which Northern Ireland has either already developed world-class expertise or is likely to do so:

- Financial, Business and Professional Services;
- Digital and Creative Technologies;
- Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering;
- Life and Health Sciences;
- Agri-Food; and
- Construction and Materials Handling.

²³ Department for the Economy, "Economy 2030: A consultation for the Industrial Strategy of Northern Ireland", January 2017. Available at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/industrial-strategy-ni-consultation-document.pdf>

	<p>The exact strategic plans for supporting the development of these sectors is still under review; however, they will likely involve fostering collaboration between different members of the supply chains, and prioritising investment and funding to these areas. For several of the industries, such as digital and creative technologies, the need for a sound telecommunications infrastructure to ensuring competitiveness is immediate.</p>
Emerging sectors requiring digital skills	<p>The strategy notes the potential of emerging ICT areas such as machine learning, and data analytics. A Matrix Digital ICT foresight report published in February 2016²⁴ identifies four areas – software engineering, advanced networks and sensors, data analytics and cyber security – where it anticipates Northern Ireland could be ‘world class’. The DfE notes the ‘transformative and disruptive’ potential of digital technologies, to which Northern Ireland should be adaptable. Accordingly, the Strategy stresses the necessity of a skill base applicable to these markets, for which a comprehensive coverage of high-speed broadband will be essential in allowing individuals to develop flexible digital skills that can adapt to continuously evolving technologies.</p>
Role of broadband in achieving growth	<p>The DfE’s proposed framework for international competitiveness and export-led growth relies on five “interdependent and mutually supportive” ‘pillars’ for growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillar 1 – accelerating innovation and research; • Pillar 2 – enhancing education, skills and employability; • Pillar 3 – driving inclusive, sustainable growth; • Pillar 4 – succeeding in global markets; and • Pillar 5 – building the best economic infrastructure. <p>The first pillar builds on the DfE’s ambition for Northern Ireland to gain reputation as an excellent place to grow a business, “underpinned by innovation and creativity”, achieved by driving cultural change, fostering an ‘innovation ecosystem’ and supporting research excellence. Extending broadband availability to rural areas will allow individuals and small/micro businesses, as opposed to just the largest firms and firms in physical innovation hotspots, to participate in this knowledge-based ecosystem.</p> <p>The second pillar focuses on skills, education and employability – the relatively low skill levels in Northern Ireland was identified as a key historic weakness in the 2012 NI Economic Strategy. Addressing economic inactivity, particularly of young people, is considered vital to global competitiveness. Emphasis is given to the growing need for STEM skills (which undoubtedly include digital literacy), and the DfE’s plans to support further education through improved flexible learning options. Extending high-speed broadband connections to rural areas may facilitate access to the popular and convenient online learning platforms.</p>

²⁴ Matrix Digital ICT Report 2016, available here: <http://matrixni.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016-Matrix-Digital-ICT-Report.pdf>

The Industrial Strategy aims for economic growth to encompass all sections of society and regions in Northern Ireland, with labour market opportunities extending to towns and rural areas as well as cities. Pillar 3 of the Industrial Strategy sets this priority out in further detail, with emphasis placed on the value of rural development.

Inclusivity

The DfE hopes that the private sector will be a driving force for sustainable growth and plans to improve the historically low rate of business start-ups in Northern Ireland²⁵ by fostering an entrepreneurial environment, for example through favourable financing and regulatory schemes. The Strategy also aims to encourage young people and women to start businesses, where the ability to work from home (improved by a reliable and high-speed broadband connection) may be particularly relevant.

Need to support collaboration networks

The vast majority of businesses (89.2%) in Northern Ireland have less than nine employees, whereas only 2% of businesses employ more than 50 people. Hence the DfE plans to provide suitable environment for companies to scale their operations. For small economies, larger firms can provide critical mass, scale, specialisation and employment generation. This requires dense collaboration networks to yield a productive, competitive and innovative environment.

Agri-food, one of the largest employment sectors in Northern Ireland, is given priority status for ensuring that the skill base and infrastructure available to NI businesses is adequately equipped to allow for growth and changes in the industry. Greatly increased use of sensors, data analytics and automation in agriculture are expected. Almost by definition these developments will be of greatest relevance to the rural areas, where high-quality digital infrastructure will be necessary.

The fourth pillar is based on succeeding in global markets through trade, investment and tourism. Competitiveness and attracting foreign investment is vital for export-led growth. The DfE hopes to “unlock the full potential” of tourism, doubling external revenue to £1 billion by 2025. Similar objectives in Cornwall – to attract businesses and tourism – were partially fulfilled by the universal roll-out of SFBB, which promoted growth in the hospitality sector by enabling online booking services and allowing establishments to offer improved services such as WiFi.

The final pillar of the Strategy, “building the best economic infrastructure”, cites digital (as well as physical) infrastructure as vital to ensuring a level playing field in terms of market access and the ability to establish businesses across all parts of Northern Ireland, and that any approach taken should encompass both private and public infrastructure. Part of this strategy includes plans to impose a

²⁵ The Industrial Strategy points out that in 2014, the business birth rate in Northern Ireland was 8.7%, compared to the overall UK average of 13.7%.

Universal Service Obligation (in partnership with the UK Government) for a broadband connection with speeds of 10 Mb/s in all of Northern Ireland and within a reasonable cost threshold by 2020.

Benefits for businesses

The deployment of ultrafast broadband in rural Northern Ireland is important to the success of these initiatives. Businesses based in rural areas will not be able to compete effectively without access to many of the services enabled by superfast broadband, such as video conferencing and cloud storage. It will also allow businesses to accept and place orders electronically and to participate in electronic supply chain management.

Promoting digital skills

Northern Ireland's competitiveness will be further disadvantaged if its citizens are not able to adapt to changes in the technological landscape of their sector – a growing number of 'smart' devices and digital applications in sectors that would not have traditionally required a high level of digital literacy, including construction and agriculture, are already beginning to materialise. Access to high-speed broadband does not only enhance skills through greater access to alternative learning resources, but also enables and encourages individuals to familiarise themselves with using computers where slow speeds may have previously frustrated such efforts.

Sharing the benefits of clusters of skills and knowledge

This ability to connect with businesses and individuals across distance is essential for inclusive growth: with the availability of adequate broadband speeds, any group in Northern Ireland, no matter their location, will be able to become fully integrated members of virtual 'clusters' or collaborations. Similarly, this ability to connect means that those who would have previously been excluded from participating in certain labour markets because of their physical location now have access to greater opportunities. Providing equal access to online services is therefore fundamental to ensuring the benefits of growth are not restricted to urban centres, but rather shared with rural areas.

Overall, we can expect the benefits of improving rural broadband to be enhanced in Northern Ireland given the:

- **Low labour market participation in distant rural areas;**
- **Particular problems with low productivity in Northern Ireland;**
- **Relative importance of economic sectors such as agriculture which could particularly benefit from intervention to improve digital infrastructure in rural areas;**
- **Particular importance of small businesses (both SMEs and microbusinesses) and self-employment within NI**
- **Need to develop knowledge-based sectors that are underrepresented in the NI economy and create virtual clusters to share skills;**
- **Government's aim for inclusive growth that is shared with rural areas.**

We have distinguished **four mutually exclusive categories of benefits** from improved rural broadband. For each category of benefit, we provide examples of how benefits might be achieved and discuss what lessons can be drawn from previous studies.

4.1 Categorisations of benefits

4.1.1 Productivity growth

Productivity growth, as defined by growth in value added per hour of work in existing companies, can be affected by faster broadband in a variety of different ways. An ultrafast broadband connection can result in immediate time and cost savings on the activities that require the Internet, but also allows businesses to change their behaviour or business models in a way that improves the quality of their output or allows production to be more efficient. Results from previous studies suggest that this could be by far the single largest source of benefits.

Reduced costs

Costs for businesses may be reduced by better broadband in many ways. Fast connections may allow access to cloud computing which may provide cheaper IT capabilities, especially for small firms. Dematerialisation – such as using downloads rather than sending physical media to transfer data – may reduce costs. There may be associated savings in time and so labour costs.

Improved quality of existing services

Improved connection reliability and speed have benefits beyond pure cost savings. This is likely to be especially relevant for small businesses that take internet orders, such as bookings in the hospitality industry. Even a small percentage of failed orders (e.g. if response time is too slow) can have serious consequences in terms of lost revenue or reputation.

In addition, several respondents to the Cornwall survey from the hospitality industry were able to offer Wi-Fi to guests for the first time as a result of SFBB. In one case, a caravan site owner was able to charge for Wi-Fi services following connection, where initially they felt the connection was too poor to justify charging. As Wi-Fi provision increasingly becomes the norm rather than a bonus, keeping up with technological innovations may be important for offering a satisfactory quality of service in the hospitality sector.

The agricultural sector is becoming increasingly reliant on connectivity and data; the digital agricultural market is expected to triple from 2015 to 2021²⁶. As noted earlier, a large proportion of small businesses in Northern Ireland are agriculture-based and ultrafast broadband will be essential for them to be able to compete effectively.

Ability to offer entirely new services

A high-speed connection may allow businesses to offer completely new services and create new revenue streams. For example, a Cornish computer repair business was able to offer a new service of remote log-ins to fix computers and teaching abroad²⁷. A business services participant described how SFBB enabled them to develop a new 'desk top surveys' product. Online video applications like Skype could also enable professionals to host webinars or courses, expanding their business models. New services might allow business diversification.

Access to wider skillsets

Improved rural broadband should allow individuals to communicate more effectively, conveniently and with increased reliability through applications such as Skype, or because sending large files becomes easier. This means that small businesses can broaden their collaboration networks and access new skills and expertise²⁸. This is particularly important for small businesses that may need to gain skills not through hiring expertise, but through training and knowledge absorption²⁹.

This benefit may also manifest itself through increased access to online training – for example, one individual working in education reported that they were able to use webinars much more frequently and effectively. Therefore, where travel costs may previously have been prohibitive, online learning can be used to enhance or acquire new skills.

Improved market access

With faster Internet connections, it will be easier for firms to market their products, which is essential for business growth. In the top-down approach, these effects will be still counted as productivity effects, as they increase the revenue per each hour of work – not

²⁶ Digitising Agriculture, PA Consulting. See: <http://www.paconsulting.com/insights/digitising-agriculture/>

²⁷ Page 52, SME Benefits and Business Opportunities with Superfast Broadband: the Virtuous Circle of Connectivity

²⁸ Page 29, SME Benefits and Business Opportunities with Superfast Broadband: the Virtuous Circle of Connectivity

²⁹ Page 31, SME Benefits and Business Opportunities with Superfast Broadband: the Virtuous Circle of Connectivity

through improvements in the production process itself, but rather through directing the products to the customers who are most willing to pay for them.

Faster and more reliable connection will allow for better sales opportunities. For example, this may enable small physical shops to open online shops, hospitality businesses to launch websites (e.g. restaurants taking online bookings) or allow for greater online social media presence. Although these are all theoretically possible even with slow Internet connection, the Cornish experience suggests that unreliability and slow speeds can frustrate such efforts. One example is given where a business increased sales by 60% and, as a result, invested £40,000 to develop their online facilities³⁰. This is both a benefit to businesses, and to customers who have a greater availability of choice.

4.1.2 Increased teleworking

As employees use faster and more reliable connections to increase the share of work they do from home, they save time (creating either more work or more leisure) and reduce commuting costs and associated environmental externalities.

4.1.3 Increased employment

As previously noted, long-term unemployment and economic inactivity are concerning features of the Northern Irish labour market, especially in rural areas. There are several ways in which improved broadband connection coverage has the potential to increase employment levels, by affecting both demand and supply of labour.

In terms of demand for workers:

- **Business relocation** – Ultrafast broadband gives an incentive to relocate to connected areas. A clear counterargument is that there is no net benefit if businesses simply move from urban to rural areas. However, this is unlikely as rural areas have lower accommodation and labour force costs, which may attract businesses that would not be able to thrive in cities. In addition, work-related migration usually flows from rural areas to cities. Establishing favourable conditions for business in areas where employees have personal ties may incentivise those who do not currently work - as they do not wish to relocate - to do so. Therefore, this benefit should exceed any loss felt elsewhere if businesses move out.

³⁰ Page 55, SME Benefits and Business Opportunities with Superfast Broadband: the Virtuous Circle of Connectivity

- **Business start-ups** – as demonstrated by the Cornwall experience, superfast broadband has enabled some customers to start businesses that might previously not have been possible at all.
- **Growing established businesses** – if productivity gains per

worker means that firms become more profitable or grow in size, this could result in the firm hiring more people.

Although there is an offsetting effect to consider – that more efficient workflows lead to less employees being required – this does not seem to have an overall negative effect in practice.

- **Safeguarded jobs** - The Cornwall study defines safeguarded jobs as those 'that were at risk but are now no longer at risk of being lost'. It found that the impact of net jobs safeguarded exceeds the net additional increase in jobs. Although one should note that Cornwall was still recovering from the recession during the time of SFB roll-out, this will nevertheless be an important potential impact to consider for Northern Ireland.

In addition to these demand considerations, superfast broadband is also likely to have effects that will increase individuals' willingness or ability to participate in the labour force as it provides much greater flexibility, and for example:

- **Increased flexibility** makes working more attractive for those who were voluntarily not part of the labour force (e.g. stay-at-home parents or carers); and
- **Improved opportunities** for those with disabilities or other constraints that prevent them from travelling to interviews or work, or working in an office.

The 2017 Northern Ireland labour market report³¹ finds that 31% of economically inactive individuals were either long-term sick or disabled, and 24% were looking after their family and home, suggesting that this effect could be significant in size.

4.1.4 External benefits

Aside from the pure economic benefits to businesses, improved rural broadband may have external effects that are not reflected in the willingness of broadband users to pay for services.

Environmental effects

There are several ways in which increased broadband speed can reduce CO₂ emissions:

- fewer commutes and business trips;

³¹ See: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/J47eb-labour-market-report-september-2017.PDF>

- de-materialisation (e.g. downloads rather than physical media);
- reduced shopping trips due to e-commerce; and
- an increased use of cloud computing and storage (which is more energy efficient than in-house solutions).

Although the Cornwall report does not quantify these benefits in monetary terms, the UK Broadband Impact report finds that the value of total environmental effects was considerable.

Economic multiplier effects

Multiplier effects arise from the spending associated with the network construction – this provides revenue to businesses participating in this process. In turn revenue is spent elsewhere, creating a ‘virtuous cycle’. We omit the multiplier effect from our analysis, as it is difficult to determine whether the multiplier will be greater or smaller compared to a counterfactual scenario where the money is spent on a different project.

4.1.5 Social effects and digital inclusion

Better broadband in rural areas may bring broader social benefits of digital inclusion above and beyond the economic benefits we have estimated. These include:

- Access to government services that are increasingly being provided over digital platforms;
- Broader distributional benefits from reduced economic inactivity above and beyond the direct economic benefits of job creation;
- Benefits to deep rural areas from agricultural diversification.

Online access to public services

An increasing number of government services are being made available online. In some cases, this is alongside other traditional means of accessing those services (e.g. road tax) but in other cases, online portals may be the primary means of access. In particular, this is the case for Universal Credit, which is currently being rolled with nationwide coverage expected by the start of 2019. There is a strong expectation that claimants for Universal Credit will apply online.³²

Developments in e-health

Over time, a greater range of public services are likely to come to rely on wide broadband availability. A particular example is e-health, where there is currently considerable interest in the use of

³² <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/apply/apply-for-universal-credit/>

(footnote continued)

online consultations, which require sufficiently capable internet connections.³³ Online GP appointment booking and repeat prescription systems are already being promoted by the NI Department of Health as part of its current strategy.³⁴ This strategy also emphasises the use of online support and care services (such as advice portals) and online medical tracking. These developments are likely to be particularly useful for those living in rural areas where travel times to GP surgeries or clinics are longer.

Distributional aspects of job creation

As we have already discussed in depth, Northern Ireland has particular problems with labour force participation, especially in rural areas. Whilst we have formed estimates of possible job creation, there are also broader social benefits likely to arise from improving options for segments of the population that might be excluded from the labour force at present. Our estimates focus on GVA increases created by employment increases. However, there are also distributional benefits given the nature of the inclusion benefits that rural broadband improvements might bring. In particular, the ability to work from home might particular aid those for whom travel to a workplace might be difficult, such as carers and the disabled, or uneconomic, such as those only working few hours. Access to online job search would also become easier. These groups may also experience a reduction in social isolation.³⁵

Agricultural diversification and rural communities

Broadband improvement is likely to bring particular benefits for agriculture, which is relatively more important in Northern Ireland than the rest of the UK. The experience of interventions in Cornwall suggests that superfast broadband can not only directly support farmers' day-to-day activities (e.g. allowing submission of online forms, interacting with suppliers and customers etc.), but also help in diversification strategies, such as tourism. Clearly diversification strategies are important to sustain rural communities.

Beneficial feedbacks

Digital exclusion may have a variety of causes, including lack of digital skills, not taking up broadband services for various reasons and broadband not being available.³⁶ Direct measures to make good quality broadband available in rural areas may also have indirect effects. For example, take-up might be encouraged by seeing and hearing about how others can use new services. This might also provide an incentive to acquire better digital skills and draw suppliers of training into areas. Therefore, although the

³³ Online consultations are likely to become important in the near future. For example, NHS England has established a fund for GPs to install online consultation systems.

³⁴ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/interactive-ehealth-strategy.pdf>

³⁵ For a discussion of these possible benefits, see <https://www.btpic.com/Purposefulbusiness/Connectivity/Beingonlineisgoodforsociety/Valuing-Digital-Inclusion.pdf>

³⁶ See for example <https://www.citizenonline.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Citizens-Online-Switch-sample-report-v2.0.pdf>

question of digital inclusion is broader than simply provision of high-quality broadband, there is a variety of possible positive effects that might follow from improvements in rural areas.

4.2 Time horizons

Some benefits are clearly more certain, and more immediate, than others. For example, time and cost savings arising from the decreased download/upload times, and reduced need for network maintenance are almost indisputable, and will occur without any significant behavioural change on the part of an individual.

On the other hand, there are some benefits that will take some time (i.e. a few years) to manifest. Although our focus is on benefits likely to occur within a 5-year horizon, this is not to say that benefits in the more distant future might not be significant.

Some skills will need to be acquired before businesses can take full advantage of their connection—for example, in cloud technologies or online marketing. Similarly, it may take some time for people to move to the labour market or for firms to hire new employees. These deferred effects are somewhat more speculative as they require assumptions about how people will behave, and are therefore more difficult to quantify. However, the account of such benefits in the Cornwall studies speaks strongly for their likely magnitude.

In particular, there is evidence that prior to experiencing SFBB users may not anticipate how they might use the service and what benefits they might enjoy. It may take time to explore potential new possibilities and gain skills needed to take up new services. Therefore, ex post studies are likely to be much more useful in assessing benefits than ex ante surveys asking how customers might use such services.

This section describes our quantitative assessment of each category of benefit defined in Section 4. We begin by setting out key assumptions used throughout, including the nature of likely services to be offered over the new fibre, take-up assumptions and discount rates.

Broadband speeds

The size of the benefits from the new infrastructure will depend on the magnitude of the speed improvement it delivers. Most of our benefit calculations are based on comparison of the speeds available to affected premises with and without the intervention.

The scenario without the intervention assumes that the speeds will remain constant over time, pegged at their present level because of the limitations of the currently available infrastructure. This initial speed is taken from a dataset provided by BT, showing the average ADSL and VDSL download speed available to each premise included in the deployment plans. For the purpose of our calculations, we take the higher of the two as the currently available highest speed. In some cases, the fastest available connection will not be the one currently used (for example, if a customer has not upgraded from ADSL to VDSL despite speed benefits).

We assume that the target speed for each of the premises will be 100 Mb/s. The actual speed delivered will depend on the services communications providers choose to offer. Speed will be constrained by contention in backhaul, rather than the fibre drop to the customer's premises.

Finally, we assume that the intervention funds will be spent solely on premises that are currently achieving speeds less than 30 Mb/s. The deployment plan given to us by BT included some premises already receiving a service at 30Mb/s or greater. We exclude these premises from our benefit calculations entirely; they amount to 36% of businesses and 16% of households in the roll-out plan.

We have also excluded premises where we suspect there might be service from an alternative provider, Virgin Media, available. The geographical distribution of the premises that are considered eligible for intervention funds after these corrections is illustrated on the map below.

Figure 3: Distribution of eligible premises (businesses are marked with a darker colour)

Take-up modelling

Assumptions about the rate of take-up of new fibre broadband are based on previous studies. The Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project (NIBIP), which has achieved a 60% take-up in December 2017, up from 5% in March 2015, is especially relevant.

We assume that, in the long run, the take-up rate will plateau at 60%. For the calculation of benefits in the near future, we assume that from the time the fibre broadband is deployed in the area the proportion of users using the new service in the intervention area rises linearly from 0% to 60% over 30 months.

Discounting of benefits

In line with the HM Treasury's Green Book recommendation, we discount benefits at an annual rate of 3.5%. The reference year for our discounting exercises is 2018. We report benefits over a 15-year horizon.

We also adjust for underlying productivity growth. Although the generally accepted long-term growth rate of the UK economy is 2%, productivity growth rate in Northern Ireland has, in recent years,

been much lower³⁷. Therefore, we use a more modest assumption of 1% productivity growth per annum.

5.1 Productivity growth

5.1.1 UK Broadband Impact Study

Methodology

The model developed by SQW relies on estimates of broadband speed increases for businesses grouped by three characteristics: industry group (six categories), band sizes (four categories) and the density of premises (split into deciles).

The model also includes postcode-level speed data, assumptions about the pace of the take-up of new, faster connections and an estimate of the elasticity of productivity with respect to broadband speed (taken to be 0.3%).

Data and adjustments to methodology

We have split up premises in the proposed roll-out plan by NUTS3 regions. In order to estimate what proportion of the economy in each region will be affected by the deployment plan, we calculate the proportion of the region's businesses that will be affected, assuming that a given relative increase in broadband speed in any business in a region produces the same increase in GVA.

That proportion is calculated by extracting from the deployment plan the number of premises flagged as businesses and dividing it by the number of firms in the region reported in ONS data.

It is reasonable to assume that large firms, which we define here as those employing at least 250 persons, are less likely to be targeted by this intervention. Because large firms generally produce more output per premise, our benefit projection may prove to be an overestimate. As we do not know the distribution of firm size among the targeted firms, we are not able to correct for this effect.

It should be noted, however, that the intervention mostly targets areas where there are significantly fewer big firms than in the rest of the UK. In all of Northern Ireland excluding Belfast (which contains only 3.93% of targeted businesses), there are just 130 firms that employ at least 250 employees.

³⁷ See: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/economic-output-statistics/ni-composite-economic-index>

The point estimate of 0.3% has been used as the elasticity of productivity at all speeds (up to 100 Mb/s).

Results

The benefit is projected to accumulate to £267 million by 2033, or £1.78 per pound spent by the government.

5.1.2 Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme study

Methodology

The study's methodology for estimating the average profit increase across businesses is based on a survey – businesses are asked directly about the size of the increase in their profit attributable to their new subsidised connections. Another question asked is whether they would have bought the connection had they not been given the subsidy. The estimated average of £1293 additional yearly profit is based solely on these answers.

This approach of asking about profit increases is not likely to be an effective means of estimating productivity increases. In particular, it is possible that a firm, through an increase in output, increases competition. It will then increase the productivity of firms in that sector, which will in turn create benefits for consumers that are not reflected in the firm's profits. Therefore, we should expect this approach to provide a gross underestimate of productivity benefits.

Data and adjustments to methodology

We have taken the £1293 additional profit estimate as the starting point for each business of which we are aware in BT's deployment plans. Then, we have applied several adjustments.

First, we have adjusted the benefit for the different take-up profile (rising to 60% in the long term, instead of 71% obtained in the Voucher Scheme study).

Second, for each of the five NUTS3 regions, we have multiplied the number by the ratio of regional GVA per capita to UK GVA per capita in 2016. This adjusts for the fact that Northern Ireland's smaller output per capita will likely reduce the profit increases. Regional GVA will also provide a substantial correction for the geographic distribution of the businesses, which are mostly located outside of Belfast.

Finally, we have taken account of the differential in median speed uplift between the two projects. We have set an uplift of 7 times

(which was the median uplift in the Voucher Scheme study) as the uplift at which no correction is applied. Otherwise, we have assumed constant elasticity of profit to broadband speed.

Results

The discounted value of the benefit is projected to reach £4.48 million per annum by 2024, or approximately £640 per connected business. In total, the additional profit will accumulate to approximately £50 million by 2033, equivalent to £0.33 per pound spent by the government.

5.1.3 Superfast Cornwall evaluation

Methodology

Businesses that were interviewed as part of the study frequently cited improved efficiency as a business benefit of SFBB.

The estimate of productivity increases is based on data from the longitudinal business survey, which collected direct estimates of GVA (based on company accounts data) before they connected, and at two points post-connection Feb/March 2014 and Feb/March 2015. This information, provided by 22 firms, is used to measure productivity changes as measured by GVA per FTE. This is likely to be an effective means of assessing the productivity impact as it is obtained from a direct measure in the businesses surveyed.

Productivity was found to increase on average by 30% per FTE from the pre-connection to Wave 2 responses (Feb/March 2015). However, the authors advise caution when using this figure, as the longitudinal business survey was not based on a random sample and there was no comparative survey for non-connected businesses. Furthermore, the sample size (22) is relatively small.

Data and adjustments to methodology

Due to limited information about longitudinal survey respondents, it is difficult to assess how relevant these results are for Northern Ireland and what adjustments might be needed to reflect the changed context.

However, as Northern Irish labour productivity is much lower than in the rest of the UK, especially in the North³⁸, there is substantial room for improvement, and increased broadband speeds might be one of the more easily realised drivers of improvements.

We initially take the 30% per FTE per firm increase in GVA at face value, as we do not know exactly how these increases are achieved nor have information that would allow us to further disaggregate this into type of business.

However, we also consider how GVA changed for the rest of Cornwall and key comparator regions identified by the study itself – Devon, Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire – throughout the course of the programme. The percentage increases for GVA/hour are presented below³⁹.

Table 3: GVA in Cornwall and comparators

Region ⁴⁰	2011-2015 increase in GVA
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	11.6%
Devon	7.47%
Greater Lincolnshire	14.0%
North Yorkshire	3.07%
Average	9.05%

Source: ONS data

On average, GVA/hour increased by 9% across all the regions over the same period. This includes all of Cornwall, and therefore for businesses that were connected to superfast broadband as a result of the scheme as well those that were not. This average includes some firms in Cornwall who might have benefitted from SFBB, so is possibly a slight overestimate of the counterfactual growth rate for Cornwall in the absence of SFBB. However, this is a conservative assumption as it leads to a slight underestimate of the benefits of SFBB.

On the basis of a 9% increase in GVA being the counterfactual, we assume a 21% attributable increase of superfast broadband

³⁸

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/articles/regionalandsubregionalproductivityintheuk/jan2017/pdf>

³⁹ Note that as we only have this data in GVA/hour, it may be an imperfect comparator to the Cornwall study's estimate of GVA/FTE changes.

⁴⁰ Note that we could only find this data disaggregated to the level of Local Enterprise Partnerships, so in some cases may include areas that are not strictly in the comparative zone.

connectivity to GVA increases (although this should still be treated with caution due to the various issues with finding perfectly comparable data).

To apply this 21% increase to Northern Ireland, we use the weighted average GVA calculated for our estimate of employment benefits (see section 5.4.3). The attributable increase in GVA would represent **£10.9k per connected firm**.

This is then scaled up to reach an aggregate figure for the scheme based on take-up rates over time.

Results

We find an estimated increase of **£407 million in benefits over 15**

years. We once again note that there are several methodological concerns with this exercise, and that this estimate should be used as an indication rather than as a concrete figure.

5.1.4 Summary of productivity growth results

The differences in results summarised in Table 4 very much reflect the different approaches the previous evaluations take. The approach of the UK Broadband Impact Study and the Superfast Cornwall Evaluation is to measure the increase of output per worker, which is roughly consistent with the definition of productivity typically used in economics. The Superfast Cornwall Evaluation should be a good proxy for the effects that could occur in Northern Ireland, but as discussed above there are significant uncertainties due to the small sample size used in the study's surveys, and lack of a robust counterfactual.

Table 4: Summary of productivity growth benefits

Base study	Absolute benefit	Benefit multiple (relative to cost)
UK Broadband Impact Study (preferred approach)	£267m	1.78
Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme study	£50m	0.33
Superfast Cornwall Evaluation	£407m	2.71

The Voucher Scheme study, on the other hand, measures the increase in profit – which may come both from increased

productivity of the already employed workers as well as from output produced by new workers (after subtracting the costs associated with their employment). The Voucher Scheme study adjusts the delineation of its employment benefit so that it fits with the productivity benefit without overlap (see section 5.2.2. below). But although the Voucher Scheme study becomes consistent within itself, its division of benefits is to some extent inconsistent with the other studies replicated in our report. In particular, increased output due to productivity increases may lead to consumer benefits, yet no profit increase for the firm if this is competed away.

We take the estimate obtained using the UK Broadband Impact Study as our central scenario as we consider this the most robust of the three approaches. It uses regressions on macro-level data to obtain necessary parameters and avoids the problem of external validity, present in replications of regional studies such as the Cornwall one.

Conversely, we consider that the estimate of the productivity impact obtained from the Voucher Scheme – which is by far the smallest of the three – is the least reliable. This is because it is based on a survey question whose answers are not checked against a counterfactual for what firms would have done without improved broadband. Although the Cornwall methodology suffered from a similar drawback, we were able to construct a counterfactual based on the comparator regions specified in the Cornwall report to make the estimate more robust.

5.2 Increased employment

5.2.1 UK Broadband Impact Study

Methodology

The study establishes a relative index of broadband speed calculated as the average speed (in a given density decile) divided by the national average. Then, it estimates enterprise and employment growth in each area as a function of this relative speed.

It is found that the areas with below-average speeds have a negative employment growth impact that is greater than the positive employment growth impact in areas that operate above-average speeds. The relation is non-linear in such a way that sustained broadband speed inequalities lead to an overall nationwide loss of employment. In other words, jobs lost due to slow connections in least dense areas are not fully compensated by

employment gains in dense areas. This is due to effects that we have described in section 4.1.3.

Therefore, interventions in the least dense areas have an overall positive effect on the nationwide employment figures. Indeed, the UK Broadband Impact Study finds that the benefits stemming from safeguarded jobs in the four least dense deciles of output areas are several times larger than the corresponding losses in the five most dense deciles.

Another source of employment benefits is an increased number of carers and disabled persons who take up jobs where they can mostly work from home. SQW's calculations show that a substantial portion of carers and disabled persons has or will find jobs thanks to faster broadband at home. We understand that these calculations are based on census data, as this is the only source of figures that we are aware of and which would provide data on teleworking among the aforementioned groups at the level of detail necessary for the analysis.

Replication

We have sought to replicate the approach applied in the SQW study. However, we have not found that the estimates are particularly stable given the available data and using census output areas as our geographical unit. This contrasts with our analysis of homeworking, where we have been able to demonstrate a positive association between broadband speeds and homework, controlling for population density.

As a matter of logic there is some difficulty in using broadband speeds in small, largely residential geographic areas to explain increases in employment levels. Typically, a person's place of work is in a different output area than their home. The problem cannot be solved by grouping output areas by population density into large clusters – workplaces will usually exist in more dense areas than homes.

Given these issues, we consider that survey-based studies are much more likely to identify employment impacts.

5.2.2 Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme study

Methodology

This methodology is similar to the one used for calculating profit increases, outlined in the section 5.1.2. However, instead of a monetary value, businesses are asked how many more persons they have employed as a consequence of the new connection (in full-

time equivalent). The value of average compensation to a UK employee is used for quantification of the benefit. The final value, accounting for deadweight, is £9322 per business.

In employment benefit, in contrast to the productivity benefit, is assumed to materialise only after six months.

Data and adjustments to methodology

We have applied the same adjustments to the £9322 figure as in the case of the productivity benefit. Additionally, we have assumed a displacement benefit.

The Voucher Scheme study does not take account of the fact that some of the benefit may be coming from relocation of employees from elsewhere. We have made some adjustments to take this into account.

The Superfast Cornwall study reports that 19.5% of the employment gains for businesses in Cornwall resulting from the faster broadband were offset by businesses elsewhere losing these employees. We have assumed the same diversion ratio. However, there are three arguments to keep in mind when judging the validity of Cornwall's rate of job relocation in the Northern Irish setting.

First, there are relatively more economically inactive people in Northern Ireland than in Cornwall. This provides for a greater opportunity to employ persons who are not currently employed in other firms.

Second, we are not taking business formation into account. The Voucher Scheme study only allows us to look at benefits for existing businesses. Therefore, we are only including business premises in our benefit calculations. However, in some residential premises that receive better connections, new businesses will be started. This also makes our estimate conservative.

On the other hand, the deployment plans for the new infrastructure in Northern Ireland are more selective. The premises whose connections will be improved are more scattered across the geographic area than the premises whose connections were improved in Cornwall. This means that businesses with improved broadband will rather be competing with other businesses in their area, as opposed to other businesses with improved speeds, which is the case when the improvement is not dispersed geographically. As a consequence, a greater proportion of the employment gains in firms with new infrastructure may be offset by employment losses elsewhere.

The original study investigated benefits over a two-year period, as this was the duration of the voucher contracts. Our much longer 15-years horizon requires assumptions about the long-term behaviour

of the employment increases. A significant proportion of the jobs that are initially created as a result of the faster connections will vanish by 2033. However, it is reasonable to assume these will be replaced by other jobs that are also supported by faster broadband. Therefore, jobs may change over time – being destroyed and created – but the impact of improved broadband should endure in terms of the total number of jobs created.

Results

The discounted value of the benefit is projected to reach £25.4 million per annum by 2024, or £3702 per connected business. The discrepancy between this number and the £9322 benefit found in the original study is partly due to the discount rate between 2018 and 2024, but mostly results from the corrections we have applied in terms of (i) displacement effects and (ii) difference in GVA per capita between affected regions of Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

In total, the value of the employment gains will accumulate to £290 million by 2033. That is £1.93 per pound of subsidy.

5.2.3 Superfast Cornwall evaluation

Methodology

The Cornwall evaluation separates employment benefits into three categories: existing businesses increasing number of employees; ‘safeguarded jobs’ in existing businesses; and employment created by business start-ups.

Business births and deaths, business density and self-employment are relevant for considering the entrepreneurial landscape of NI. Self-employment is higher in Northern Ireland, although not substantially so. Considering business births and deaths is especially important for the validity of ‘safeguarded jobs’ – a very low business death rate may suggest that jobs are generally not at risk anyway. As Table 5 shows, these figures are broadly similar.

Table 5: Cornwall 2011 and Northern Ireland 2017 comparison

Indicator	Cornwall 2011 ⁴¹	Northern Ireland current ⁴²
Economic inactivity	33.3%	28.2%
Unemployment	3.3%	3.8%
Business birth and death rates	9.6%/9.2%	10.2%/9.6%
Business density (per 10,000 inhabitants)	600 ⁴³	894 ⁴⁴
Self-employment	13.8% ⁴⁵	15%

Source: Cornwall 2011 census, ONS, NISRA

Change in full-term employment for established businesses

This benefit looks at jobs created in established businesses as a result of SFBB connections.

Two surveys are used: the business omnibus (connected businesses) and the counterfactual (non-connected businesses). The study compares gross FTE changes of connected and non-connected businesses over the last two years. It finds that gross FTE increases by an average of 0.63 for connected businesses, compared to 0.45 for non-connected businesses.

Total and average GVA is calculated by multiplying each FTE by the average GVA of the industry in which the job is created. This is then scaled up by the estimated number of businesses of established businesses in Cornwall estimated to be connected to superfast for 12 months or longer, and the number of connected businesses in Cornwall overall. Two results are reported: GVA if only businesses that have been connected for more than a year are considered, and GVA including those connected for less than a year.

The authors also consider an alternative approach of 'attributable jobs', which relies on a question in the survey that asks businesses how many jobs were created as a direct result of SFBB. These

⁴¹ Figures taken from 2011 Cornwall census except where stated

⁴² In all cases, most recent data used. This varies between 2015 and 2017.

⁴³ Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP: Strategy and Business Plan April 2012. Available here: <https://www.cioslep.com/assets/file/LEP%20Strategy/Evidence%20Base%201.pdf>

⁴⁴ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Business Population Estimates for UK and the regions 2017

⁴⁵ Taken from NOMIS website, available here: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/1925185540/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx (March 2010 – April 2011)

subjective assessments are used as a sense-check for the first estimate. This exercise results in estimated increase in employment that is actually 0.05 FTE higher than the first approach. However, GVA increases are lower due to the differing productivity distributions of the firms between the two methods – that is, relatively more low productivity firms attributed their increases in employment to SFBB. This is potentially encouraging for the Northern Irish experience due to the relatively large low-productivity sectors.

The reasons for attributing increased employment to SFBB include increases in speed and efficiency, which allows businesses to deal with larger workloads and respond to more tenders, increases in sales, development of new services that require new staff and that ability to access new markets and increase market share.

The study also finds that where the businesses saw increases in employment, the average FTE amongst non-connected businesses in the same sector decreased by 0.25 FTE over the same period. It is not clear whether connected businesses would have anticipated a reduction in employment in the counterfactual case that they did not take SFBB, so employment effects may have been underreported.

The proportion of micro-businesses is higher in Northern Ireland than in the Cornwall sample, which would imply greater impact as these are the firms least likely to have had access to SFBB already. The proportion of large businesses is similar.

Table 6: Comparison of business size in NI to Cornwall survey groups

	Omnibus Survey (%)	Counterfactual Survey (%)	Northern Ireland (%)
Large Businesses (250+)	0.4	0.2	0.4
Medium-sized Business (50-249)	2.6	2.2	1.7
Micro-business (0-9)	73.9	79.3	88
No employees	1.5	0.5	0.5
Small business (10-49)	14.1	14.6	9.8
Unknown	7.4	3.2	N/A

Source: Cornwall Superfast Broadband Evaluation, NISRA IDBR

Safeguarded jobs

The Superfast Cornwall programme had a target to 'safeguard' – ensuring that at-risk jobs were no longer at risk - 2,000 jobs (and a net additional safeguarded GVA of £70m). The omnibus survey found that 14.3% of the 460 connected businesses attributed safeguarded jobs to SFBB, at an average of 0.42 FTE per business.

This figure is calculated in terms of GVA using the same methodology as for the job creation exercise.

Business start-ups

The study uses the household survey to gauge whether SFBB has encouraged the start-up of new businesses. They find that 9.6% of respondents set up a business, and a further 7.1% reported that another member of the household had done so.

The survey also asks the extent to which SFBB influenced their decision to set up a business. Of the 33 who provided details, 12 considered superfast internet influential at some extent. Using data provided on number of employees, and assuming a similar pattern for businesses established by other household members, the study finds that SFBB created an average of 0.02 FTE per consumer.

Once again finding this in terms of GVA per industry, this result is then scaled up for all estimated connected residents and estimated connected residents who were connected for longer than 12 months.

Scaling up benefits

The results are then scaled up to all estimated connected premises in Cornwall. The evaluation estimates this figure using a MINT database figure on the estimated number of business premises in Cornwall (12%, or 29,000) and therefore approximating the number of connected businesses from the number of lines (61,471). Results only including businesses that have been connected for more than a year (approximately 20.4%) are presented alongside this estimate.

The overall results are then converted from gross to net figures by adjusting the FTE/GVA using a displacement estimate (measuring how much the benefits of SFBB are realised at the expense of other businesses in Cornwall – an estimate of 19.5% is used) and a multiplier effect (measuring the additional economic activity in Cornwall that occurred as a result of the creation of jobs, for example through increased spending power – a 1.25 multiplier is used). The appropriateness of these adjustments is considered in previous section 5.2.2.

Data and adjustments to methodology

We make a number of changes to the Cornwall report's approach.

Number of connected premises and take-up assumptions

The evaluation uses the MINT database to estimate the number of business properties in Cornwall: this suggests that about 12% (29,000) of premises in Cornwall are business premises. As we do not have access to this database for Northern Ireland, we instead use the number of business premises that BT targets (6874 are assumed to be eligible for intervention funds), which is in any case likely to be a more accurate figure. Similarly, we estimate connected households from the BT data.

The Cornwall evaluation estimates that the take-up rate is approximately 26%. We estimate benefits using the linear aggregate take-up rate in order to present annual benefits, plateauing at 60%.

In line with the original methodology, we only include businesses that have been connected for more than a year in our final estimates.

Full-term employment and GVA

The evaluation uses estimates of FTE for each industry. However, we cannot find any sufficiently disaggregated figures for self-

	employment per industry in Northern Ireland, and therefore instead rely on the Workforce Jobs (WFJ) estimate, which is a compounded measure of employee jobs, self-employment jobs, HM Forces and government-supported trainees. This may result in an overestimate of full-time positions depending on how many of those are part-time roles, but should therefore lead to a conservative approximation relative to the Cornwall estimate.	
	The evaluation calculates GVA based on what industry the job was created in. As we do not have access to the raw data, we cannot employ a similar methodology. Instead, we use weighted average GVA/FTE of Northern Ireland (weighted by the size of the two-digit SIC code industry in terms of number of businesses) to convert FTE into GVA. The weighted average is approximately £52,900 per WFJ.	
	We also compare the sectoral distribution of the survey respondents and Northern Ireland, including Belfast (due to data restrictions, our estimates will include all of Northern Ireland, rather than just rural areas). The biggest difference is that agriculture plays a much larger role in Northern Ireland than in either survey (24.9% vs 5.4% for omnibus and 14.1% for counterfactual survey), although interestingly the counterfactual survey's proportion of agriculture is still relatively high. Similarly, construction is more relevant in Northern Ireland than in Cornwall. On the other hand, accommodation and food services play a much smaller role, approximately 12% smaller than in Northern Ireland than the surveys.	

Adjustments for longer time horizons

We project and discount our benefits over 15 years, substantially longer than the 6-year term of the Cornwall evaluation. Although one could argue that some of these jobs will be naturally lost over time, this is likely to be offset by a creation effect. Thus, we can assume that a similar number of jobs attributable to the new broadband will be in place at all times.

Results

For their presentation of net GVA created, the SFB report omits the safeguarded jobs from the final figure. Replicating this, we find that businesses and households connecting to BT's network will create just above 2000 jobs in Northern Ireland, with a further 2900 jobs no longer at risk (safeguarded jobs),

Converting this into GVA terms and discounting yields a total estimate of **£890 million over the 15-year period**, equivalent to a benefit of **£5.90 for every £1 of public money spent**.

5.2.4 Summary of employment growth results

Table 7: Summary of employment effects

Base study	Absolute benefit	Benefit multiple (relative to cost)
Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme study	£290m	1.93
Superfast Cornwall Evaluation	£885m	5.9

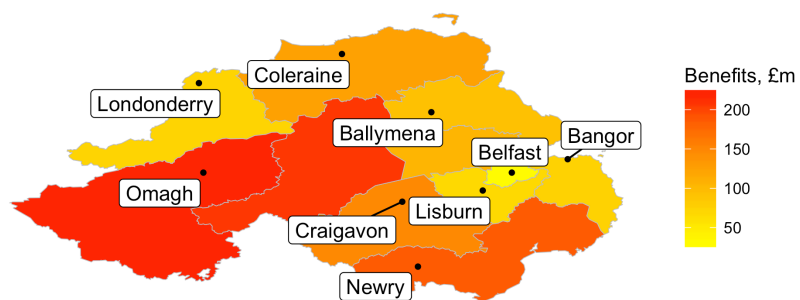
Yearly (undiscounted) benefit, £m

One reason why the Voucher Scheme study-based projection might be an underestimate is that not all impact channels are covered in its calculation. Employment gains might stem from:

- increased employment in established businesses (note that these might be offset by destruction of employment in other businesses, either within or outside the intervention area);
- new business formation; and
- spill-over effects (separate from the multiplier effect of the construction of infrastructure).

The Voucher Scheme methodology quantifies just the first channel. The Cornwall study includes business formation and accounts for the spill-over effect.

Additionally, the Voucher Scheme study bases its estimate on just one survey question (counting just the firms that would not



upgrade connections otherwise), whereas the Cornwall study takes account of the counterfactual scenario in the absence of intervention. Therefore, the Cornwall methodology for estimating the employment growth is the more complete one and thus we consider it to be a better indication of potential benefits in Northern Ireland.

5.3 Increased teleworking

Of the three studies, this benefit is only evaluated in the UK Broadband Impact Study.

Methodology

SQW split their calculations by industry groups, in addition to the density deciles. They have also included assumptions about the evolution of the scale of teleworking until 2024. The key aspect of the analysis is the estimate of the relationship between days per year teleworked by each group as a function of average household connection speed. These estimates are then combined with duration of commutes in each density decile and the average GVA per hour worked.

Data and adjustments to methodology

There are several reasons why our methodology will differ substantially from the original one. First, the details of SQW's calculations are not publicly available. Second, the data on broadband speeds used in the original study is not publicly available. Third, we have made a number of modifications which either allow us to transfer the estimates obtained on English and Welsh data to Northern Ireland or improve the credibility of the estimates.

Specifically, in order to estimate the impact of speed increases on teleworking, we have used data from the 2011 Census, the 2001 Census and Ofcom's postcode-level speed data from 2013.

In our main regression, we use the difference between the proportion of people working from home in 2011 and 2001 in each output area as our dependent variable. We regress it on the average fixed broadband speeds in each output area in 2013, taken from Ofcom's Infrastructure report 2013. It is the earliest publicly available data for areas smaller than Local Authority Areas.

In measuring the effect of broadband speeds on teleworking, one has to account for the fact that rural areas experienced greater declines in teleworking over the period from 2001 to 2011 relative

to urban areas. Such declines cannot be explained by the change in speeds, as teleworking can only get easier with progress in speeds. Rural areas are also the ones where broadband speeds are smallest. As a result, this confounding effect will cause the relationship between connection speeds and teleworking to be exaggerated if it is not included in the analysis.

The original study evaluated their regression in each density decile. We believe that this is not the best approach, as within each decile densities still vary to some extent. Instead, we include in our regression a separate variable, the population density of the given output area (evaluated using data from the 2011 census). We found that this reduces the reported coefficient and implied benefits. However, we believe that it improves the reliability of our estimates.

We combine the resulting estimate with data on average commute time in Northern Ireland to obtain the time savings for each worker who starts working from home as a result of faster broadband. This likely contributes to an underestimation, as those who start working from home are likely to be those whose commute is the longest.

We evaluate all of the time savings using figures for output per head and average working hours in Northern Ireland. This may be either an under- or over-estimate.

On one hand, some of the time may be spent on leisure. There are grounds to believe that compensation, which is typically smaller than output, is the value a worker puts on an increase in leisure. This would be a logical conclusion from how workers are assumed to behave in the labour market. However, this is not entirely accurate as employees face many constraints when choosing their working time.

On the other hand, leisure may prove to have a benefit for the employee's wellbeing and their output. SQW, using guidelines from the Department for Transport, find that the increases in leisure time, even though smaller than increases in working time, will produce greater value for the economy and society.

Results

The benefit is projected to accumulate to £39.5 million by 2033, equivalent to £0.26 per pound spent by the government.

5.4 External benefits

5.4.1 UK Broadband Impact Study

Methodology

The UK Broadband Impact Study proposes a detailed methodology to calculate some of the environmental benefits resulting from faster broadband. Specifically, it outlines three routes to carbon abatement:

- increased teleworking;
- reduced business travel; and
- increased use of cloud computing.

Data and adjustments to methodology

Of the three routes mentioned above we have replicated just the teleworking benefit because the latter two use scarcely available data, less precise assumptions and turn out to be smaller in magnitude than the teleworking one.

The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland contains information about the modes of transport used for commutes in Northern Ireland. We learn that 81% of commuters use a car or a van, with around 1.27 in one vehicle on average, and 11% cycle or walk. The rest, which accounts just for 8%, is split between several modes of transport with varying and uncertain carbon footprint. We therefore calculate the carbon abatement associated with the use of cars and vans.

We use the carbon footprint figure that assigned by UK Government guidelines to an average sized car, 0.29 kg CO₂ per mile, as the amount saved by forgone car or van commutes by newly enabled teleworkers in Northern Ireland.

Results

We estimate that almost a thousand more workers will be working from home as a result of the new connections after the full take-up is reached. This will result in over 500 tonnes of CO₂ abatement each year. In total, it will amount to 6160 tonnes until 2033.

5.4.2 Superfast Cornwall evaluation

Methodology

Although it does not attempt to calculate environmental benefits in monetary terms, the Cornwall evaluation does give estimates of carbon abatement as a result of SFBB. This is based on a complimentary evaluation of the scheme, the ‘Superfast Cornwall Environmental Monitoring’ report by Graham Seabrook, and also BT’s 3:1 carbon abatement methodology (published by the Carbon Trust).

The study considers five key routes to decreased carbon usage as a result of SFBB and bases the methodology to quantify these benefits on a combination of other studies’ reports with some adjustments. They are as follows:

- **De-materialisation** – access to services enabled by high-speed broadband replace physically manufactured goods such as DVDs and printed documents;
- **Teleworking** – the ability to work from home means that individuals are less required to commute to work, therefore cutting total car/transport emissions;
- **eCommerce** - the reduction in commercial, retail and wholesale space required by businesses due to superfast broadband, which enables more remote working and online shopping;
- **Business travel** - the ability to participate in video-conferences reduces the need for face-to-face meetings, and thus associated travel; and
- **SME Cloud Services** – the reduction in carbon use arising from the ability to replace on-site hosted services with cloud-based services.

For most of these benefits, these lead to a ‘per line’ or ‘per business’ figure for carbon abatement.

Data and adjustments to methodology

The study also presents a total estimate of carbon abatement per type of subscriber. However, this is based on several assumptions that are likely invalid for Northern Ireland and therefore we attempt to break down the total estimate into its five channels. We are able to do so for three of the five benefits, with the insufficient information in the report to replicate business travel and SME benefits. We therefore present the lower bound estimate based on these three benefits as well. In addition, we report the carbon abatement based on total estimates from the Cornwall report as a comparative reference.

De-materialisation and eCommerce

Several of the channels allow for straightforward application of the Cornwall parameters. For example, the estimate of de-materialisation per annum is a straightforward application of their result to the assumed number of connected lines. Calculating the eCommerce-related abatement is also relatively straightforward – the report gives benefits dependant on the speed of the broadband connection. We assume that all households reach 100 Mb/s or more and apply this benefit per connected household.

In terms of changing behaviour in response to high-speed broadband access, such as moving towards de-materialisation, cloud services and e-commerce, it is difficult to gauge how different these effects might be between Cornwall and Northern Ireland. One way to assess this may be through digital literacy – which has been found to be relatively low in Northern Ireland. However, we cannot find information on digital literacy for Cornwall at this time, we assume that Cornwall and Northern Ireland are sufficiently similar to respond to the high-speed broadband in similar ways. This is likely a fair assumption given that the Cornwall intervention began in 2011, and that digital literacy has been rising in general.

Teleworking

The teleworking benefit is calculated per worker who has been enabled to telework as a result of the project. We assume that every household has one working individual (which will likely lead to an underestimate of benefits if more than one member of the household works).

We have found that distances travelled for commutes are broadly similar to the UK, although a much smaller percentage of individuals in Northern Ireland telework compared with the rest of the UK (6% compared with approximately 13%); whether this is due to choice or infeasibility is unclear.

We use the Northern Ireland travel survey to assess other features of NI teleworking: although the number of miles travelled per commute are somewhat smaller in Northern Ireland than that assumed in the Cornwall study, the number of days spent teleworking is high (2.6 in the study vs 2.9 in Northern Ireland⁴⁶) and so these differences may, to some extent, balance each other out.

We assume that 6% of individuals who are enabled by SFBB to telework do so, based on NI-wide figures of teleworking. This is again likely to underestimate the full effect that broadband will bring, as some people will not telework at present because they are not able to do so due to poor internet connection. Furthermore, teleworking is more likely in rural areas than urban areas (as shown

⁴⁶ From Northern Ireland Travel Survey

by the Northern Ireland travel survey) and therefore the NI-wide estimate will be smaller than for rural areas.

Business travel and SMEcloud computing

The exact model used for the business travel and SMEcloud computing are unclear. Rather than attempt to quantify these independently we consider it more prudent to exclude these from our calculations. Therefore, our estimate should be taken as a strictly lower bound figure.

Table 8: Carbon abatement as a result of broadband connection

Benefit type (per	Abatement annum)	Application	Total abatement for Northern Ireland as a result of new network per annum ⁴⁷
Super-fast broadband enabled dematerialisation	0.197 tCO ₂ e per residential fibre broadband connection	60% of passed households	15,378
Teleworking per	0.95 tCO ₂ e telecommuter enabled by BT	6% (proportion of telecommuters in NI) of 60% of passed households	4,450
eCommerce	0.5 tCO ₂ e / business connection / per year when bandwidth range exceed 100 Mb/s and above	60% of passed business premises	3,242
Business travel	-	-	-
SMEs moving to Cloud	-	-	-

Source: Superfast Cornwall Environmental Monitoring, BT's 3:1 carbon abatement methodology

Results

Considering just the channels that we were able to replicate for Cornwall, we find a yearly carbon abatement of approximately

⁴⁷ Once 60% take up has been reached; for our final benefit calculations

230,000 tCO₂e over 15 years. Applying the Cornwall evaluation’s estimate directly leads to a total carbon abatement figure of 751,000.

5.4.3 Summary of external benefits results

Table9: External environmental benefits

Base study	Carbon abated (tCO ₂ e)
UK Broadband Impact Study	6160
Superfast Cornwall Evaluation	230,000

Whereas we have only focused on the carbon abatement from teleworking for the UK Broadband Impact study, we have also included de-materialisation and eCommerce for the Cornwall-based estimate. Although this estimate is therefore more complete than the Broadband Impact-based figure, it is nevertheless a lower bound as it still excludes carbon abatement from SMEs moving to Cloud and business travel.

5.5 Summary

Table 10 below provides an overall summary of how the various studies have been used to provide estimates of benefits. We indicate our preferred approach for estimating each category of benefit.

Table 10: Benefits by category and methodology for estimation

Source study	Productivity gain	Employment gain	Teleworking	Environmental
UK Broadband Impact Study	£270m Application of national level estimate of elasticity of productivity w.r.t. broadband speed	Not robust – issues with applying methodology and sensitivity of results to level of geographical disaggregation of data	£40m Re-estimated using our own model following broadly similar approach	6160 tCO ₂ e Reduced commuting only, so an underestimate
Connection voucher scheme impact study	£50m Clear underestimate as does not identify productivity increases that will be competed away and benefit consumers, rather than being taken as additional profit by firms	£290m Only impact on existing business considered, not creation of new businesses, so an underestimate		
Superfast Cornwall Final Evaluation	£407m Small sample issues	£890m Includes effects of business creation		230,000 tCO ₂ e Commuting, dematerialisation and eCommerce included

Notes: Preferred methodologies shaded. All benefits on a discounted 15-year basis.

The summary of the results for each category of benefit is given in the Table 11 below.

Table 11: Summary of benefits

Benefit category	Absolute benefit	Benefit multiple (relative to cost)
Productivity growth	£50m - £407m	0.33 - 2.71
Employment benefits	£290m – £885m	1.93-5.9
Teleworking	£39m	0.26

We consider that the UK Broadband Impact Study-based estimates provide our central projections of the productivity and teleworking benefits. We use the Superfast Cornwall methodology as our main methodology for employment growth estimates.

£8 of benefit for
every £1 spent

This gives a central estimate of **£1190 million in benefits in discounted terms up to 2033**. This is equivalent to **£7.90 per pound spent by the government**. As the previous studies argued, this is a reasonable estimate considering that the Internet is a general-purpose technology that impacts businesses and the wider population on multiple levels of their functioning.

Steady state flow
benefits in the order
of £150m per annum

Figure 4 shows the evolution of these benefits over time. This reflects the phased take-up and adoption assumptions.

Figure 4: Time profile of benefits

The yearly benefit rises quickly until 2024, when we assume the full take-up will be reached. Thereafter, increases are due to underlying economic growth, which we conservatively assume continues at 1% per annum.

Figure 5: Geographical distribution of benefits

Benefits concentrated where productivity is currently relatively low

Figure 5 illustrates the regional distribution of the benefits. Benefits are concentrated in the west, especially Fermanagh and Omagh - £221 million – and Mid-Ulster - £208 million. Belfast, despite being the most populous out of the eleven Local Government districts, will only receive £27 million in benefits both as (i) roll-out here is limited and (ii) those premises that would be passed are disproportionately receiving speeds above 30 Mb/s already and so we do not count them as receiving benefits.

The intervention is thus directed towards the western part of the country, which is poorer than either Belfast or the eastern regions outside of Belfast (considering the five NUTS3 regions of Northern Ireland that have been in place before 2018 and 2016 GVA figures, West and South of Northern Ireland had a GVA per capita of just £17,553, while Belfast – £37,220).

Employment impact relatively important

Finally, the balance of benefits created through specific impact channels is somewhat different than in previous studies. In the UK Broadband Impact Study, the productivity growth benefit accounted for almost 80% of the projected benefits, with the rest explained mostly by the employment benefit. In the Voucher Scheme study, the employment benefit turned out to be 5.4 times higher than the profit increase for affected firms, even though the profit benefit was defined more broadly – and the employment one more narrowly – than in other studies.

In our central case, the employment gain is 3.3 times higher than the productivity gain and the teleworking benefit makes up 3.3% of the overall impact.

These differences in the ratio of the employment benefit to the productivity benefit are partly due to the significantly different nature of the interventions corresponding to each study. The intervention here is focussed on rural areas where there is potential for employment creation, but relatively less current economic activity to benefit from productivity gains.

Potential
underestimation bias

Finally, the estimates of all benefits except for the teleworking one have a downward bias associated with the fact that we have not been able to identify all businesses featuring in the roll-out plan. Some businesses may be based on residential premises or use residential broadband plans and may not be identified as businesses in the data provided to us.

Variables	Dataset	Web link
Average number of commute trips, average commute distance, means of transport used for commuting	UK Government, Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland): Travel Survey for Northern Ireland	https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/travel-survey-northern-ireland
Average commute time	Office for National Statistics: Travel to work methods and the time it takes to commute from home to work, Labour Force Survey, 2007 to 2016	https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/adhocs/008005traveltoworkmethodsandthetimetittakescommutefromhometoworklabourforcesurvey2007to2016
Average working hours	Statista: Average actual weekly hours of work in Northern Ireland from 2013 to 2017	https://www.statista.com/statistics/384055/average-actual-weekly-hours-northern-ireland-time-series-uk/
Carbon abatement per mile of forgone journey	UK Government, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy: Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting
GVA (incl. GVA per head) split by NUTS3 regions	Office for National Statistics: Regional gross value added (income approach)	https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach
Number of businesses by size and NUTS3 region	Office for National Statistics: UK Business – activity, size and location	https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation
Number of households by NUTS3 region in 2011	Northern Ireland Statistics & research Agency: Census 2011	https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2011-census-results-population-estimates-local-government-district-report-19-september-2012.pdf
Number of households in Northern Ireland in 2017	Office for National Statistics:	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/adhocs/

	Total number of households by region and country of the UK, 1996 to 2017	005374totalnumberofhouseholdsbyregionandcountryoftheuk1996to2015
Social value of carbon abatement	UK Government, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy: Carbon valuation	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/carbon-valuation—2
Average speeds by area in 2013 in England and Wales	Ofcom: Infrastructure report 2013, Fixed broadband postcode level data 2013	https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research
Population density, number of workers and proportion of those working mainly at or from home, by Output Area in 2011	Nomis: 2011 Census Bulk Data Download	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/bulk/r2_2
Number of workers and proportion of those working mainly at or from home, by Output Area in 2001	Nomis: Census 2001	Query wizard available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/census2001.asp
Local Enterprise Partnership GVA	Office for National Statistics: GVA for Local Enterprise Partnerships, February 2017	https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/gvaforlocalenterprisepartnerships
Gross Value Added by industry	Office for National Statistics: Nominal and real regional gross value added (balanced) by industry	https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/nominalandrealregionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedbyindustry
Workforce jobs by industry	Office for National Statistics: JOBS05: Workforce jobs by region and industry	https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/workforcejobsbyregionandindustryjobs05
Businesses by industry	NISRA: Interdepartmental Business Register January 2018	https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/current-publication-and-idbr-tables-0

APPENDIX 3

UPDATE REPORT ON COUNCIL'S ESF MATCH FUNDED PROGRAMMES 2018 – 2022

At a meeting of the Development Committee in September 2017, the provision of Council match funding towards the following ESF Programmes was approved from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022: SUSE+ (South West College), Up for Work (Network Personnel), Job Match (Network Personnel) and Exploring Enterprise 4 (Enterprise NI).

1. Step Up to Sustainable Programme (SUSE+ Programme) (South West College)
2. Exploring Enterprise 4 Programme (EE4P) (Enterprise NI)
3. Up for Work Programme (UFWP) (Network Personnel)
4. Job Match Programme (JMP) (Network Personnel)

All 4 Programmes are now in receipt of Letters of Offer from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and an update on the funding packages and targets to be achieved by each over the 4 years is outlined below.

▪ **SUSE + (Lead organisation: South West College)**

SUSE+ delivers skills development and employability support to help participants into further development, training, education and employment.

Letter of Offer Targets & Funding Profile

SUSE+ 2018-2022 Programme Components	Targets
Participants Enrolled	900
Into Employment (leaving)	198
Into Employment (after 6 months)	198
Into FE & Training	58

The overall funding profile of the SUSE Programme is now:

Source	Amount	Percentage
DfE/ESF	£2,443,659.40	65.00%
DAERA	£400,000.00	10.64%
MUDC	£160,000.00	4.26%
FODC	£160,000.00	4.26%
Radius Housing	£80,000.00	2.13%
SWC	£515,816.00	13.72%
Total	£3,759,475.40	100%

The total programme funding package is now £3,759,475.40 with Council's funding of up to £160,000, potentially leveraging an additional £3,599,475 of funding to support citizens in the District.

▪ Exploring Enterprise 4 Programme (Lead organisation: Enterprise NI)

Following on from its predecessors, Exploring Enterprise 1,2 and 3 EE4p seeks to support participants from disadvantaged groups who are unemployed / economically inactive, or working or in training less than 16 hours per week to explore self-employment, to enter or return to the labour market. It is aimed at pre start-up clients who want to find out about self-employment and explore and research a business idea and will also provide clients with a recognised qualification in Business Enterprise.

Letter of Offer Targets & Funding Profile

EEP4+ 2018-2022 Programme Components	Targets
Participants Enrolled	178
Into Employment (leaving)	36
Into Employment (after 6 months)	47
Into FE & Training	16

The primary post programme outcome is to create 36 new jobs (15 into employment & 21 into self-employment).

FUNDING PACKAGE 2018-22	£	%
ESF and DEL	£119,674.54	65%
Enterprise NI	£32,220.07	17.5%
Mid Ulster District Council	£32,220.07	17.5%
Total	£184,114.68	100%

Total Mid Ulster District Council funding required is up to £32,220.07, (£8,055 per annum) which will potentially leverage an additional £151,894 of funding to support citizens in the district.

▪ Up for Work Programme (Lead organisation: Network Personnel)

The Programme seeks to engage and support participants who are not in employment, education or training (NEET's) to enter or return to the labour market. The Programme will adopt a youth-work based methodology that will enable participants aged 16-24 to develop their personal, social and employability skills. Over the 4 year period (2018-22) it aims to attract 300 participants across the Mid Ulster Council area who are 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET's).

Letter of Offer Targets & Funding Profile

Up for Work 2018-2022 Programme Components	Targets
Participants Enrolled	300
Into Employment	80
Into FE & Training	64

FUNDING PACKAGE 2018-22	£	%
ESF	£705,300.00	65.00%
DfE Additional Match Funding	£317,016.00	29.21%
Network Personnel	£24,716.00	2.28%
Mid Ulster District Council	£38,048.00	3.51%
Total	£1,085,080.00	100%

The overall cost of delivering the Up for Work Programme is up to £1,085,080 with a total of £38,048 (£9,512 per annum) provided by Mid Ulster District Council achieving potential overall leverage of £1,047,032.

▪ **Job Match Programme (Lead organisation: Network Personnel)**

JMP supports long-term unemployed people from marginalised backgrounds into work and/or gain further qualifications and training. The Programme will be delivered to **1,672** clients in Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon, Omagh, Antrim, Ballymena, Larne, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey. Of the 1,672 clients, **392** will be from the Mid Ulster area over the four year period 2018-22.

The main target groups will be the long term unemployed and have as a priority, helping those who are marginalised including ex-offenders, those with drug and alcohol issues, carers and the economically inactive. Job Match will provide vocational training and employability support for those 18+ years old. Once again, it will have a particular focus on supporting participants with specific barriers e.g. long-term unemployed, economically inactive, caring responsibilities, ex-offenders, addictions and NEETS.

Letter of Offer Targets & Funding Profile

Job Match 2018-2022 Programme Components	Targets
Participants Enrolled	392
Into Employment (leaving)	72
Into Employment (after 6 months)	100
Into FE & Training	40

FUNDING PACKAGE 2018-22	£	%
ESF	£2,067,884.00	65.00%
DfE Additional Match Funding	£918,396.00	28.87%
Network Personnel	£71,096.00	2.23%
Mid Ulster District Council	£41,328.00	1.30%
2 Additional Council areas	£82,656.00	2.60%
Total	£3,181,360.00	100%

A Council investment of £41,328 (equivalent to 1.3%) over 4 years (2018-22) will potentially leverage £3,140,032 into the Mid Ulster District to support 392 long term unemployed people from marginalised backgrounds into work and/or gain further qualifications and training.

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	4 th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney
Contact Officer	Claire Linney

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 Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations.
1.2	To approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations.
1.3	To approve the Decade of Anniversaries (DOA) applications (Appendix to be issued in advance of the meeting).
1.4	To approve to go to tender for the Mid Ulster General Advice contract.
1.5	To update on Community Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme - The Grant Aid Programme for the 2018/19 financial year facilitates applications being made on a rolling basis for Community Festivals and Good Relations.
2.2	Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020 and Partnership oversees the delivery of the Plan and recommendations to Council.
2.3	Decade of Anniversaries – As part of the Council Good Relations Plan provision has been given to support decade of anniversaries activities through a grant process.
2.4	Mid Ulster General Advice Contract – Mid Ulster District Council currently partners with DFC in the provision of a general advice service for Mid Ulster.
2.5	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Village Planning, Community Centres, DFC Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations PCSP

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Community Grants Rolling Programme</p> <p>There are 13 Community Festival applications recommended for awards totaling £9,150.</p> <p>There are 4 Good Relations applications recommended for awards totaling £2,905.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix 1 for detail.</p>
3.2	<p>Peace IV</p> <p>Recommendation from the Peace IV Partnership for decision making:</p> <p>As part of the Council Peace IV local action plan allocation; to date a total of £3,136.256 has been received. There remains £218,500 to be bid for under the Building Positive Relations theme only. Council was informed at start of June that they can submit a further application for the remaining funding to be received on 28th June. Given the limited timeline and number of programmes currently being delivered a proposal is going to be submitted to the Peace Partnership to consider an uplift to the two partner programmes within the Building Positive Relations theme; Rural Community Engagement Programme and Urban and Migrant Engagement Programme. The other programmes within this theme have all received an uplift as per the last submission. If there is any alternative to this proposal, pending the outcome of discussion at the Peace IV Partnership on Wednesday 27th June, an update will be provided at the Committee meeting.</p>
3.3	<p>Decade of Anniversaries</p> <p>As part of the Good Relations Plan it was agreed to allocate £24,000 to the decade of anniversaries.</p> <p>The DOA grant for applications is open for two calls June/July and September. The first call opened Friday 15th June to close Friday 29th June (2 weeks), to allow for activities taking place over the summer period. The second call will open 10th September and close Friday 21st September (2 weeks) to accommodate the Autumn and Winter scheduled activities. The grant available is up to £2500 with 50% minimum match funding. The funding criteria is in line with the CRC/HLF guidelines. The assessment will take place week commencing 2nd July with a report for recommendation of award to be presented to Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Appendix report to follow in advance of Committee re recommendations for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>Mid Ulster General Advice Contract - As part of its remit for provision of general advice across Mid Ulster, in partnership with DFC, Council issued a 3 year advice contract which will end March 2019. To allow the continuation of advice provision across the District from April 2019, and to give adequate notice regarding current contract, it is proposed to go to tender for delivery, using the previous tender documentation and taking account of monitoring and learning from within the current contract regarding areas for outreach provision, targets per DEA and updated monitoring systems.</p> <p>The budget allocation will remain as previous, pending budget and confirmation of DFC budget at its current level.</p>

3.5	<p>Community Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u> Community Development officers are working with groups across the District on a range of funding and development opportunities.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are ongoing.</p> <p>The development of a poverty initiative for Mid Ulster is progressing and an update will be provided when engagement has taken place with key agencies re potential funding.</p> <p><u>Peace and Good Relations</u> Good Relations Grant assessment and processing is ongoing. Delivery of the Plan has commenced.</p> <p>Peace IV delivery is ongoing – programme delivery is to schedule for the Rural Programme, Migrant and Urban Programme, Youth Programme, Primary Schools Programme, Post Primary Schools Programme, Cross Border Heritage Programme, Cross Border Literary Programme and Arts programme. The Sports programme is going out to tender in June and cross border Literary Programme to quotation.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> Development of the Plan has commenced in delivery. PCSP working group meetings continue to be facilitated, along with partner programmes.</p> <p>Please see a copy of the most recent PCSP minutes at Appendix 2.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Community Local Festival awards £9,150 Good Relations awards £2,905</p> <p>DOA awards as per Appendix report to follow re recommendations; budget is £24,000 (grants up to £2500 to be matched 50%)</p> <p>Mid Ulster Advice Contract budget region £210,000 - £230,000</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1 £9,150 and £2,905</p>

5.2	To approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations, pending final position of the Peace IV Partnership.
5.3	To agree the DOA grant recommendations; Appendix report with recommendations to follow in advance of Committee.
5.4	To agree to go to tender (post summer) for the Mid Ulster Advice Contract.
5.5	To note the community development update report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Rolling Grant Programmes award recommendations</p> <p>Appendix 2 PCSP Minutes</p> <p>Appendix 3 Decade of Anniversaries Funding Recommendations; report to follow in advance of Committee.</p>

Appendix 1

Community Local Festival – July 2018

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Annahoo Historical Cultural & Sports Soc	Cultural	Clogher Valley 12th July 2018	3	£1,700.00	£960
2	Carntogher Community Association	Cultural	Féile Charn Tóchair 2018	1	£1,208.93	£1,200
3	Friends of St Mary's Dunamore	Community	Community Fun Day	5	£1,880.00	£720
4	Leckagh Neighbourhood Group	Community	Family Fun Day & Community Festival	6	£1,200.00	£600
5	Northern Counties Co-Operative Enterprises Ltd	Community	Swatragh Co-Op Truck and Tractor Run	6	£1,200.00	£600
6	Pomeroy Development Projects Ltd	Community	Rowan Tree 2018 Festival	1	£1,790.00	£1,200
7	Square Wheels Cycling Club	Community	Squids Summer Scheme	6	£1,200.00	£600
8	St Patrick's Acordion Band	Cultural	American War of Independence festival	4	£1,200.00	£840
9	St Patrick's PS Donaghmore Parent Support	Community	Traditional Music Camp & Arts	6	£3,405.00	£600
10	White City Community Assoc	Community	Football Family Fun Day	4	£1,200.00	£840
11	Ballinderry Parish Church Vintage Rally	Community	Ballinderry Vintage Rally	2	£1,100.00	£990
12	Derrytresk Community Group	Community	Walk, Bike, Run!	2	£1,500.00	£1,080
13	Logue's Hill CPC	Sport	OT Home International & CSF(ED)	3	£2,000.00	£960
						£9,150

Good Relations - July 2018

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Bellaghy Women's Group	Community	Visit Crumlin Rd Gaol	5	£1,120	£675
2	Cookstown Lambeg & Fife drumming club	Cultural	Our Heritage - Our World	4	£900	£630
3	St Patricks Flute Band The Loup	Cultural	Youth project 2018	6	£800	£400
4	Dungannon Area Churches Forum	Community	Annual Programme of Activity	1	£1,200	£1,200
						£2,905

Score	Band	%
30-39	7	40%
40-49	6	50%
50-59	5	60%
60-69	4	70%
70-79	3	80%
80-89	2	90%
90+	1	100%

**Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership
held in Council Chamber, Dungannon on Wednesday, 7 February at 4.00pm**

- Present:** Councillor Ken Reid (Chair), Councillors Frances Burton, Phelim Gildernew, Denise Mullen, Derek McKinney, Sean McPeake
- Fiona Crawford, Liam Duggan, Mark Farquhar, Ursula Marshall (Vice Chair), Emma Sheerin
- Inspector Andy Archibald (PSNI), Superintendent Mike Baird (PSNI), Michael Dallat (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Inspector Joanne Gibson (PSNI), Michael Hogg (EA), Sergeant Beverley Knipe (PSNI), Emer Loughran (PBNI), Liz McGrath (SHSCT), Chief Inspector Roy Robinson (PSNI), Inspector Danny Walsh (PSNI)
- Apologies:** Councillor Peter Bateson, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Simon Green (NIFRS), Kate Lambe (NHSCT) Martina Watson
- In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PSCP Manager), Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting started at 4.05pm.

PCSP75/18 WELCOME

The Chair, Councillor Ken Reid welcomed all to the meeting.

PCSP76/18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

**PCSP77/18 MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday, 20 September 2017 were approved and signed subject to the following comments.

Proposed by: Councillor Phelim Gildernew
Seconded by: Councillor Denise Mullen

PCSP65/17 THEMATIC GROUP UPDATE
ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour Forum Update

Councillor Burton stated she had recently contacted the non-emergency 101 number to report a suspicious vehicle in her area, but was unable to do, as her call was unanswered when transferred to call-handling section. She said the level of service provided to the public continues to be very poor.

PCSP73/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1 Incident in Coalisland

In response to a question from Liam Duggan, the PCSP Manager said due to the postponement of the meeting in December 2017, a representative from the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) would be invited to the next PCSP meeting.

PCSP78/18 THEMATIC GROUP UPDATES

1. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FORUM

The PCSP Officer provided an update to Members on project work completed and ongoing programmes, details as follows;

Youth Engagement Programme (YEP)

Members were informed a 'Celebration and Recognition Evening' will be arranged following the completion of the Youth Engagement Programme. This Programme is being delivered by PCSP, PNSI, YJ A and EA Youth Service to 14 young people who have come to the attention of these agencies for ASB and low level crime. Members will receive an invitation to the event.

'Where is your Child – Your Vision, Their Reality'

The PCSP Officer advised Members this campaign was developed by PCSP, PSNI, Breakthru, Dungannon Youth Resource Centre and EA Youth Service and delivered by Beam Creative Network. Photographs and short video clips developed for five external advertising and social media campaigns on fireworks, drugs misuse, sexual exploitation, alcohol/hate related violence and alcohol misuse. Advertising campaign to take place in March 2018 and roll out of social media campaign thereafter.

2. NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY GROUP UPDATE

The PCSP Manager provided Members with an update on project work completed and ongoing programmes, details as follows;

Defibrillator – Moy Village

Members were advised that the PCSP Officer has been engaging with local Vintners in Moy to assess problems. A defibrillator to be installed in Moy village in the near future.

Responding to a question from Ursula Marshall, the PCSP Manager advised that Street Angels and Club Angels are two separate organisations. The former is operating under Positive Steps with the latter operating out of Lanyon Hall in Cookstown.

3. VULNERABLE PERSONS UPDATE

The PCSP Officer provided Members with an update on project work completed and ongoing programmes, details as follows;

Radar Programme

739 key stage 2 pupils visited Radar throughout November 2017. There are 5 more visits scheduled to take place to the end of March 2018.

'No Cold Calling' Zones

4 zones have been set up to date. 4 more to be set up in Cookstown and Dungannon areas.

"Who's At The Door"

This will be delivered by Beam Creative Network in 15 schools across Mid Ulster between 29th January and 9th February. All schools have been identified by the PSNI Schools Officers and include Sperrinview Special School and Kilronan School.

Schools & Parents Internet Safety

Delivery has commenced. 3 parent sessions have been delivered to date. Dates and schools have been identified for the 5 remaining workshops. This programme is delivered in partnership with the PSNI Schools Officers.

Responding to a question from Liam Duggan, the PCSP Officer stated that all participating schools are identified by PSNI Case Officers.

The list of participating schools to be sent to all Members.

PCSP79/18 ACTION PLAN 2018/2019

The PCSP Manager sought approval for PCSP Action Plan 2018/2019. He advised Members pages one to five inclusive contain a detailed introduction to the three Strategic Priorities.

Pages eight to thirteen contain Population Indicators. Members were advised since 2013 there has been a steady reduction in the number of recorded crime incidents across the Mid Ulster District.

Responding to a question from Mark Farquhar, the PCSP Manager stated that 2016/17 are the last verified PSNI statistics, previous years' figures have been included to identify trends.

The Strategic Priorities are contained in pages fourteen to twenty four inclusive.

Members made the following comments;

Responding to a question from Councillor McPeake, Inspector Gibson advised that there is an existing Speed Patrol Trailer in Dungannon, which is an excellent piece of equipment and has been utilised in villages on various occasions.

Inspector Gibson also informed Members that Cookstown and Magherafelt have the use of Speed Trailers.

In response to a question from Councillor Burton regarding the lack of promotional and security items the PCSP Manager stated that due to the late issue of our Letter of Offer and confirmation of budget, procurement for new items was delayed. He advised Members there was a current stock of items

and to contact any of the PCSP Officers if merchandise is required for an event.

The PCSP Manager informed Members the Action Plan 2018/2019 presently contains an indicative budget and he will report upon the Letter of Offer at the next meeting.

Members approved the PCSP Action Plan for 2018/2019.

Proposed: Councillor Derek McKinney
Seconded: Councillor Frances Burton

PCSP80/18 CONSULTATION SURVEYS

The PCSP Manager advised Members that consultation surveys will be completed at PCSP events. Surveys would be offered in both paper and electronic form, dependent on the audience. A district wide consultation survey would be released in April/May.

Liam Duggan referred to questions 6 in the survey, relating to 'the overall experience when reporting a crime' to the PSNI and made reference to the very negative experience provided by a Member earlier in the meeting when contacting the non-emergency 101 number.

Liam also mentioned Equality Section 75 - LGBT not reporting. The PCSP Manager advised the section on demographics would be expanded.

Michael Dallat suggested the inclusion of a more qualitative substance and also commented on identifying specific areas of anti-social behaviour. This will be incorporated into the survey.

PCSP81/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Maghera Park n' Ride – CCTV

The PCSP Manager advised Members a very positive meeting had taken place with the Department for Infrastructure, PSNI and himself on the issue of crime in park n rides. It was put to DfI that PCSP could fund CCTV cameras in the car parks. DfI indicated that existing street lighting poles and electricity could be used for cameras. They would also provide funding to assist the scheme.

However, DfI have since informed us that we are now unable to use their street lighting poles or electricity supply. To put up separate poles and power supplies would greatly increase the cost of this scheme.

Superintendent Baird stated Park n' Ride CCTV had been discussed at Community Planning meetings and suggested sending a letter to DfI from the Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council seeking clarification. He also suggested the possibility of installing 'dummy' cameras.

The PCSP Manager will liaise further with DfI on this issue.

2. 'Safer U' App

The PCSP Manager advised Members the 'Safer U' App is now available to download. The district wide promotional campaign would begin with the new Action Plan. He added that Liz McGrath from the Southern Health Trust had recently provided a number of leaflets and links that will be also be available on the App. If any other member had any suggestions please forward them.

The Chair referred to the sad passing of Marian Dorman a much valued PCSP Member and Paul McElhone, father of Ciaran McElhone who both passed away in December 2017.

A minute silence was observed at the Policing Committee Meeting on 24 January 2018. The Chair expressed sincere condolences to both families.

PCSP82/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next PCSP meeting will be held on Wednesday, 30 May 2018 in the Council Chamber, Dungannon at 6.00pm.

The meeting ended at 5.10pm.

All members were present for the duration of the meeting except Sinead Dolan who arrived at 4.05pm, Liz McGrath who arrived at 4.09pm, Fiona Crawford who arrived at 4.35pm and Emma Sheerin who left at 5.00pm.

Appendix 3 Decade of Anniversaries – July 2018

No	Organisation			Score	Request	Award up to based on expend.	50% allocation – minimum spend vouched
1	Ardtrea & Desertcreat Senior Citizens Group	DOA Concert	Ardtrea Church	1	£1,000	£1,000	£2000
2	Killyman & District Cultural Group	DOA Compilation of Book	Killyman Orange Hall & Killyman/Dan Community	1	£1,414	£1,414	£2,828
3	The RBLDungannon/Moy	DOA Remembrance event	Hill of the O'Neill	1	£1,245	£1,245	£2490
4	Ballinderry AOH	DOA Study visit	Dublin and Ballinderry area	1	£675	£675	£1350
5	St Patricks Loup GAC	DOA Series of talks	Loup GAC	2	£850	£637.50	£1275
6	Cookstown INF	DOA Study visit	Dublin	2	£675	£506.25	£1012.50
7	Bruce True Blues LOL 400	DOA History talk	Bellaghy Pres. Church Hall	1	£1,000	£1,000	£2000
8	Castledawson RBL	DOA Remembrance event	Castledawson/Bellaghy	1	£1,000	£1,000	£2000
9	Sandholes Comm. Group	DOA Concert	Sandholes Pres. Church	1	£1,040	£1,040	£2080
10	Broughderg Area Dev. Ass	DOA talks/history events	Broughderg Community Centre	1	£675	£675	£1350
11	Coalisland RBL	DOA Remembrance event	The Royal Hotel , CT	1	£2,325	£2,325	££4650
12	Craic Theatre	DOA Drama productions	Craic Theatre	1	£1,250	£1,250	£2500
						£12,767.75	

Ineligible/Unsuccessful

Institute of Irish Leadership	Did not meet the minimum threshold
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Score	Band	%
>50	1	100%
>30	2	75%
<30	Fail	

Report on	Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme
Date of Meeting	4 th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Rebecca Ní Dhonnaile & Déaglán Ó Doibhlin

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

1.0	Purpose of Report																						
1.1	<p>To seek members approval for the proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and Minority Language Bursary scheme allocation to be awarded to successful applicants for 2018-2019. Delivery of Irish Language Activity Funding Programmes 2018-2019 across Mid Ulster District Council. 																						
2.0	Background																						
2.1	The Regional and Minority Languages Bursary Programme and Irish Language Activity Funding scheme were advertised in local press on Monday 23rd April with a closing date identified for all returned submissions of Friday 11th May 2018.																						
2.2	In total, 146 applications were received under the Regional and Minority Languages Bursary Programme, with a total of 146 bursaries being proposed to be awarded to a total of 146 recipients.																						
2.3	Under Irish Language Activity Funding, a total of 23 applications were received, from a wide range of groups with diverse programmes being proposed to be awarded to a total of 20 groups.																						
3.0	Main Report																						
3.1	<p>The total allocation of funding required to support the language bursary scheme for 2018-2019 is £30,000. Below is a summary of this distribution geographically:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GEOGRAPHIC AREA</th><th>NO. OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bellaghy / Newbridge / P'glenone</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Castledawson</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Coalisland</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cookstown & District</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>Draperstown</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dungannon & District</td><td>43</td></tr> <tr> <td>Maghera</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr> <td>Magherafelt & District</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Moneymore</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL BUDGET</td><td>£30,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NO. OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS	Bellaghy / Newbridge / P'glenone	8	Castledawson	1	Coalisland	22	Cookstown & District	17	Draperstown	9	Dungannon & District	43	Maghera	23	Magherafelt & District	20	Moneymore	3	TOTAL BUDGET	£30,000
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NO. OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS																						
Bellaghy / Newbridge / P'glenone	8																						
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Maghera	23																						
Magherafelt & District	20																						
Moneymore	3																						
TOTAL BUDGET	£30,000																						

The total allocation of funding required to support the Irish Language Activity Funding for 2018-2019 is £45,000. The total amount of funding requested from 23 groups was £73,212. Below is a summary of the £55,818 of funding which is proposed to be provided to 20 groups after being assessed and processed by the Officer Team:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NAME OF GROUP	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED	
Bellaghy / Newbridge / P'glenone	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Newbridge	Irish Language classes	£300	
Coalisland	Cairde Uí Néill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irish Language Day at G.A.A Summer camp - 'Club Amhránaíochta Uí Néill' Irish Language singing group - Weekend of celebrating sean-nós singing. (old style and through the medium of Irish) - Lectures - Street festival 	£5,370	
Cookstown & District	Institute of Irish Leadership	'Gaeltacht Thír Eoghain' 5 day intensive Irish Language course	£1,600	
	C.L.G An Craobh	Irish vocabulary documentation in the form of a pocket sized booklet	£300	
	C.L.G Cill Dreas	Campa Chill Dreas – An Irish Language summer camp	£2,147	
	Cairdeas Eoghain	Seal Spraoi Lúnasa – An Irish Language summer camp	£2,240	
Draperstown	C.L.G Baile na Scríne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Blíotz Uladh' Annual sports blitz through the medium of Irish - Family day for Irish speakers and learners - Lectures 	£1,250	
Dungannon & District	Comhaltas Uladh (An Chraobh Rua)	Irish Language reading group which often hosts guest speakers and lecturers	£765	
	C.L.G Augher	'Campa Mhic Artain' Irish Language summer camp	£3,686	

		Scoil Iósaef	'Lá Mór Idirscoile' Interschool day where local bunscoileanna can visit St. Joseph's Grammar School and interact with potential future classmates through sport, music and various activities	£2,500	
		Pobal an Ghleanna	- 4 levels of Irish Language classes - Intensive Irish Language courses - Lectures - Entertainment evening through the medium of Irish - Youth activities through the medium of Irish	£4,800	
		Coiste Champa Chormaic	'Campa Chormaic 2018' Irish Language summer camp	£400	
		Acadamh na Gaeilge	Purchase of Fáinní – a recognised badge illustrating competency in Irish Language - to present to members of staff within the school who successfully undergo assessment in speaking Irish	£160	
	Maghera	Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair	- GCSE Irish preparation course - AS/A2 Irish preparation course - Irish Language grammatical accuracy course - 'Feis Charn Tóchair' A celebration of Irish Language and culture where both children and adults take part in various competitions - Irish Language Writing Club - Irish Language Amateur Drama Club - Irish Language Youth Drama Club - 'Coláiste Charn Tóchair' Annual children's Irish Language summer camp - Irish Language Summer School for adult learners - Irish Language running club	£16,285	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of a comprehensive publication based on natural Irish Language terminology which will serve as a handbook to Irish Language Youth Club leaders and facilitators of other Irish Language events - Irish Language Youth Club - 'Lá Gairmeacha Gaeilge' Irish Language Careers Day for local secondary schools - Irish Language Classes 		
		Granaghan & District Women's Group	Irish Language classes	£800	
	Magherafelt & District	St. Trea's G.F.C Ballymaguigan	Irish Language classes	£600	
		Glór na Speiríní	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irish Language classes - Intensive course for those studying for AS and A2 exams. - Entertainment workshop through the medium of Irish for primary school aged children - Family days for Irish speakers and learners 	£3,450	
		South Derry Cultural Heritage Society	Irish Language classes	£650	
		Naíscoil Ghreanacháin	'Stay & Play' A scheme where parents/guardians are invited into the nursery where they can participate in the goings on and therefore learn Irish alongside their child.	£665	
		Glór Mhachaire Fíolta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irish Language classes - Intensive Irish Language courses - Youth activities through the medium of Irish - Walking group through the medium of Irish - Family days for Irish speakers and learners 	£7,950	
	TOTAL		£55,918		

We received a total of £6,460 for group trips to the Gaeltacht and have advised these groups to apply to a Good Relations grant from MUDC as we feel that they meet the criteria. Below is a summary of these applications.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NAME OF GROUP	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Coalisland	Cairde Uí Néill	£975
Dungannon & District	Acadamh na Gaeilge	£400
Maghera	An Carn	£1,250
Magherafelt & District	Glór Mhachaire Fíolta	£800
	Glór na Speiríní	£500
	Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí	£2,535
TOTAL	£6,460	

We received a total of £11,832 in applications regarding family based learning activities. We have proposed adding these applications to our proposed Regional and Minority Language initiative, *Gaeilge don Teaghlach* – Irish for the family. Below is a summary of the applications received with planned activities which are relevant to the programme.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NAME OF GROUP	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Dungannon & District	Pobal an Ghleanna	£750
Maghera	An Carn	£1,260
	Conradh na Gaeilge, Carn Tóchair	£8,057
Magherafelt & District	Glór na Speiríní	£1,765
TOTAL	£11,832	

4.0 Other Considerations

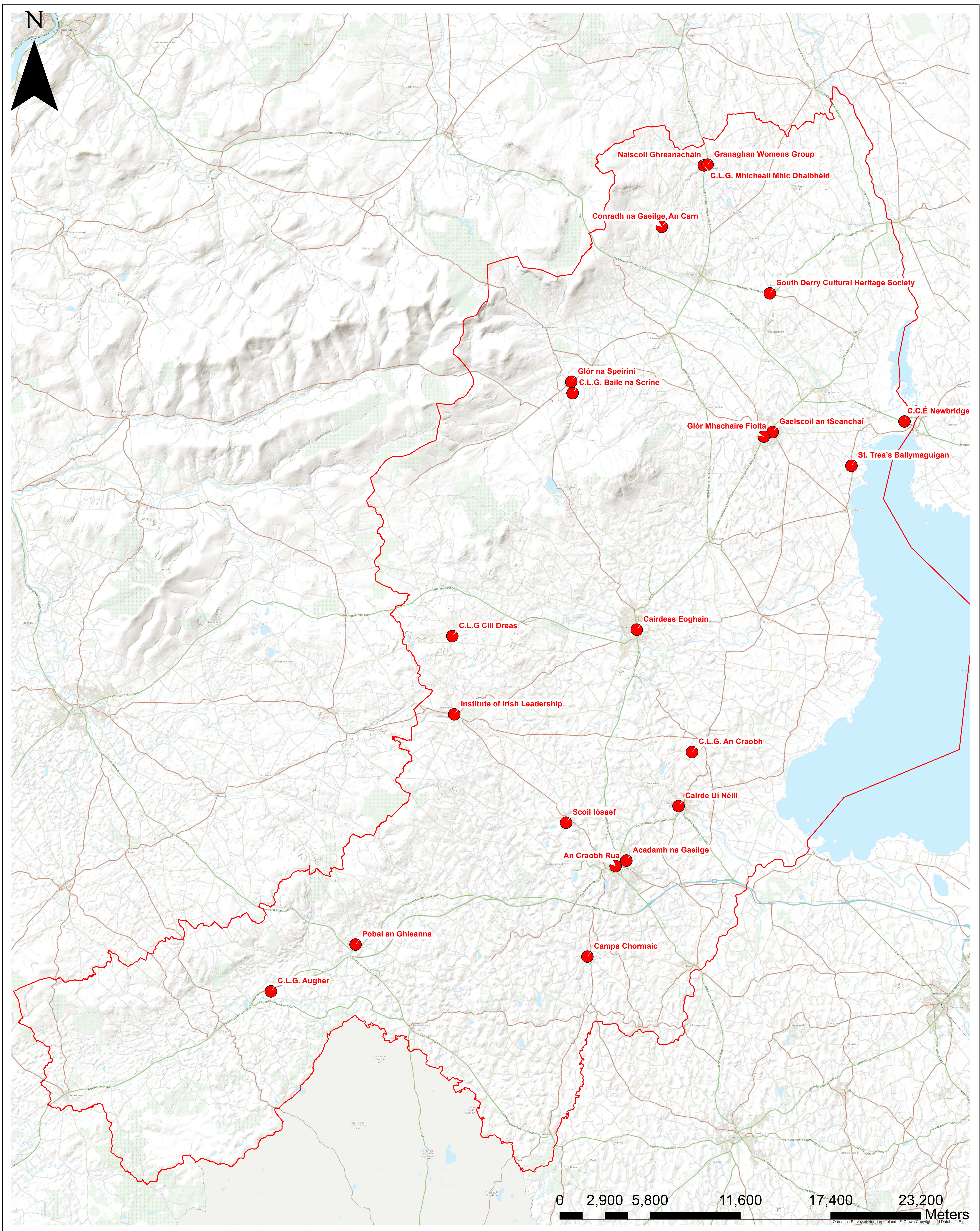
4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial:

The total financial allocation proposed for the Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme for 2018-2019 is £30,000 and for the Irish Language Activity Scheme is £45,000. These proposals can be met from within the funding allocation identified within the Irish Language Development plan 2018-2019 under the themes “*To Promote Opportunities to Learn Irish*” and “*To Develop Irish Language in the Community and to make it more accessible for All*”.

	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	<p>It is recommended that the:</p> <p>Regional and Minority Language bursaries be approved for the 146 successful applicants identified with a total amount allocated of £30,000</p> <p>Irish Language Activity be approved for 20 groups with a total allocation of £45,000.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 - Map identifying geographic spread of support to various initiatives across the Mid Ulster District.

MUDC Irish Language Activity Funding Applications 2018/19



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

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Author: Nicky Doris
Date: 20/06/2018
Dept: ICT
Authority License No: CS & LA 156

Report on	Learning Journey to The Boyne Valley For 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers & Trade Promotion event
Date of Meeting	4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Martha Beattie / Mary McGee

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Council of plans to develop a one day Learning Journey to the Boyne Valley on Wednesday 26 th September with Tourism Cluster Business members (40 people) and lead tourism officers. Cost per person £15.00 to cover admissions and coach.
1.2	To inform the members of cluster business opportunity to promote Mid Ulster Council's tourism offering.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The Mid Ulster Council Tourism strategy states that Mid Ulster has the potential to expand its tourism offer significantly. It will focus on one new tourism strand, currently under development – linked to Seamus Heaney - and two strands that are significant and prominent, but so far undeveloped, relating to Outdoor Activities and to Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself.</p> <p>These strands, or themes, will serve as the strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster, to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.</p> <p>To help deliver on this proposition the Council have established 3 tourism clusters namely Seamus Heaney, outdoor Activities and Events and Archaeology, History & Heritage.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>These groups meet once every two months and are developing their plans for the future.</p> <p>One proposal that the clusters would like to deliver is a Learning Journey to The Boyne Valley with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit three key sites within the Boyne Valley to include: • The UNESCO world heritage Site of Bru na Boinne (Newgrange) • Slane Castle, private Castle Tour • Explore the new brand of Irelands Ancient East, recently launched by Failte Ireland

3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate new ideas and thinking for the cluster businesses individually and as a collective by visiting new examples of innovative heritage and outdoors product development. • Discover how the heritage theme is linked to and runs through tourism product development throughout the Boyne Valley. • Experience best practise in heritage interpretation, management and marketing through the visits to these sites. • Explore the creation of the Irelands Ancient East brand, its development, creation of brand guidelines, and how it is used and monitored across the region. <p>Second proposal is to identify key strategic marketing opportunities such attending major events within the District.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: £1,200 to cover cost of coach, admissions and tour guide for 40 people – money allocated within existing Tourism Budget.
	Human: staff members who lead the Cluster to participate in the Learning Journey
	Risk Management: Na
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: All tourism businesses will be invited to participate in the Learning Journey and as a cross border learning journey it will be an invaluable opportunity to experience and investigate the Boyne Valley and its ancient heritage.
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Support this Boyne Valley Learning Journey proposal
5.2	To invite the competitors and family members from the Commonwealth Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition event, which is being held at Aughnacloy and Galbally to a Mid Ulster District tourism promotional event at Hill of the Neill on Wednesday 12 th September. The competition will take place on Friday 14 th & Saturday 15 th September.
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Loan of Council Equipment to External Groups or Organisations
Date of Meeting	04 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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 in relation to Council's previously agreed (Development Committee/Council reference xx/xxxx) policy and procedure in relation to Lending Council Equipment to non-profit groups.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Development Committee previously considered a report which highlighted the issues associated with the Loan of Council Equipment to external Groups and/or Organisations.
2.2	<p>The previously considered report to Committee recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Council continue to take a risk based approach to the loaning out of equipment to non-profit making groups/organisations within the Mid Ulster Area; 2) No equipment shall be lent to any group or organisation unless and until Council is satisfied that the group or organisation is aware of all relevant health and safety risks associated with the operation of the equipment and have been adequately trained in the carriage, installations, operation and dismantling of the equipment; 3) Equipment will only be lent to a group or organisation on receipt of approved Equipment Loan Agreement being signed by a competent person with authority to sign on behalf of the group and returned to the Council in advance of the event accompanied, where appropriate, with the appropriate insurance with which the group will indemnify Council from all risks associated with the borrowing of the Equipment; 4) Deposit of £50 to be charged, which will be refunded when if the equipment is checked on return and no damaged is recorded.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	To protect Council's interests and reputation, subsequent to Council's ratification of the Development Committee's recommendation in relation to this matter, the officers have investigated the issue further to confirm that the aforementioned recommendations would be effective.
3.2	<p>The officers' further review and analysis has identified the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although the officers have compiled a list of equipment that might be lent to third party groups and/or organisations, it would not be appropriate to require the group/organisation to separately insure some of the equipment, e.g. litter pickers 2. Any insurance policy intended to be relied upon by the third party group or organisation should be placed with a reputable insurer, provide coverage acceptable to Council and include indemnify to principle clause. It is therefore essential that the insurance proposed is detailed on the relevant documentation by the third party group or organisation's insurance broker and that an appropriate Council officer review the documentation to confirm its acceptability prior to the equipment being lent 3. Some groups may be unable or unwilling to secure insurance of the requisite quality, etc. 4. It will be essential that proper instruction in the erection, use and dismantling, where applicable, of all equipment lent is provided to any group or organisation that takes possession of the equipment 5. It is essential that all necessary paperwork is properly completed by appropriately authorised individuals prior to the equipment being lent and upon return of the equipment 6. Although the adoption of the procedure should reduce the risk of claims against Council it is impossible to guarantee that a claim for loss, injury or damage will not be received in the future. However, adherence to the procedure and retention of all documentation should assist in Council successfully defending any claim which might be lodged in the future 7. All documentation should include an appropriately worded data protection notice which explains how, for what purpose and over what period Council will process any personal data collected as part of the implementation of this procedure
3.3	As part of their review the officers have taken the opportunity to update the documentation previously considered and adopted by Council associated with the loan of Council equipment to third parties. The officers recommend that all relevant documentation be completed and returned by the third party to the officers dealing with any request to borrow/hire equipment no less than 14 days before the third party intends to take possession of the equipment.
3.4	The officers recommend that, where applicable, i.e. for items such as gazebos, etc., where third parties apply to borrow equipment from Council, the third party <u>must</u> provide evidence <u>in the requisite form</u> to Council in advance of the equipment being lent/hired, of <u>appropriate</u> public liability insurance (<u>£5million limit of indemnity</u>).
3.5	The officers would also ask Members to note that, if Council adopts the officers' recommendation, if third parties are unable or unwilling to provide Council with evidence of appropriate insurance in the requisite form, the third party will not be permitted to borrow/hire the relevant equipment. In such circumstances, Council may be exposed to

	negative publicity and Members may receive representations from aggrieved/disappointed third parties.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Process delivered by internal officers
	Risk Management: The request and confirmation of £5million public liability insurance will help protect Council's interests.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members note the above and recommend to Council that it confirm its willingness to lend/hire items of specified equipment (see attached list) to non-profit groups, subject to the third party agreeing to and complying with Council's terms and conditions which include the payment of a £50 Refundable Deposit, providing evidence in the requisite form of appropriate public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £5 million and an indemnity to principal clause, and an appropriately authorised representative of the group completing all associated documentation in advance of the equipment being lent/hired with all documentation to be completed and submitted no later than 14 days before the third party intends to take possession of the equipment
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix One – Proposed Equipment Loan Agreement Form
6.2	Appendix Two – Proposed Equipment Check List – includes schedule of items which may be lent/hired
6.3	Appendix Three - Loan Agreement Process.
6.4	Appendix Four – Equipment List

Equipment Loan Agreement ("the Agreement")

Parties to the Agreement

The parties to the Agreement are:

(a) Name of Group (the "Hirer"): _____

Address of the Hirer: _____

Name of the Hirer's

Authorised Representative: _____

Hirer's Contact Number: _____

Hirer's Email Address: _____

And

(b) Mid Ulster District Council of Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT

Hirer Requirements

Event Location and Description: _____

Date of Event: _____

Equipment*: _____

Loan Term: Collection Date: _____ Time: _____

Return Date: _____ Time: _____

* Equipment will, where necessary, be separately itemised in the Schedule to this Agreement

Note: The Equipment must be returned at the agreed date and time with no exceptions. Failure to comply with this requirement of the terms and conditions of the Loan may prevent future borrowing.

Closest Depot: Cookstown ☐ Dungannon ☐ Magherafelt ☐

(Subject to availability, Council will endeavour to book the equipment at your closest depot)

AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It is hereby agreed that:

- a. Council will lend the above Equipment to the Hirer on the terms and conditions of this Agreement. A deposit of £50 shall be payable by the Hirer and must be submitted to Council at the same time as the completed Equipment Agreement Loan. The deposit will be refunded providing the equipment is returned complete, on time and without damage
- b. The Hirer must contact Council's Events Officers no less than 2 weeks prior to the proposed date of use to make an application for the use of the Equipment. In circumstances where the Equipment is to be made available to the Hirer, the Hirer must also complete and return a supplier set-up form to Council together with the deposit and completed Equipment Loan Agreement not less than 1 week prior to the proposed event date. Subject to the Equipment being returned complete, on time and without damage, the £50 deposit will be credited to the Hirer's nominated bank account within

approximately 28 days of inspection of the returned Equipment by Council

- c. The Hirer represents and warrants that they will use the Equipment only for the above named event and for no other purpose and will not lend, hire or otherwise supply the Equipment to any other person or organisation
- d. The Hirer agrees that it is responsible for collecting and returning the equipment in a suitable and safe manner and for satisfying any licensing and insurance requirements associated with the transportation of the Equipment
- e. The Hirer shall assemble, erect, use and dismantle the Equipment in accordance with the instruction and guidance provided by Council's representative(s) and shall comply with all relevant legislative and licensing requirements in relation to the use of the Equipment
- f. Risk of any loss or damage to the Equipment shall become vested in the Hirer as soon as it takes possession of the Equipment and shall remain with the Hirer until the Equipment has been returned and confirmed by Council's representative(s) as complete and undamaged. The Hirer shall ensure that the equipment is adequately insured against loss or damage
- g. The Hirer will keep the Equipment in good condition and repair (fair wear and tear excepted) throughout the Loan Term, and will be liable for the costs and expenses of maintaining and repairing the Equipment to the condition that it was in at the commencement of the Loan Term
- h. Council reserves the right to reclaim the full replacement cost of the Equipment from the Hirer should the Equipment be damaged in any manner in circumstances where Council's representative(s) reasonably believe that the Equipment should be replaced as opposed to repaired
- i. The Hirer represents and warrants that it will not remove any protective guards from or modify the Equipment in any way
- j. The Hirer represents and warrants that it shall procure and hold for the duration of the Loan Term such public and employers liability insurance and in such amount with a reputable insurer regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as Council may notify the Hirer of at the commencement of the Loan Term for the use of the Equipment. The Hirer further represents and warrants that any such insurances held shall indemnify Council as principal
- k. The Hirer represents and warrants that it shall indemnify Council and its agents, employees or other representatives against all loss or damage howsoever arising from or in connection with the Equipment or the use thereof whether by breach of contract negligence or other tort of either party or their agents, employees or other representatives
- l. The liability of either party of this Agreement to the other for any breach of this Agreement, any negligence or other tort arising in any other way from the subject

matter of this Agreement and/or the Equipment, will not extend to any indirect damages or losses, or any loss of profits, loss of revenue, loss of data, loss of contracts or opportunity, whether direct or indirect, even if the party bringing the claim has advised the other of the possibility of those losses or if they were within the other party's contemplation

- m. Nothing in this Agreement limits or excludes either party's liability for death or personal injury, any fraud or for any sort of liability that, by law, cannot be limited or excluded, or any loss or damage caused by a deliberate breach of this Agreement.
- n. The Hirer's right to use the Equipment will end on the expiry of the Loan Term. The length of agreement may only be extended with the written agreement of both Council and the Hirer
- o. Within five [5] working days of the termination or expiry of this Agreement the Hirer will, at its expense, return the Equipment in good working order and repair to Council at the address Council notifies to the Hirer for that purpose
- p. It is the Hirer's responsibility to have the Equipment checked by a suitably qualified person before it is used. Council makes no representation and gives no warranty, condition or undertaking in relation to the Equipment or its suitability for the use intended by the Hirer
- q. Nothing in this Agreement creates, implies or evidences any partnership or joint venture between the parties.
- r. The Hirer represents and warrants that it understands and agrees that Council will not lend the Equipment unless the, where applicable, safe assembly, erection, use and dismantling of the Equipment in all weather conditions has been demonstrated to and understood by the Hirer
- s. The Hirer confirms that accepting possession of the Equipment shall evidence its confirmation that the, where applicable, safe assembly, erection, use and dismantling of the Equipment in all weather conditions has been demonstrated to and understood by the Hirer
- t. The Hirer warrants that it shall only assemble, erect, use and dismantle the Equipment in suitable weather conditions and shall on all occasions do so in accordance with instructions and demonstrations previously given by Council

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Hirer:

Name _____

Position _____

Signature _____

Date _____

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Council:

Name _____

Position _____

Signature _____

Date _____

SCHEDULE

Where necessary, Council representative to detail Equipment here

Detailed Description of The Equipment Required (if not covered on page 1):

Equipment Loan Agreement Check List

Name of Group: _____

Name of Group representative: _____

Mobile Number for Group representative: _____

Equipment being loaned: _____

Please tick to confirm that:

- ☐ I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Equipment Loan Agreement
- ☐ I am authorised by the Group to accept the Terms and Conditions of the Equipment Loan Agreement and to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Group
- ☐ I will ensure that the equipment is assembled, erected, used and dismantled as instructed and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Equipment Loan Agreement
- ☐ I will ensure that the equipment is securely held and returned at the agreed date and time

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Equipment Collection

Name of person collecting the equipment

(if different from above): _____

Mobile Number for person collecting the equipment

(if different from above): _____

Depot Equipment will be collected from: _____

Agreement time of collection _____ on _____

Depot Equipment will be returned to: _____

Agreement time of return _____ on _____

Please tick to confirm that:

- ☐ I am authorised by the above Group to collect the equipment
- ☐ I have access to a vehicle, which is suitable for transportation of the equipment
- ☐ I hold a valid current driving licence and current motor insurance, both of which are sufficient to allow me to drive and use the aforementioned vehicle to transport the equipment
- ☐ I have been shown and I understand how to assemble, erect, use and dismantle the equipment correctly and safely

Update on the Loan Equipment – Appendix two

- ☐ I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Equipment Loan Agreement.
- ☐ I will ensure that the equipment is assembled, erected, used and dismantled correctly and safely as shown to me and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Equipment Loan Agreement
- ☐ I will ensure that the equipment is only assembled, erected and used on a suitable surface and weighted/guarded correctly
- ☐ I will ensure that the equipment will not be assembled, erected, used or dismantled near reasonably foreseeable potential hazards such as roads/passing traffic
- ☐ I will check weather forecasts in advance of the assembly, erection and use of the equipment and will NOT permit the assembly, erection or use of the equipment in advance of or during windy or otherwise inappropriate conditions

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Equipment Return

Name of person returning the equipment: _____

Mobile Number for person returning the equipment: _____

Depot Equipment returned to: _____

Time of return _____ on _____

Please tick to confirm that:

- ☐ I have returned all equipment
- ☐ I understand that the equipment may not be checked immediately on receipt and that, where this is the case, Council will check it as soon as practicable

Signed: _____ Date: _____

FOR COUNCIL USE ONLY – EQUIPMENT CHECK (POST RETURN)

Please tick to confirm that:

- ☐ I have inspected all equipment returned
- ☐ I am satisfied that all equipment loaned has been returned in an acceptable condition
- ☐ I am not satisfied that all equipment loaned has been returned in an acceptable condition
- ☐ I have communicated the information relevant to this equipment return to:

Name: _____ on date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Loan Agreement Process

- All requests for the Loan of Council Equipment, must be made in writing to the designated Officer, within each department a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the requested date. The designated Officer will then cross reference dates to ensure the request does not conflict with any corporate events; corporate events must have priority. This will allow sufficient time for documents to be completed and approved.
- If the equipment is available, the Designated Officer will email an Equipment Loan Agreement Form, a Check List to be completed signed and returned before arriving on site to collect the equipment. In addition to this, an Insurance Questionnaire will be emailed for the group making the request to forward to their insurance broker to confirm public indemnity of £5million which covers the loan of equipment.
- In addition to this, an Insurance Questionnaire will be emailed for the group making the request to forward to their insurance broker to confirm public indemnity of £5million which covers the loan of equipment.
- A refundable £50 deposit will be payable in advance of the collecting the equipment. This payment will be taken by the Designated Officer via in cheque, Credit/Debit Card or cash. Subject to no damage the £50 will be refunded, in accordance with Council Policy. The officer will need to distribute a Supplier Set-up form, to enable an account to be created, then an order number will need to be generated to enable council to refund the £50 deposit subject to no damage.
- The Designated Officer will notify the appointment staff at the closet depot to the group. The appointment member of staff will be requested to meet the group, show the group how to erect and dismantle the equipment safely in addition to signing equipment out/in). The group must collect the equipment in suitable clean transport, hold a valid current driving licence and current motor insurance and be notified of unsafe weather conditions. The group should be informed to wear suitable protective clothing when erecting and dismantling the equipment.
- A collection and return time must be agreed to avoid public or staff waiting. On collection, the group will be required to complete a check list.
- All equipment must be collected and returned by the group. The Council will not deliver equipment.
- The staff must inspect the equipment and sign back in with no damages recorded. If, damaged, the damages must be report to the designated officer and the group must pay for the damages.

All Council equipment should be annually serviced, with maintenance records kept.

Appendix Four -

Equipment Notified About	Price If Applicable	Responsible Department
Mobile stage PA system Display Boards	£130 per booking £80 per booking £105 per booking	Parks
25 Gazebo's – Dungannon Depot 25 Gazebo's – Magherafelt Depot 12 Gazebo's – Cookstown Depot (TBC) 120 Crowd Barriers – Cookstown Depot 16 Picnic tables – Magherafelt Depot 32 benches – Magherafelt Depot	No cost applied	Events
Litter Pickers Carnival/Recycling Games Recycling Trailer	No cost applied No cost applied Any general waste contained in the trailer which has to be disposed of to landfill at cost of £140 per tonne.	Env. Services

Report on	Project Coordinating Officer for the Sperrins
Date of Meeting	4 th July 2018
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 and associated budget to employ a Project Officer and Administration Assistant to coordinate and implement the Sperrin Future Search Action Plans on behalf of the four local councils within the Sperrins area.																				
2.0	Background																				
2.1	<p>The Sperrins Future Search conference held in the Glenavon House Hotel Cookstown on 27th – 29th September brought together a group of key stakeholders to make an action plan for the future of the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) summed up in the words ‘reaching new heights, realising our potential’.</p> <p>The event was initiated by the four local councils, Derry and Strabane District Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. These councils are responsible for the area and initiated the event with a view to enabling participants to agree a common mission, to take responsibility for action and to develop commitment to implementation. The conference took place over three days and involved 60 participants drawn from a wide range of stakeholder groups: community, land owners/farmers, government departments & statutory agencies, tourism, heritage & environment, outdoor recreation, business & industry, elected representatives and young people.</p> <p>The conference embarked upon a collective journey that developed over five sessions labelled Past, Present, Future, Common Ground, and Action. Each involved gathering information, sharing understandings in small groups, reports to the whole, and large group dialogues. Each session built on the previous one and the product was a number of ‘common ground statements’ and an action plan.</p> <p>Five thematic groups were created to develop and deliver action plans in each of the mentioned groups below. The five groups are as follows and are led by the following councils:</p> <table><tr><td>1.</td><td>Environment & Heritage</td><td>-</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Infrastructure</td><td>-</td><td>Fermanagh & Omagh</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Brand & Tourism</td><td>-</td><td>Causeway Coast & Glens</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Community</td><td>-</td><td>Derry & Strabane</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Management Structures</td><td>-</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr></table>	1.	Environment & Heritage	-	Mid Ulster District Council	2.	Infrastructure	-	Fermanagh & Omagh	3.	Brand & Tourism	-	Causeway Coast & Glens	4.	Community	-	Derry & Strabane	5.	Management Structures	-	Mid Ulster District Council
1.	Environment & Heritage	-	Mid Ulster District Council																		
2.	Infrastructure	-	Fermanagh & Omagh																		
3.	Brand & Tourism	-	Causeway Coast & Glens																		
4.	Community	-	Derry & Strabane																		
5.	Management Structures	-	Mid Ulster District Council																		

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The five thematic working groups Environment & Heritage, Infrastructure, Brand & Tourism, Community and Management Structures have met and agreed their short term and long term action plans. One of the short term actions is to appoint a Project Coordinating Officer with 2.5 day administration support to oversee the project to include administration duties for the Thematic groups and Management Board.
3.2	It is recommended that each Council provide budget to support this post which includes administration support and associated running costs.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Council to provide funding to employ a Project Coordinating officer,</p> <p>P01 – SCP 33 – 36</p> <p>Administration officer (Part time)</p> <p>Scale 4 – SCP 18 – 21</p> <p>Provision was made and agreed in 18/19 budgets for this expected investment. The costs will be equally divided between all councils. The cost per council will include running cost which include salary costs:</p> <p>Total running costs for 18/19 – £27745.75</p> <p>The cost per council for 18/19 – £6937</p> <p>Total running costs for 19/20 £65089.50</p> <p>The cost per council for 19/20 £16273</p> <p>Please see attached budget spreadsheets for breakdown.</p>
	Human: Training were identified
	Risk Management: none
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: none

	Rural Needs Implications: none
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that each council provide funding to appoint a Project Coordinating Officer and Administration Assistant.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 projected budget for the delivery of the Future Search Action Plans

Future Search Sperrins YR 18/19

Nov to March 18/19

Detail Code	Description	Annual Budget
1005	Salaries	21,043.75
2210	Electricity	209
3040	Mileage Allowance	1,042.00
4005	Equipment (Non Cap.)	3,000.00
4060	Hire Charges	1666
4105	Hospitality	335.00
4145	Stationery Supplies	200.00
4505	Postage	100
4710	Subsistance	50
4515	Telephone	100

27,745.75

Cost per council £6937**Future Search Sperrins YR 19/20**

Detail Code	Description	Annual Budget
1005	Salaries	53,239.50
2210	Electricity	500
3040	Mileage Allowance	2,500.00
4005	Equipment (Non Cap.)	3,000.00
4060	Hire Charges	4000
4105	Hospitality	800.00
4145	Stationery Supplies	500.00
4505	Postage	200
4710	Subsistance	150
4515	Telephone	200

65,089.50

Cost per council £16273

PO1 pt 33 £16,065, Scale 4 pt 18 £4978.75

office equipment
room hire, office hire, photocopier and printer
refreshments for meetings

PO1 pt 34 £40,812, Scale 4 pt 19 £12427.50

office equipment
room hire, office hire, photocopier and printer
refreshments for meetings

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 14 June 2018 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy (7.07 pm), Doris, Elattar, Forde, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Monteith (7.13 pm), J Shiels, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

**Agenda Item 4 – Deputation
Early Years**

Siobhan Fitzpatrick – Chief Executive
Pauline Walmsley - Director of Knowledge Exchange

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said that he would like to thank the previous Chair and Deputy Chair on their good work carried out last year and would only hope that Councillor Forde and himself could do as good a job. He asked members that in future that any issues that they wished to be raised under Chair's Business be forwarded to him the previous day before the meeting due to possible sensitive issues around some matters.

D115/18 Apologies

Councillors McAleer, Molloy, G Shiels.

D116/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

D117/18 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that a late item for confidential business had been received and would be taken after item 21.

The Chair, said that he would like to commend all those who were involved in the Continental Market in Cookstown last weekend. He stated that the facilities in place for children were exceptional and that the music was very central to the event as it allowed people to walk about at their leisure in the sunshine.

He said that he would be interested to know if there were any issues regarding the management of road closures as this was the first tester.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that he was briefed by the Regeneration Manager and she advised that there was in the region of £20,000 and £25,000 people which attended the event. She said that the market worked very well with a lot of positive feedback being received from Cookstown traders and from the market traders from across the water as they are always sure of making a good return at the annual event.

Councillor Wilson said that he would concur with everything that has been said as he was at the event himself and that there was a buzz of activities ongoing throughout the day. He made particular reference to the music and said that he wanted to commend the organisers as it allowed people to walk about at their own leisure.

Councillor J Shiels stated that he attended the event on the Saturday and was delighted to see that it was packed out and whilst passing through on the Sunday he said that the traffic was very well managed and wanted to congratulate everyone involved and was glad to see it growing every year.

Councillor Forde agreed with the sentiments of the committee and said it was good to see the children running about and enjoying themselves and that she also wanted to congratulate all involved in the successful running of the event.

Councillor McFlynn said that she wanted to wish Councillor McNamee well in his new role of Chair of the committee and also wanted to congratulate all staff involved in the organising and success of the Continental Market.

Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.07 PM.

Councillor Wilson raised the negative issue of what happened last Monday night outside Time Bar in Cookstown, where a serious situation arose regarding a lot of gang fighting and anti-social behaviour. He said that the residents in the area cannot live in peace and that the Police were blaming everyone else and felt that they should take responsibility for the situation. He felt that this should be brought to the PCSP Committee and Environment Committee as this has been going on for years but not to the extent of what happened last Monday night. He stated that the mess and debris that Council staff had to clear up on Tuesday was terrible and said that this should be raised and addressed by adopting a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue.

Councillor Burton advised that the issue was raised at the last Environment Committee and was also discussed at the PCSP meeting held last night. She said that there was a social media call to invite anyone interested to come to Cookstown to fight and this should be totally opposed by the Committee. She stated that the Police were caught off guard as they were unprepared for the situation, but would be of the opinion that the Police are now more aware and were keeping a careful eye on social media and

treating the situation as a matter of seriousness. She said that Councillor Gildernew raised the issue at the PCSP meeting and he felt that the situation needed to be handled sensitively as the proprietor of Time Bar has been very co-operative in the past and that there was a need to have this treated with common sense.

Councillor McNamee said that the issue was discussed at the Environment Committee and the PCSP and that he attended a meeting with Inspector Walsh today on how to deal with some of the issues. He said that there was allegedly gang fights taking place after a call on social media was issued to young people to come to Cookstown. He advised that the gangs came as far away as Fermanagh and that this was not the fault of Time Bar and felt that it would be beneficial if a DEA meeting was arranged with local Councillors and PSNI Officers as soon as possible.

Councillor Wilson said that he would be very supportive of this suggestion and raised concern about the lack of enforcement by the Police as they allow buses to park on double yellow lines and footpaths and if any member of the public did the same they would be issued with a penalty. He said that the PSNI responded very quickly to the 999 call but that the situation was handled terribly.

The Director of Business and Communities suggested that a meeting be arranged as a matter of urgency before next Monday night's event at Time Bar with DEA Councillors, Council Officers, PSNI and the relevant agencies.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.

D118/18 Deputation – Early Years

The Chair welcomed to the Committee Ms Siobhan Fitzpatrick and Ms Pauline Walmsley, representatives from Early Years and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Fitzpatrick gave a brief background and advised that they were funded by the Atlantic Philanthropy Investment 2006-2020 and said that this included the: Focus on Evidence, innovation and outcomes; Demonstration models of excellence and innovation; Newry Early Years Centre; Clogher Valley – a Rural Centre of Regional, National and International significance.

Ms Fitzpatrick outlined the reason why Clogher Valley was selected was because of its Location; Consultation, Engagement and Ownership; Assessment of Need; Political Commitment – all party support; Project Design Team; Engagement of local and international Architects; Funding Plan and Legal Agreements.

Ms Walmsley Advised that the current reality would be for the Outline Schedule of Accommodations to include:

- 7 practice rooms for a total of 124 children
 - Early Years Childcare Facility
 - Funded Pre-School
 - SureStart Service

- Spaces for Art, Science, Sensory Play and Gross Motor Activities
- Administrative space for Sure Start and Early Years
- Training Facilities
- Indoor and Outdoor Community Spaces including a Café and Remida
- Outdoor Spaces for Nature Play, Growing Fruits and Vegetables, Building, Sensory and Dramatic Play

The Chair thanked Ms Fitzpatrick and Ms Walmsley for their impressive presentation and said that it was a very ambitious project and asked for any members comments.

Councillor Burton advised that she attended the launch of the event in The Junction which was a very positive day and if any members were aware of the scenery of the Clogher Valley it's an ideal place for the project. She said that she had represented the Clogher Valley area as a Councillor for numerous years and was very passionate about the area as it was the gateway to Fermanagh and wished the group well in their venture. She enquired if the group had any discussion with the Environment & Heritage as it was difficult to get a modern building from a listed building.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that there had been very close engagement with the Environment & Heritage Agency, who were very supportive of the initiative and were providing a tremendous assistance. She said that the exterior of the building was listed but that the interior had been modernised as recently as the 1950's and that wasn't an issue.

Councillor Burton said that this would be a tremendous facility for the Clogher Valley area and a vision for playgroup for the future. She said that she was amazed at the ambitious project and also anticipated the benefits of working with senior citizens in the area, but asked that the group take into consideration childcare minders as they also wished to get involved and also requested that there be a link with the local schools.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that the Principals of the local schools have been very supportive and that the facilities would be a benefit for the children who currently don't have adequate facilities.

Councillor Cuddy wished the group every success and advised that this was a major project and enquired how much the overall finance was and if they had the adequate funding in place.

Ms Fitzpatrick advised that costings would be in the region of £5M, which the group haven't completely received yet, but would be confident that this would be in place before the first sod was cut.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a very welcome project and that it was great to see investment in the Clogher Valley area as it was good to see the dark history of the site not being hidden. He said that it was important to not forget the terrible conditions the workhouses contained during the famine and would be useful if the Council worked with the group to mark the graves of the dead from the workhouse, as there was a real history to the building.

Ms Fitzpatrick said that there was 136 similar workhouse buildings in Ireland which contained men, women and children and agreed that the history of the site was very important. She said that the building had now the potential to be an open democratic centre and outward looking there would be possible links with people across Europe through their Irish heritage.

Councillor McFlynn said that she could concur with all the positive comments and although she wasn't au fait with the Clogher Valley area, it was a great initiative to cater for 120 children.

The Chair thanked the representatives and wished them well in the future.

The representatives left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Matters for Decision

D119/18 Proposal to rename “The Annex” at Seamus Heaney HomePlace

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to propose to Members a change from the initial project working name of the building to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace, ‘The Annex’ and to propose a change to ‘Moyola Hall’.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree a change from the working name of the building to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace, currently ‘The Annex’ to be renamed ‘Moyola Hall’.

In response to the Chair's query regarding Tullyhogue Fort, the Head of Culture and Arts advised that a meeting was held in An Grianan Hotel, Donegal where a joint presentation on the Fort was made between MUDC and Historic Environment Division and was very well received by the representatives from Donegal. He said that he would bring back a report at a later meeting to update members on progress being made with regard to the linked projects between Mid Ulster and Donegal.

D120/18 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations
- 2) Approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations and Tender Award (pending tender completion process)
- 3) Consider the Festive Lights review and recommendations

- 4) Update on the Good Relations Decade of Anniversaries Programme
- 5) Approve an additional contribution from DFC to CAMU for additional advice support
- 6) Update on Community Development

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Grant award recommendations under the Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant as per Appendix 1 £13,668 and £3,628.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Peace IV Partnership recommendations. Tender award to be dealt with under confidential business.

Councillor Wilson declared in the above item.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Councillor Forde raised concern regarding funding for festive lighting in Castledawson, Moneymore and Coagh last year and said that when the lights were put up and everything done, funding didn't go very far with additional monies of £15k having to be sourced by the community and that was without the expenses of purchasing new lights.

The Head of Community Development said that in terms of budget, there has been no increase for this year with most groups coming back stating that they are finding it hard to install the lights within the grant allocation and are relying heavily on community volunteers. She said that the proposed allocation for purchase of lights was £500.

Councillor Elattar said that she agreed with what Councillor Forde was saying and stressed how hard it was for communities to try and get lighting up as the cost of hiring a contractor was very expensive. She suggested that it may be worth considering the Council employing a contractor to carry out the work to get economies of scale and then villages paying the contractor for their allocated time. She asked what had been the previous costs of putting the trees up by Council.

The Head of Community Development said that she would liaise with the Technical Team to see if anything can be done re a central contractor. She said that going back 3 or 4 years, a cost analysis had been completed. It was greater than the current budget however it took account of use of Council own technical resources that would not now be able to provide across all areas. Also villages had a larger allocation of provision in terms of trees etc. She stated that was aware from groups that the cost of

hiring the contractor was very expensive along with insurance. She said that she would further investigate the matter and bring back costings to a future meeting.

Councillor Elattar felt that there was further to go with this and that there should be a Further provision within the budget to be able to provide adequate support.

Councillor Doris agreed with Councillors Forde and Elattar and said she was experiencing the same thing in Stewartstown and would agree with the Councillor's suggestion of looking into a Council appointed Contractor for villages to access directly.

Councillor Monteith enquired if a community was still getting funding for lights, how much would be required for them to provide for their areas, as it was quite clear that the current concept was not working. This needs to be looked at and a system put in place where scales of funding be increased on an annual basis to allow for the community to provide.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That Officers come back to the next meeting with more funding solutions for festive festive lighting provision and for Officers to pitch for funding year on year as this would be more encouraging for communities to support them to provide festive lighting.

Councillor Wilson advised that he was involved with three communities Stewartstown, Coagh and Moneymore and with a lesser input for Castledawson and said that the main issue was public liability insurance. He said that it was brought to his attention that allegedly that the Council were helping some villages out and not others with putting up of festive lighting and said that this should be the same across the board with every single village within Mid Ulster Council being treated the same.

Councillor Wilson said that he agreed with Councillor Monteith that the concept was right but it needed fine-tuned as every single village wanted the same.

The Director of Business and Communities said that the Head of Community Development was very aware of the views of community groups and that the Council could only operate within limits as there was only £73,000 allocated which included an extra £12,000 from Economic Development which was the limit could provide in current budget. He suggested arranging a workshop to take on board members collective views to move the issue forward and bring back update to committee.

Resolved: Take on board members concerns and arrange a workshop for members so that collective views can be given before moving forward and bring back findings to committee

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: Note the Good Relations Decade of Anniversaries Programme

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: DFC funding contribution – it is proposed to allocate the two allocations of funding directly to CAMU as directed by DFC with the relevant Department targets and outcomes to be monitored; £15,274.78 for additional support and £86,319.84 for welfare reform.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: Note the Community Development Update report.

D121/18 Scoping Studies: Davagh Forest Project and Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to update date Council on the requirement to commission Scoping Studies to be undertaken for:

- 1) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and
- 2) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience Scoping Study

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the signing of Letters of Offer for commissioning of Scoping Studies for:

- a) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and
- b) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience

To approve 25% match funding requirement for scoping Studies, to be met from within existing Tourism and Culture & Arts Service resources.

D122/18 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

Councillor Cuddy and Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Regeneration Partnership.

- Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal
- Sponsorship Request from DIGG
- Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials
- Creative Shops Network
- Mid Ulster Business Awards
- Magherafelt Town Centre Forum
- Coalisland Public Realm
- Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum
- Cookstown Town Centre Forum

- NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event
- ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) – Brexit Focus Group Sessions
- Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’
- EU Settlement Scheme
- Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue Service

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

1) Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: Council contributing £30,000 per annum towards this project for a period of 2 years, providing partner funding is forthcoming from Department for Communities (minimum of £30,000 per annum), Dungannon Enterprise Centre (£10,000 per annum), and Dungannon Traders Association (£10,000 per annum)

Councillor Cuddy said that the biggest Tourism initiative to come to Mid Ulster was Lake Torrent and that it would be good to keep a close working relationship with the Developer and signpost him in the right direction if need be.

2) Sponsorship Request from DIGG

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: Providing sponsorship of £2,000 towards the event, the same as last year.

Councillor Burton said that comments from last year were positive and asked if DIGG had taken on board the suggestions made by the Council regarding clothes recycling opportunities and felt that this should be encouraged.

The Head of Economic Development said that DIGG had been very supportive of all the suggestions that Council had made to them.

3) Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved: Procurement via tender for a range of branded merchandise to promote Cookstown and Magherafelt revised town brands.

Councillor McFlynn enquired if the jute bags were in the local shops as a lot of people had asked where they could get one.

The Head of Economic Development advised the first tranche of Cookstown's branded bags were delivered to all shops in Cookstown town centre just prior to the Continental

Market to distribute to shoppers during the event. She advised the Magherafelt branded bags are also due to be delivered shortly and the first batch will be distributed to the town centre traders early summer with a quantity held back for distribution later in the year again.

4) Creative Shops Network

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney and

Resolved: Investigate the potential to develop Creative Shops Project in Magherafelt and if it proves a viable proposition, to fund the project up to £4,000.

5) Mid Ulster Business Awards

Councillor Wilson said that he attended the Mid Ulster Business Awards on numerous occasions and that it would be drastic to cut the sponsorship totally and

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

To sponsor a category at £1750 + Vat, with the Council choosing the most appropriate business award category to support.

Councillor Burton said one of the main issues, raised by the community in the Clogher Valley area was that the Mid Ulster Mail and Tyrone Times newspapers were not widely available to read in this area and therefore the local community were not aware of the awards. She also added that some of the awards were voted for by readers, and again this poses major issues, when the newspapers are not in wide circulation throughout the Clogher Valley area. She enquired if Council funded an award category, would this impact on the delivery of other Council business events and requested details of these events to be made available at a future meeting.

The Head of Economic Development said if Council desired to be a Category Sponsor for the Mid Ulster Business Awards, she would make every effort to accommodate the request. She also agreed to bring forward a list of business events for 2018/19.

Councillor Monteith said that the public were disgusted last year when an award was issued to Dalradian Gold Mine, with the Council's name attached to it. He said that it was vital that the Council have a say over it.

Councillor Wilson agreed with both Councillors Burton and Monteith and felt that Council needs control over the issue but this could be overcome by carefully selecting an appropriate award category, if the other issues could be satisfactorily resolved.

The Director of Business and Communities said that members concerns would be taken on board and the Economic Development section would revisit the issue and bring an update to a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith said that it must be made easy for the public to nominate.

Resolved: That Economic Development section take on board members concerns and revisit the issue and bring an update to a future meeting.

6) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum

Resolved: Note minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum on 19 February 2018.

7) Coalisland Public Realm

Resolved: Note progress.

8) Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum

The Head of Economic Development advised that on page 115, appendix 5 should read that membership of “Coalisland Community and Voluntary Representatives” should read “consist of 2 nominees instead of 1”.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved: The establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum as per Terms of Reference taking on board the amendment for two community representatives to serve as representatives for “Coalisland Community and Voluntary Sector”.

9) Cookstown Town Centre Forum

Resolved: Note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum on 20 February 2018.

10) NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event
Note event.

11) ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) – Brexit Focus Group Sessions

Councillor Doris said that previously there was a deputation to the Committee and they were to come back and hold a meeting with the Council and asked if there was any update on the issue.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Council had decided to establish a Broadband Working Group and the matter would be taken on board by them.

Resolved: Note event.

12) Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’

Resolved: Note event.

13) EU Settlement Scheme

Councillor Monteith said that he didn't see anything beneficial in this for migrant workers and if it was felt necessary, Council could engage with the migrant communities. He said that he wouldn't be supporting the recommendation as it would totally affect the reputation of this Council.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney and

Resolved: Not to participate in the EU Settlement Scheme.

14) Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue Service

Resolved: Not event.

Councillor Monteith referred to the significant changes occurring in our town centres and said one of the main issues that needs to be urgently addressed is the rates. He went on to say that rates levied on small town centre retail units are for too expensive and prohibits the ability of small businesses being able to afford them and indeed threatened the very livelihood of many existing town centre traders.

He said that the public were blaming the Council for high rates and that it was sending people to trade in other areas or lease retail units in enterprise parks, as the rent isn't the issue but the high rates is, with it being 23% higher than Scotland and 16% higher than Wales. He said that LPS is currently carrying out revaluations of businesses premises and that any small relief traders may have had is likely be above the threshold for this. He stated that small businesses were taxed extortionately and we as a Council should be addressing the issue. He said if the Council were serious about regenerating our town centres, then these issues need to be taken on board and that we should be seeking a meeting with LPS and senior Departmental Officials to address these concerns and not just for new retailers, but for existing retailers too.

Councillor Burton said that she agreed with Councillor Monteith. She enquired about whether it was possible for Council to provide funding for another Spruce Up scheme for villages as some villages have become very dilapidated.

The Director of Business and Communities said that villages were currently receiving support through the Village Renewal Measure of the Rural Development Programme overseen by the LAG. He further added that in 2017/18 Council supported 70 businesses in rural villages through the Spruce Up Scheme and will be providing further support for another 44 schemes this year that were held on a waiting list until funding became available. He said that there is a tremendous amount of work ongoing in the villages across Mid Ulster and the Economic Development Staff are at full capacity in trying to manage all the schemes, without any additional staff resources.

The Director of Business and Communities said that with regard to the rates issue, that if Members desire to meet with LPS and Departmental Officials to get an understanding of rates and the revaluation process, a meeting could be convened.

The Director of Business and Communities suggested that it may be more productive to arrange a workshop rather than having a meeting with LPS etc. He said that he

would convene a workshop to address the rates issues in towns and villages which all 40 Members would be invited.

Resolved: That a workshop be arranged for Members to meet with LPS and Departmental Officials to address the rates issues in town and villages.

D123/18 EBA 2020 Small Grants Programme 2018/19

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek permission to proceed with the Everybody Active (EBA) 2020 Small Grants Programme 2018/19.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the roll out of the Everybody Active 2020 Small Grants 2018/19.

D124/18 Dungannon Park Parkrun

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the proposal to establish and host Parkrun Events in Dungannon Park.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to engage with Parkrun and register Dungannon Park as an official venue. Contribution of £2,400 to be made to Parkrun for the required set-up and operational costs associated to hosting the events, which would be a one off contribution.

D125/18 Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Wilson stated that this was a very detailed document and that he was sure that every other Councillor had their own views on the areas they represent. He said that when looking through the report he was disappointed on the timescales for some projects in his area e.g. Monrush was in year 3 and that the state of play equipment was shocking. He referred to Princess Avenue, Monrush and Milburn areas and said that there was no safe road crossing and unlike the one in Coagh Street where there was a safe crossing. One of the issues that stood out was Drum Manor Forest Park improvements were in year 1 and people had to pay to use the facility by the Forestry Service. He said that he would be pushing for his own areas to be prioritised and not for a park where people have to pay.

Councillor J Shiels said that he was happy as the playpark at Swatragh had been updated and as there was an issue with the original site at Upperlands, this has now been addressed with a new playpark being implemented in the centre of the village, which is a real asset to the community and would like to congratulate officers involved.

Councillor Monteith said that he could understand the strategic bit of the proposals but said that the strategy needed to include reference to the Area Plan and land being zoned within it for open space and play development..

The Head of Parks said that his department had taken this on board and referred to research that had been undertaken by the planners already on the matter.

Councillor Monteith said that there was a perception that there is a fear of the Planners and that we should be aiming for the sky with the issue being addressed that planners put a condition on planning applications that developers be required to include a certain amount of open space in housing development for outdoor recreation and play provision. He said that he had no issue with development of sites but that open space for play provision needed to be addressed as a matter of importance.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation said that the strategy had been discussed at SMT at which the Planning Manager was present.

Councillor Wilson referred to the “The Dales” in Cookstown and advised that when planning was granted that a site for open space was to be left along with a space for another house. This had not been developed and was now causing tremendous problems. He would be of the opinion that playpark provision should be written into the criteria for planning approval for Developers.

Councillor Elattar referred to Moykeeran land and pitches at Cahore Road being recommended surplus to requirements which isn't far from where she lives in the Cahore area. She asked how the decision was reached. The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation confirmed that this did not refer to the pitches at Cahore Road

Councillor Elattar said that the Glenelly Villas within the village had a big green open space with the Council.

The Head of Parks advised that the Strategy took into account areas which has been identified or has been changed for use and what was required like a development with a larger play area. He said that this Strategy was to get the best strategic view as there was a significant number of sites which may not necessarily be the most suitable of sites.

Councillor Elattar referred to the playpark in Moykeeran and said that over the years the children have all grown up and left the area and now was an area for older people, but that the green area was still beneficial for the children from Glenelly Villas.

The Head of Parks agreed that the site at Moykeeran was a very large area.

Councillor Doris left the meeting 8.43 pm and returned at 8.46 pm.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the document was very comprehensive and a very good start, but stated that Dungannon had a high number of large developments and felt that it would be worthwhile to revisiting this again as the Area Plan was out of date and there was a need to look at the bigger picture and think outside the box. He said

that the Health Hub could have a positive impact and was disappointed that this wasn't moving forward.

The Head of Parks said that the document was trying to address play facilities, but that there were developments emerging like mushrooms and that the Council were trying to address the provision and the standard of play. He stated that recommendations for good play provision and consideration for futuristic initiatives were been investigated.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Councillor McFlynn referred to the allocation of £250,000 funding towards Ballyronan Marina and stated that there were about five pieces of play and out of that only four swings were operational and asked that this be reinvestigated again. She said that Magherafelt had only one playpark and needed to be looked at as Cookstown had around six playparks which were getting between £25,000 to £50,000. She said that that in some areas some play areas were going to be considered for change of use, Ballyronan had a small amount of play area and a community garden, Moneymore were getting an upgrade of £20,000. She felt that Lough Fea should be revisited as it was very popular with families and also enquired if the playparks were going to be more disabled friendly i.e. for autistic children and other physical disabilities.

Councillor Burton said that the report was well put together, but referred to page 334 where it mentioned Bespoke Woodland Play at Brantry Lough and advised that this was well used and didn't see any play facilities for children. She said that other areas have it and this should be revisited again as it could be on our wish list instead of to do. She referred to Aughnacloy Eco-Park and said that the Council should look at removing the changing rooms as the playing fields wouldn't be used much due to the implementation of the new 3G pitch and the old pitch was always waterlogged.

Councillor Monteith said that it may be worthwhile considering arranging a workshop for members and having Planning Officers in attendance to give them all the relevant information on zoning around towns etc before looking at a new Area Plan.

Councillor J Shiels left the meeting at 8.50pm.

Councillor Monteith advised that when the public enters a development, the first thing that they should see is green open space and that the Parks Department should be forwarded information on a new Development during the planning stage to make them aware.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a workshop be arranged of the Parks and Play strategy and also on planning issues relating to open green space in new developments.

Matters for Information

D126/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018.

D127/18 Upskilling Tourism & Hospitality

Members noted previously circulated report on Upskilling Tourism & Hospitality.

D128/18 Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report on Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Development Group.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

D129/18 Seamus Heaney Cluster/Invest NI Update

Members noted previously circulated report on Seamus Heaney Cluster/Invest NI Update.

D130/18 US Consulate Visit to US Grant Homestead Visit

Members noted previously circulated report on US Consulate Visit to US Grant Homestead Visit.

**D131/18 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme
(HoAulp) – Update on Community Consultation**

Members noted previously circulated report on The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership.

D132/18 Leisure Services Summer Activity Programme 2018/19

Members noted previously circulated report on Leisure Services Summer Activity Programme 2018/19.

Number of people attending Leisure Centre to be forwarded to members.

D133/18 Mid Ulster Bird Ringing Project

Members noted previously circulated report on Mid Ulster Bird Ringing Project.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Doris 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 D134/18 to D135/18.

Matters for Decision

D134/18 JC Decaux Advertising Licence Agreement at Railway Park
D135/18 Tender Report for the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Arts
Programme

Matters for Information

D136/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
Thursday 10 May 2018

D137/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Report on	Culture & Arts Progress Report
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4 th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the progress being made across Culture and Arts Services and to highlight events that have taken place during the previous quarter.
1.2	The report also highlights specific events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that is currently being developed by the officer team and which are planned to take place in the future.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Culture and Arts plays in today's society and recognises that access to high quality culture and arts performances, events and activities can enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of the local community of Mid Ulster while also showcasing the quality of the Culture and Arts offering to visitors to our District. The Culture and Arts activity delivered, including facility programming is designed to maximise engagement and participation from all sections of the community in the Culture and Arts Service provided by Mid Ulster District Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Full details of key elements Culture and Arts Service provision for the previous quarter period is detailed in Appendix 1.</p> <p>During the period March through to June highlights of the programme of activity delivered through Arts & Culture Services and across all functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace by President Michael D. Higgins on 27th May 2018. • Launch of the Schools Heritage Animation Project at the Burnavon on 18th June 2018 • Jaipur Literature Festival links further enhanced with Seamus Heaney HomePlace following recent event held at the British Library in London

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Sensory Garden Opens at Seamus Heaney HomePlace • Three groups supported through Mid Ulster District Council's Regional and Minority Language Programme (Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair, Maghera Cairde Uí Néill, Coalisland and Glór Mhachaire Fíolta, Magherafelt) achieve success in this year's All-Ireland Glór na nGael community language competition.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Within identified and agreed budgets approved by Council</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Within identified staffing resources agreed and approved by Council</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>N/A</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The Culture and Arts activity delivered, including facility programming is designed to maximise engagement and participation from all sections of the community in the Culture & Arts Service provided by Mid Ulster District Council.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Considered as part of the ongoing delivery of programme activity across the Culture and Arts Service function</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note activities undertaken within Culture and Arts Services over the last quarter period and to note planned activities currently being developed by the officer team as detailed under appendix 1.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Culture & Arts Service Update Report

Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre Arts & Culture Report April to June 2018

Square Box Events

On Sunday 8 April, Mr Hullabaloo's Fairytale Farm, comprising of storytelling and puppetry, entertained children aged 3-6 years in the Square Box.

The newly formed Crafty Crows Band who are fast becoming a sought after band entertained the crowd on Friday 20 April.

On Saturday 21 April, two-time Meteor award winner, John Spillane made a return visit to the square box.

John Spillane



Ireland's premier tribute to the super group Fleetwood Mac brought their musical journey to Ranfurly House on Friday 4 May.

Mark Ferguson and Band along with special guest, Oonagh Derby performed an evening of soulful music on Saturday 12 May.



Mark Ferguson &
Band

On Saturday 19 May, Lyngo Theatre presented Tom Thumb to a delighted audience of 3 to 7 year olds. Cbeebies Patrick Lynch, who has been performing this show for more than a decade, brought this classic story to life in a playful and fascinating show.

First time to grace the stage at Ranfurly House on Friday 25 May was *The Leading Ladies*, who were delighted to bring their highly acclaimed Country & Celtic Classics show to a well-received audience.



The Leading Ladies

The Ultimate American Country Show, the UK and Ireland's leading tribute to American Country legends performed in the Square Box on Saturday 2 June. The event was well attended.

As part of the Fleadh Cheoil Tyrone Activities from 17-24 June in Dungannon; Ranfurly House will host Ceol Connected 'The Quiet Tree' an intimate traditional Irish musical performance designed for children aged 3 to 7 years on Thursday 21 June. Flyers have been sent out to primary schools in the local area. Ranfurly House will also host the official opening concert on Friday 22 June with traditional musicians, Brid Harper and Dermot Byrne.

Brantry Bard Sessions Group as part of the Fleadh Cheoil Tyrone will host an evening of traditional music with Noel Hill & Brian McGrath on Thursday 21 June in the square box at 8pm.

The July Celebrations commence on Thursday 28 June with the Mini Tattoo on Hill of The O'Neill. Killyman District Cultural Group, in association with Killyman District LOL No. 1 are hosting their 328th celebration of the Battle of the Boyne. Music will be provided by marching bands from the local Dungannon area.



Mini Tattoo on Hill of The O'Neill

Classes/Workshops

Classes and one day workshops are proving popular again this season. Adult evening classes included: Creative Writing; Guitar Lessons; Acrylic Painting and Mindfulness.

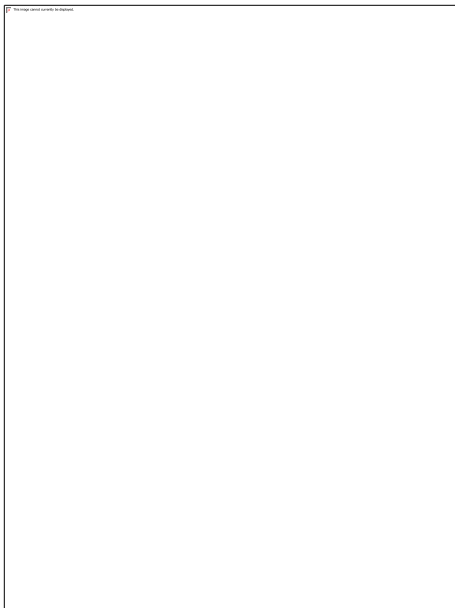
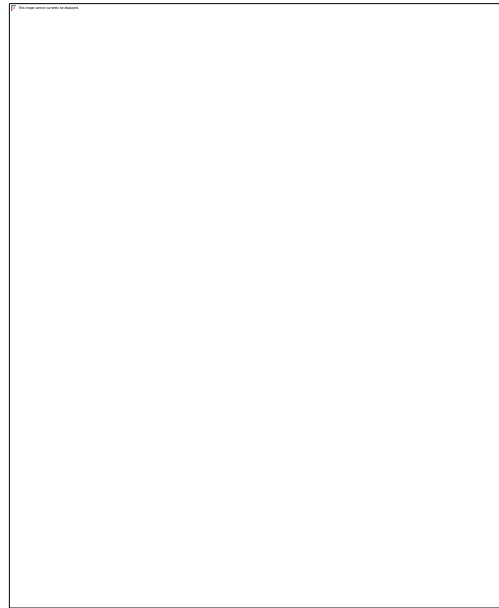
Adult one day workshops included: Watercolours; Portraiture for Beginners; Drawing with Pastels and Making Memories.

Children's classes/workshops included: Hip Hop Dance; Drama, Coloured Paper Clay and Glass Painting.



Adult Creative Writing Course with Fionnuala Cassidy

Guitar Course with tutor James Mulligan



Acrylic Painting Course with Brian Donaghy



Children's Coloured Clay with Shauna McCann



Children's Glass Painting with Shauna McCann

History Forum

The Ulster History Circle unveiled the Edgar Harper Blue Plaque which took place on Wednesday 2 May at his birthplace, No. 3 Northland Place, Dungannon.



Cllr Mark Glasgow, Mr Peter Collins, Mr Namik Saygi & Mr Aidan Fee.

Cllr Mark Glasgow, Members of The Ulster History Circle & Dungannon History Forum



History Forum talks

Brendan Holland delivered a very successful history talk on The Pioneers of Engineering on Friday 13 April in the Square Box.

Pat O'Neill, former Chief Executive of Powerscreen delivered a talk on The First 20 Years of the Powerscreen on Friday 11 May, which was very well attended.

Arts & Disability Stakeholder Programme

The arts and disability programme for 2018-2019 commenced in May with Willowbank Community Resource Centre receiving a 4 week Printmaking Project with artist, Hazel Boland. Ardnaskea Court commenced their 8 week pottery project on 10 May with Shauna McCann. Participants from Dungannon Hospice started their 4 week Sea Grass project on 13 June with Deborah Malcomson and the Visually Impaired Group have just commenced a 4 week Print & Silk Printing project in Ranfurly House with Artist, Deborah Malcomson.



Willowbank Printmaking
Project with Hazel Boland



Ardnaskea Court Pottery
Project with Shauna Mc
Cann

Dungannon Hospice Sea Grass
Stool Making project with Deborah
Malcomson





Visually Impaired Group
Print & Silk Painting
Project with Deborah
Malcomson

Exhibitions:

Exhibitions this season included three new exhibitors to Ranfurly House. In April, Louise Fleck exhibited her 'Where the wind blows; Ireland's diverse landscape of tranquil hills and dramatic coastlines' exhibition. Ranfurly House were delighted to showcase Louise's first ever art exhibition.

George Gourley who specialises in watercolours exhibited his 'Roots & Foundations' exhibition in May and Vincent McAllister's 'Fingerprints' exhibition is currently on view for the month of June.



Louise Fleck, Cllr Kim
Ashton & Pat Walsh



Vincent McAllister
June Exhibition

Education Report

During the period 1st April to 30th June 2018, 578 pupils/students with 55 staff (total 633) participated in education events at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

April 2018

- From 9th to 11th April 94 pupils with 10 members of staff from Coláiste Feirste, Belfast, took part in a Year 9 study of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster. The Education Officer was assisted by the Irish Language Officer as these visits were conducted in English and Irish. One of the teachers wrote in an evaluation: "A very informative day for our Year 9 students that was appropriate to the curriculum."
- On 18th April the latest version of our poetry book, "Words On The Hill" was launched. Pupils from three schools which had taken part in an education programme of the same name contributed their own poems to the book. The participating schools were Lisfearthy Primary School; St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley; St. Patrick's Primary School, Annaghmore.



Words On The Hill: pupils
from Lisfearthy Primary
School with their class
teacher



Words On The Hill:
Year 9 pupils from St.
Ciaran's College with
their English teacher.

- Four classes of Year 9 pupils from Royal School Dungannon, with their teachers, took part in Year 9 study visits of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster. These visits took place on 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th April. 88 children with 4 members of staff took part. Mr Paul Kerr, Head of History at RSD, wrote in his evaluation of the heritage activities: "Excellent at bringing the local aspect of these events to life."



May 2018

- "Discovering Our Past", is a heritage education activity for schools and colleges which provides pupils with an opportunity to experience archaeology, and to discover the significance of the Hill of The O'Neill as an historical site of national and international importance. The programme is delivered by archaeologists from the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University, Belfast. 204



pupils and 22 staff from six local schools took part in this programme: St. Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon; Lisferty Primary School; Bush Primary School; St Mary's Primary School, Carland; St. Ciaran's College, Ballygawley.

A teacher from St. Patrick's Primary School wrote the

following in her evaluation of the programme: “The archaeologists who led this course were very informative and were excellent communicators. Their resources were excellent. The children thoroughly enjoyed being pupil archaeologists for the day. I would recommend this course.”

- On Friday 11th May the Education Officer represented Mid Ulster District Council at a NILGA meeting at Clandeboy Estate. He was accompanying Brian Poots from the Northern Ireland Forest School Association, and he spoke of the positive experiences of NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House during the past year.
- “Victorian Dungannon” is a new addition to the education programme. It is a living history activity set in the Dungannon Branch of the Belfast Bank (now Ranfurly House). Four classes from two schools – Howard Primary School, Moygashel, and Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt – participated from 15th to 18th May. A teacher from Holy Family Primary school wrote in her evaluation: “A fantastic tour and experience for all pupils. It was interactive and very informative. Pupils will remember this day fondly.”



- On the evening of 21st May, 1st Killyman Cubs and their leaders participated in the education programme. They took a tour of the exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill so that they could find out more about the history of Dungannon. 18 children and 3 adults attended.

June 2018

- A class of 24 pupils with 3 staff members from Drumglass High School took part in “Dungannon: Where I Live” on 13th June.
- Two Key Stage 3 classes from Gaelcholaiste Dhoire took part in a study of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster. The Education Officer was assisted by the Irish Language Officer as these visits were conducted in English and Irish. 43 pupils and 3 members of staff from the college participated in this visit.

Seamus Heaney HomePlace

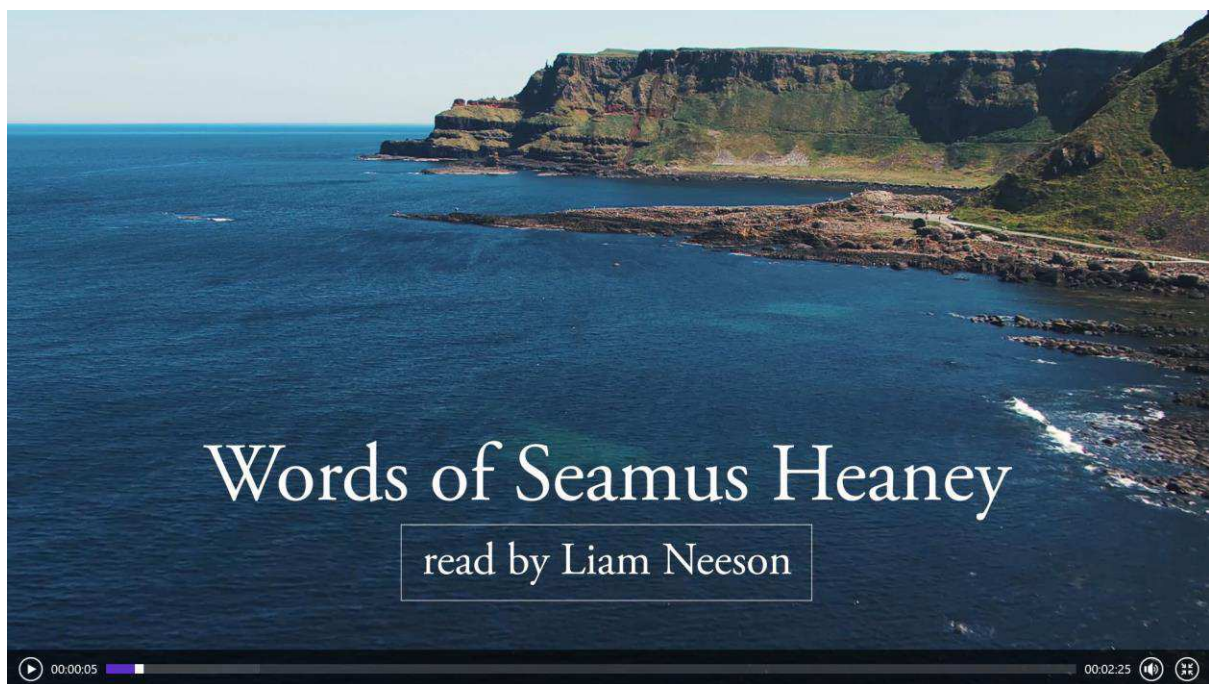
Arts & Culture Report April to June 2018

Liam Neeson video

HomePlace partnered with Tourism Ireland to create a video narrated by Liam Neeson. It was launched at an event in London attended by media and tourism professionals and representatives of the literary world. Kim Ashton, Chair, and Anthony Tohill and Brian McCormick attended from MUDC.

The video can be watched on our website

<http://www.seamusheaneyhome.com/home-place/>



Presidential visit

President Michael D Higgins visited HomePlace on the 27th May where he visited the exhibition with his wife Sabina and Marie Heaney. They then attended an event within The Helicon where staff and invited guests got the chance to listen to President Higgins speak.

The visit picked up by many major media channels across the UK and Ireland including a feature on RTE news and UTV news.



Promotional materials

The Step into HomePlace brochure is being updated to reflect the HomePlace audience and demographic of current visitor better. Updated photographs will be taken on Saturday 16th June to include in the new brochure.

To coincide with the Yeats Society Partnership, a brochure will showcase the 'About the Place' Summer Series of Events, and our exhibition. The brochure will create awareness with people attending the Yeats Summer School, encourage them to attend HomePlace, and the project has been supported by Peace 1V, through Community Development.

Social Media

Videos are being used to create more interaction with the audience and to display review from those that have attended our exhibition, education programme and more.

Tourism

HomePlace is involved with the work being carried out by Marks Consultancy with the Seamus Heaney Cluster through Invest NI funding.

Meetings are ongoing with hotels, tourist organisations and tour operators to generate more referrals and to encourage HomePlace being included within itinerates.

Itineraries and plans to incorporate HomePlace and surrounding businesses are being developed to be distributed to tourists and for the HomePlace website.

The Big Walk

The Big Walk made HomePlace a stop on their UK & Ireland walk. The Big Walk, an idea from the Eden Project delivered with the National Lottery where four walkers set off from a central point in England and walk to their respective homes. Michael Conlon from Belfast stopped in at HomePlace and met with Bellaghy Women's Group. Michael is pictured here with Maureen Doyle of Bellaghy Women's Group.



Gift Shop

A call-out to craft makers was carried out in May to refresh the offering in the shop and allow new makers the opportunity to apply. This was done with the help of Craft NI and the selected maker are due to have their products in place, for sale, by the beginning of July.

April - June Arts Programme

The 2018/ 2019 programme started off strong with two sell out shows over one weekend – with readings from musician and writer Wilko Johnson and a lively, sold out reading by Marian Keyes.

We celebrated Poetry Day Ireland on 21 April with readings from four rising stars of Northern Irish Poetry – Stephen Connolly, Manuela Moser, Susie Dickey and Stephen Sexton, chaired by Damian Smyth of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



Marian Keyes in Conversation with Rick O'Shea

In May we had two successful classical performances, one from pianist Barry Douglas and a welcome return for the Ulster Orchestra who once again brought their 'On Your Doorstep' series to Bellaghy.

Crime writer Val McDermid and past Poet Laureate Andrew Motion both visited to appreciative audiences in May. Looking forward to the rest of the summer season, we have strong audiences booked for our music events, Kieran Goss, Eliza & Martin Carthy and Declan O'Rourke and are looking forward to strengthening links with Sligo through the About the Place series of events which are being delivered through Peace IV.

We have also secured financial support from Film Hub NI to participate in Cinema Day NI on Monday 27 August where we will screen recent Northern Irish thriller *Bad Day for the Cut*, which will be followed by a Q&A with the director and producer.

Jaipur Literature Festival at the British Library/ Dalkey Book Festival

In June, Cathy Brown Arts Programmer travelled to the Jaipur Literature Festival at the British Library in London to continue to build on the links made with this organisations and to showcase the work that both organisations are doing on an international stage.

Cathy will also travel to the Dalkey Book Festival in June to present a screening of the Seamus Heaney documentary *Something to Write Home About* and a discussion on the work being done at HomePlace and the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry with Glenn Patterson.



Both these events also provide a great opportunity for networking with a range of writers and publishers to make connections for future programming.

Future Planning

The new season Arts Programme Brochure will with designers Mid June and all events will be available for sale by the end of July. Containing a wide range of theatre, music and discussion events, along with a workshop programme, the season includes a return visit to HomePlace by Paul Muldoon, Roger McGough and Helen Pankhurst who will explore 100 years of suffrage. Music will be performed by Iarla O'Lionard and Steve Cooney, there will be a showcase of local talent in Music From the HomeLand and Anthony Toner will present a Christmas show featuring Neil Martin, Glenn Patterson and Frank Ormsby.

Planning is already well under way for the 2019 programme with visits planned from authors Colum McCann and David Mitchell and acclaimed UK poet Wendy Cope.

Education Programme

Empower

Final preparations are underway to welcome the Empower Project (Magherafelt/Antrim) to HomePlace. The focus of the project is to 'support children under 12 with autism, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, their parents and the wider family circle to enhance confidence and learn together to develop skills and support their children'. HomePlace will host an ASD-friendly film screening for these children and their families, showing the animation 'Early Man', planned for the end of July '18.

Sensory Garden

Work on the sensory garden at HomePlace is complete, with a launch due to take place Mid June. We will welcome Kilronan School, St Mary's P.S. and Bellaghy P.S., and local children will read out the poems around which the garden has been developed. It is hoped that going forward we might draw on the garden as an educational resource with which pupils can interact to learn about the world around them, and Seamus Heaney's poetry. Staff have developed a draft sensory garden educational programme for Foundation Stage–Key Stage 3 pupils. Lesson plans will be developed based on this programme in the coming weeks.

Head Over Heels Event



Photo courtesy of Queen's University Belfast.

HomePlace was delighted to welcome Myra Zepf, the Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, Damian Smyth, Head of Literature and Drama at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, PJ Lynch (Laureate na nÓg) and acclaimed children's author Dave Rudden for the culmination of the 'Head Over Heels' project. Following months of creative writing (and classes and brainstorming sessions with Myra), pupils from 25 schools across Northern Ireland produced stories which were entered into a competition, and the winners' tales were narrated and animated live in an event much enjoyed by all attendees.

KS5 Lecture Series

Planning has begun for the 2019 series, to take place on the following dates: January 31st, February 5th, February 11th, February 12th, February 14th, February 15th, February 26th, March 5th, March 12th, and March 19th. Lecturers Professor Fran Brearton (QUB) and Dr Frank Ferguson (UU) have agreed to deliver these lectures. Two schools have already been in touch to provisionally book sessions and further schools have contacted to enquire as to whether the programme will be running again in 2019.

A Kite for Aibhín

The workshop 'A Kite for Aibhín' ran throughout April, and again had a good take-up rate, with seven schools participating. Several schools have expressed an interest in bringing new KS2 groups back to HomePlace to participate in the programme next year.

Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre

Arts & Culture Report April to June 2018

Programme of Events

The Spring / Summer programme of events and workshops is performing well. The programme is extensive with a variety of performances and activities to cater for all.

During April to June 31 staged performances ranging from Community Groups, Schools to professional touring artists.

Conal Gallen	6 th April	
Cliona Hagan	7 th April	
We'll Walk Hand in Hand	13 th April	
Philomena Begley & Ray Lynam	15 th April	
Ulster Orchestra	18 th April	
Rat in the Skull	19 th April	
Cookstown Youth Choir with Peter Corry	20 th April	
The Kings and Queens of Country	26 th April	
The Great American Song Book (Sperrin Choir)	27 th April	
Mary Black	28 th April	
Cash Returns	4 th May	
Rock & Roll Years	12 th May	
Dominic Kirwin	17 th May	
Three Billy Goats Gruff	22 nd May	2 performances
Myths of the Vikings	23 rd May	2 performances
Green Day's American Idiot (SWC)	25 th & 26 th May	
Mathematical Mysteries	4 th June	2 performances
The Wizards of Oz (Derrychrin Primary)	6 th & 7 th June	4 performances
Blues Brothers & Sister Act (Superstars)	9 th June	
Musical Extravaganza (Holy Trinity Primary)	13 th & 14 th June	4 performances
Maggie Yer Ma	30 th June	

The current programme runs to end of summer with a number of children focussed workshops programmed for July and August. The Burnavon autumn/winter programme for September – January will be available to customers by end of July.



Above: Cookstown Youth Choir with Peter Corry performance April 2018



Above: Cast from Superstars Drama Group performing Sister Act June 2018



Above Myths of the Vikings (school performance) May 2018



Above Derrychrin Primary School performing The Wizard of Oz June 2018



Tickets: £8 per child
Family ticket: £35
Please ask at Box Office



Kids Workshops

Suitable for
Ages 4 +

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 June

Session 1* 9am - 10am (quiet hour)
Session 2 10am - 12pm
Session 3 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Session 4 3pm - 5pm

*** Please Note:** The 9am - 10am sessions will be a quiet hour which is aimed at children with Autism.

The Brickx Club provides the opportunity for children and adults to utilise LEGO® through creative brick building.

Workshop held during Continental Markets



Ulster Orchestra performed April 2018

Conference / Meeting Bookings

The Burnavon continues to have a high level of demand for meeting and conference facilities for both internal bookings and a range of external private and public bodies.



Above Mid Ulster District Councils EcoSpeak Competition

Events

Easter Family Fun Day

The Easter Family Fun Day took place on Saturday 24 March 2018. There were over 2000 people in attendance, enjoying a day of family entertainment and taster workshops for children within the centre and plenty of street entertainment to promote the town centre.

Quote from parent:

“It was absolutely fantastic and so well organised, the children had a brilliant time, and so did we!”

Quote from child:

“I had so much fun, the puppet show was so funny – It made me laugh! And I loved getting my face painted too.”



Brick for Kids workshop and Drumming workshop





Some of the street and theatre entertainment during the Easter Family Fun Day



Arts and Crafts from Around the World

To celebrate World Culture Day the Burnavon held a fun day with a mix of different activities on offer. These included Thai fan and sand painting; Polish Paper Craft; Russian Head Bands; Russian Dolls; and Lithuanian Mini Weaving.



Those who attended the event were also able to sample receive some taster sessions in Irish Dancing, Zumba and Highland Dancing.

Quote from parent:

“It was great to see such a diverse range of activities on offer, my children got to try things they have never even seen before, we thoroughly enjoyed the event.”



Outreach Programme

Our Arts & Cultural Development Programme continues to grow and diversify offering a wider range of participants the opportunity to engage in Arts & Cultural activity within the community.

Our Outreach Programme for this period included working with:

- Cookstown Adult Centre and the Satellite Centre Cookstown on a project called “One”. Complete.
- Cookstown Primary School Learning Centre on a project called “Creative Kids”. Complete.
- Tullaghoge Fort – Education Week – 10 local primary schools. Complete.
- Holy Trinity Primary School Learning Unit – project ongoing.
- Drapersfield House Residential House – project ongoing
- Animation Project / Heritage Site Resources. Complete.

Included within this report is detail on the project completed.

Exhibitions

Exhibition / Outreach Programme

‘One’

Date: 02 April – 30 April March



Cookstown Adults centre and the Satellite centre participated in our Spring programme of visual arts workshops facilitated by artist Gwen Stevenson. This exhibition showcased one piece of work from every participant, reflecting their personality and interests. The project was funded by the Arts & Cultural Development Programme, Burnavon.

Artist Gwen Stevenson who worked with the group each week commented on the programme:

“I was delighted to work with the participants and see their individual art works emerge over the eight week course. Each piece reflected their individual personality and interests, as well as the amount of energy and enthusiasm they invested in the whole process from start to finish. As a body of work, the outcome is colourful, diverse and multi-layered reflecting the diversity and character of the group that produced it.”

Mona McCann,
Manager of
Cookstown Adult
Centre was
delighted that the
centre and
Satellites were
able to take part
in this project:

“During the visual arts project, our service users were encouraged to express themselves therapeutically through their art work. At the launch event when the artwork was unveiled each participant took great pride in their work and enjoyed telling everyone about their experience and achievements.

Feedback was very positive, one service user said “It was something different and it was good fun”. Another stated “I enjoyed doing something different every week and

it was nice to meet my friends. I enjoyed the art project and I liked working with different art materials.”



Kyle Barnes – New Works (Exhibition)

Date: Tuesday 01 May – Thursday 31 May 2018

Artist: Kyle Barnes



Kyle brought a collection of large scale portraits of Veterans to the Burnavon. The work primarily considered the personal impact of each person's experience and the ways their life had been changed as a result.

From Cookstown, and currently working in Southampton, Kyle has won the Towry prize at the National Open Art Competition and exhibited at the prestigious Pallant House Gallery in Chichester. He further won the 'Young Artist Award' and the 'People's Choice' Award at the Royal Ulster Academy Belfast in 2014. In 2015 he was awarded the Tyrone Guthrie Residency and in 2017 the Whyte's Award at the Royal Hibernian Academy. His work is included in many private and public collections.

Creative Kids / Outreach Programme

Cookstown Primary School

Date: Friday 01 June – Saturday 30 June

Artists: Andrea Hayes and Louise Byrne with pupils from the Learning Support Centre in Cookstown Primary School.

The project was funded through the Arts and Cultural Development Programme within the Burnavon, artists Andrea Hayes and Louise Byrne have been working with pupils from the Learning Support Centre in Cookstown Primary School. All pupils have been hands on in creating many artworks including felt and clay. This collaboration of work is currently being exhibited in the Burnavon during June 2018 and then returning to the Learning Support Centre as a permanent piece for everyone to enjoy.



Teacher Sharon Cuddy from the Learning Support Centre in Cookstown Primary School commented on the 12 week programme:

“The children in the Learning Support & Autism Classes spent some very therapeutic Friday mornings both with Andrea and Louise over a 12 week period. The children were engaged in the activities and enjoyed the multi-sensory experiences which both art forms offered.

The programme helped to develop their fine motor skills, a tolerance to touch a variety of new materials, and encouraged them to be creative. It was a huge motivator for the children on a Friday morning, knowing that felt making or clay work awaited them, with some children wanting to make additional pieces since the course completed. The fact that it was so different to their usual experience of Art, and that their work would be on display for the public to see was also very exciting for them. The staff and children from Cookstown Primary School would like to express their thanks to artists Andrea & Louise, to the Burnavon for organising and finally to Mid Ulster District Council for funding the programme. It was a great experience for all and one which the children will remember for a long time.”

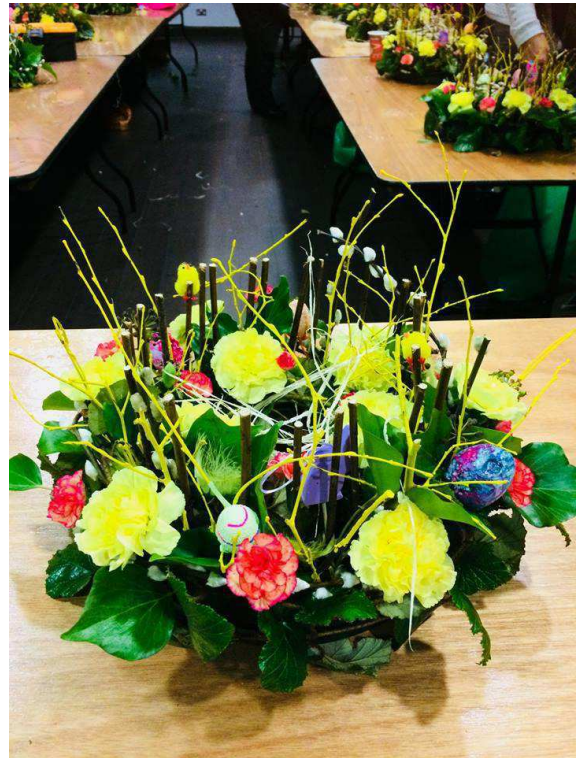


Workshops

Workshops at the Burnavon

We held a number of workshops in the Burnavon since mid-March. Workshops included:

- Easter floral Art
- Comic Book Art
- Jiving
- Watercolours
- Ceramics
- Basket Weaving
- Textile Art
- Animating with Plasticine
- Father's day card and Present making



Links with Schools

First Theatre Visit

Over 150 three and four year olds attended a show on 22 May under the project “My First Theatre Visit”. The project is about introducing performing arts to young children to create a love for theatre and develop audiences and relationship with nurseries and schools. Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre presented a fantastic show telling the stories of the Three Billy Goats Gruff and Jack and the Bean Stalk.



Faithful to the original stories, Clydebuilt created a show with baskets and boxes that became a house and even a castle! The children were given a fantastic opportunity to let their imaginations run wild!

Dungannon Nursery School said of the event “thank you for the opportunity to visit the theatre for the puppet show on Tuesday. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and we appreciate your invitation.”



Myths of the Vikings

On 23 May Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre Company presented a Vikings themed show for key stage 2 pupils. Pupils met LOKI, the mischievous shape changer, heard the comic story of Apples of the Gods, and felt the thrill of storytelling, just as the children of the Norse once did. The performance linked to the school curriculum for P6 children who attended the performance.

Beautiful wooden puppets, shadow theatre and masterly story telling made this a wonderful show, bringing ancient times to life.

Education Week at Tullaghoge Fort

Six Mid Ulster primary schools recently enjoyed complimentary tours and Living History sessions delivered by Mid Ulster District Councils, through the programme at the Burnavon.

The purpose of the visit was to introduce local children to Tullaghoge Fort and its historical significance within Mid Ulster.



During the visit children enjoyed a tour of Tullaghoge Fort and were treated as guests attending the May celebration, Beltaine. They were invited to take part in activities which would have taken place in 1600 such as sword fighting, running races, the arrangement of marriages, feasting and the crowning of the O'Neill.



Animation Project / Educational Resources

Animation Project

The overall aim of the Animation Project was to develop links between arts and cultural activity and a number of the key heritage sites within the region namely Tullaghoge Fort, Beaghmore Stone Circles, Ardboe Cross and Abbey and The Hill of the O'Neill.

The Nerve Centre were appointed to create comic books telling the stories of each of the sites in a way which is interesting for children. A narrative was developed, with the assistance of identified experts on each of the sites, and two comic books were produced:

- Tullaghoge Fort and Hill of the O'Neill in one.
- Beaghmore Stone Circles and Ardboe High Cross in the other.

Graphic art is reflective of the theme / period of each of the sites.

The Nerve Centre also worked with approximately 120 students within local schools to develop resources for Key Stage 2 students.

They worked with 4 schools, who each focused on a different heritage site:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Tullaghoge Fort | Ballytrea Primary School (Stewartstown) |
| • Hill of the O'Neill | Windmill Integrated Primary School (Dungannon) |
| • Beaghmore Stone Circles | St Joseph's Primary School (Killennan) |
| • Ardboe Cross | St Patrick's Primary (Ardboe) |

The workshops piloted the comic books with a primary school audience and gave key stage 2 classes the skills they needed to produce an animation and complete the tasks as set out in the educational resource within the comic books.

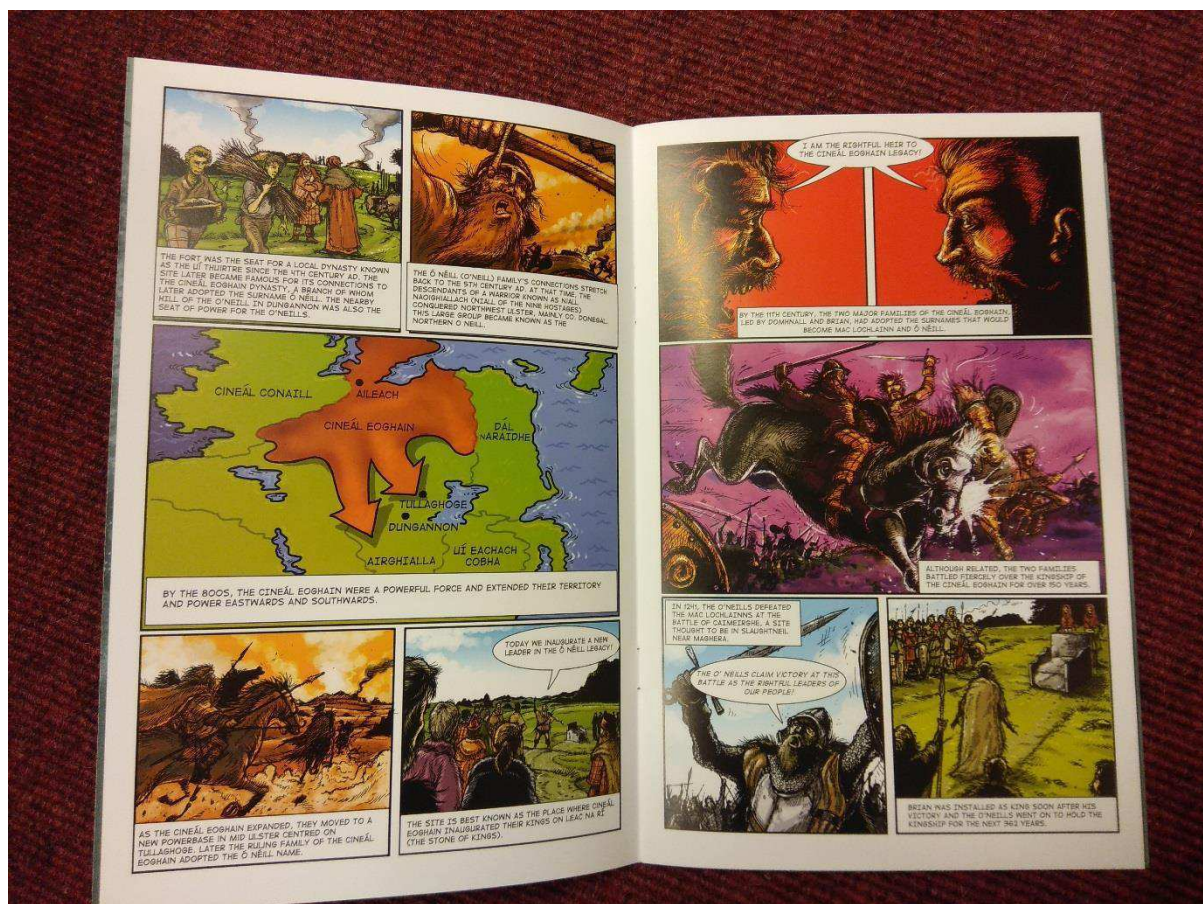
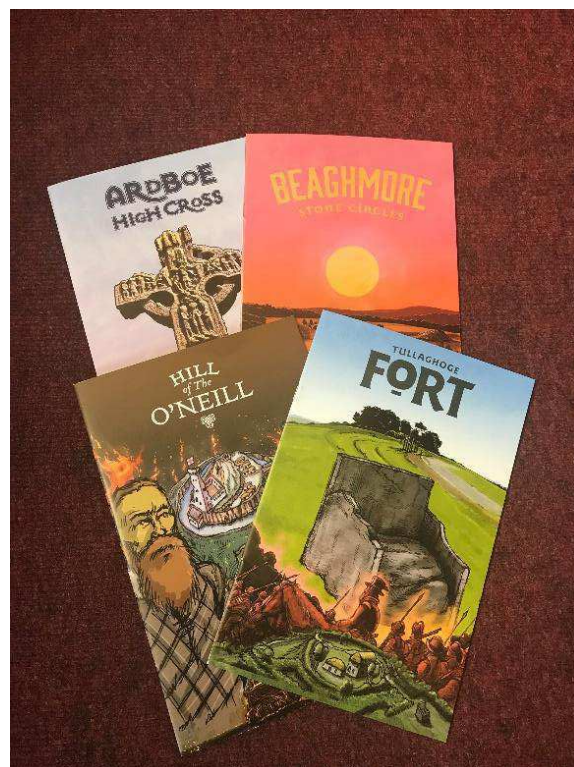
The comic books themselves will help to engage the youth in the arts activity while also interpreting understanding and heritage of the regions key sites for a young audience.

Each of the sites are managed by the Department of Communities who were involved in the process throughout.

The project is joint funded by MUDC and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland through its Lottery- funded Local Government Challenge Fund.

On 18 June the comic books were launched at the Burnavon, Cookstown. Participating schools attended along with representatives from the Department of Communities and all those who had a role in making the Comic Books.

Below are some images of the resources and images of the launch.







Support Services (weekly)

The following weekly sessions continue to be delivered as part of the Burnavon programme and its associated outreach programme.

- Cookstown Folk Club
- Burnavon Writers Group
- Cookstown Youth Choir
- Traditional Music in Schools Project (delivered in local schools)
- Superstars Club Musical Theatre Group

Summer Activities

During July and August we will have a number of workshops planned for kids. We will also hold our July Celebration concert.



A vibrant blue poster for the Summer Scheme at The Burnavon. At the top is a cheerful sun character with a smiling face, wearing dark sunglasses and having a small heart on its chest. Below the sun, the word "SUMMER" is written in large, colorful, blocky letters (S: yellow, U: pink, M: green, M: orange, E: blue, R: yellow). Underneath "SUMMER" is the text "Scheme at The Burnavon" in a smaller, white font. The dates "Mon 30 July - Fri 03 August" are prominently displayed in yellow and pink. Below the dates, the activities "Candle Making, Clay tiles, Animation with iPads, Jumping Clay and Canvas Painting" are listed in white. The times "11am - 1pm daily" and "2pm - 4pm daily" are shown next to "Ages 5-8" and "Ages 8-11" respectively. The cost "£35 for 1 week" is listed. A yellow starburst graphic on the right says "BOOK PLACES EARLY!". At the bottom left, the box office contact "028 8676 9949" and the website "www.burnavon.com" are provided. At the bottom right is the logo for Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council.

SUMMER
Scheme at The Burnavon

Mon 30 July - Fri 03 August

Candle Making, Clay tiles, Animation with iPads, Jumping Clay and Canvas Painting

Times 11am - 1pm daily Ages 5-8
2pm - 4pm daily Ages 8-11

Cost £35 for 1 week

BOOK PLACES EARLY!

Box Office 028 8676 9949 Book Online www.burnavon.com

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council



A purple and black poster for the July Celebrations Concert. At the top, it says "SHOWCASING TALENT IN MID ULSTER" in white. The title "July Celebrations" is in large, white, stylized letters, with "CONCERT" in smaller white letters below it. The headline act "Stonewall" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with "Folk Band" in smaller white letters below it. The poster features a close-up image of a person playing a red electric guitar. The text "With Tenor Drummer Danielle Hamilton" and "Sollus Highland Dancers" is listed. The special guest compere "Gary Wilson" is also mentioned. The date and time "Saturday 7 July, 8pm" are prominently displayed, along with the ticket prices "£10 / £8 concession". The website "www.burnavon.com" and the phone number "028 8676 9949" are at the bottom. The logo for Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council is in the bottom right corner.

SHOWCASING TALENT IN MID ULSTER

July Celebrations
CONCERT

Headline Act
Stonewall
Folk Band

With
Tenor Drummer
Danielle Hamilton
Sollus
Highland Dancers
Special Guest Compere
Gary Wilson

Saturday 7 July, 8pm
£10 / £8 concession

www.burnavon.com
028 8676 9949

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

Irish Language Update Report (June 2018)

Irish Language Activity Funding

23 groups submitted applications to the Irish Language Activity Fund which was launched at the end of April in relation to implementing Irish Language activity into their programmes in 2018-2019. These range from youth, sports, drama, educational and cultural based groups. These applications are presently being processed by the Officer team.

Regional & Minority Language Bursary Grants

The public call for Regional & Minority Language Bursaries attracted 142 applications. All Applications are being processed at present by the Language Officer Team.

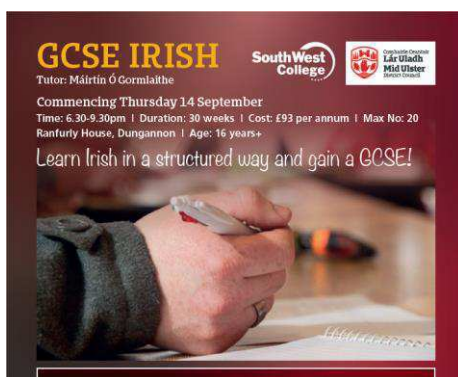
Promoting Opportunities to Learn

The Tuesday morning class at Burnavon continues to prove popular. The last class was held at the beginning of June and will commence again in September, when we will also be launching a second level of classes. The classes provided at the Burnavon will then be Bunrang (for beginners) and Meánrang – (for intermediate learners).

GCSE Irish Class in conjunction with South-West College

15 out of the 16 students who enrolled in our GCSE Irish class in conjunction with South-West College have now completed their course. Examinations were sat in June and students now await their results, which are to be released in August.

The Officer team plan to arrange an evening of celebration to mark this occasion in August when students have received their results and the team are also currently arranging for the continuation of this course to start in September 2018.



Publicity used for our GCSE Irish class

TÚS / NASC – Monthly Bootcamps

The monthly Bootcamps - TÚS and NASC - took place in both April and May, which was the final Bootcamp for the year 2017-2018. They were very well received and due to the excellent feedback from attendees, The language Officers are now arranging for the programme to continue in the 2018-2019 academic year, commencing in September. The Language Officers are also investigating the possibility of extending the range of services available in Burnavon by adding a beginners class to the intermediate class already on offer and exploring local demand for intensive courses.

Cór Lár Uladh – Irish Youth Choir

The first year of providing an Irish Youth Choir – Cór Lár Uladh - under the direction of Karen Kirby came to a close in May. The project has received excellent feedback from the parents of the children who attended. As a result the officer team are currently arranging for the continuation of this programme to recommence in September 2018.



Cór Lár Uladh logo

Oíche Lainseála Champa Chormaic - Campa Chormaic Launch Night

Campa Chormaic 2018 was launched at Hill of the O'Neill & Ranfurly House in April. The launch night was completed through the medium of Irish with English translation also. Guest speakers included Noel McGrath, Tipperary hurler. Campa Chormaic has previously received financial support from MUDC through the Irish Language Activity Funding.



Noel McGrath pictured with the 2018 Campa Chormaic jersey at the Oíche Lainseála / Launch Night on the Hill of the O'Neill

Amhránaithe Lár Uladh – BBC

The Officer team have been contacted by the BBC and asked to arrange Irish speakers from the district who were able to sing and take part in a new series for Blas Cheoil on BBC Radio Ulster focusing on the talent that we have within Mid Ulster. The recording event was held in An Creagán.



Recent publicity for Amhránaithe Lár Uladh

Dáil Mhór Chomhaltas Uladh

Dáil Mhór Chomhaltas Uladh was held in Hill of the O'Neill & Ranfurly House. An Irish Language Officer arranged this after being approached by the group. It was significant for MUDC to be involved in such an important convention where a new president was elected to post as well as a new secretary.



Niall Comer (previous president of Comhaltas Uladh) pictured with Ursula Ní Shabhaois, newly-elected president and Seán Antón Ó Conalláin, newly-elected secretary.

National Award Winners

Three groups from Mid Ulster were successful in this years All-Ireland Glór na nGael community language competition;

- Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair, Maghera
- Cairde Uí Néill, Coalisland
- Glór Mhachaire Fíolta, Magherafelt

Two Mid Ulster schools were successful in the national art competition Comórtas Ealaín Chonradh na Gaeilge, these are;

- Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana, Maghera
- Gaelscoil Eoghain, Cookstown

Officers will be arranging a celebration event for these groups and schools later in the year.

Report on	US Grant Ancestral Homestead Grading
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Genevieve Bell

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Council of the recent grading application for US Grant Homestead.
2.0	Background
2.1	An application was made in April 2018 to TourismNI for grading US Grant Homestead.
2.2	<p>Tourism NI is committed to developing quality experiences for visitors. The Quality Grading Scheme for Visitor Experiences offers tourism operators a chance to be awarded with a one to five star rating to indicate the level of quality a visitor can experience when visiting their attraction or activity.</p> <p>Participating in the scheme assists operators to maintain and continually improve the quality of their offering.</p> <p>The star award is an independent mark of quality and tourism businesses displaying a Tourism NI quality star rating have been officially quality assessed by Tourism NI.</p> <p>To achieve a star rating, tourism operators choose to be subject to an annual incognito assessment from an experienced Quality Advisor who will undergo the customer journey. Following the visit, verbal feedback will be offered to the owner, manager or appropriate staff member and a full report and score sheet will be provided in writing where the star award will be advised.</p> <p>Quality Advisors undertake a rigorous training programme. Assessments are objective and draw on extensive experience of the visitor attraction and activity sector.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	A visit to the site took place at the beginning of June 2018. Following the report from the Assessor USG was awarded a 3 star grading under the category "Historic Attractions" which is a very good result for a first application.
3.2	Following the visit and subsequent report there are a number of points that can be improved upon in order to achieve a 4 star grading. As part of our corporate objective we will be looking at this within the next 12 month period.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Visitor Information Centres Mystery Shopper 100% Achievement
Date of Meeting	4 th July 2018
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 inform the committee on the excellent achievement of both Cookstown and Dungannon Visitor Information Centres (VIC's) who received 100% in Tourism Northern Ireland's Mystery Shopper reports.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon are members of Tourism NI's 31 Networked Visitor Information Centres. Tourism NI as part of their commitment to ensuring high standards of service, commission an independent consultant to carry out 'Mystery Shopper' (MS) exercises on all the centres on an ongoing annual basis. The assessment consists of a site visit, where they replicate an authentic visitor's interaction covering a range of information and posing several questions about the local area and wider Northern Ireland Tourism product. The format on the 'Mystery Visit' see's the visitor or group of visitors stay in a local accommodation and visit an array of tourism sites to fully experience what the area has to offer with regards to tourist attractions, activities and services.</p> <p>It is the overriding objective that all visitors and the local community receive the best possible standard of service with the key aim of meeting and exceeding customer needs. Network Centres have minimum standards to adhere to. These assessments allow Tourism NI and Mid Ulster District Council to monitor how staff perform and help inform future staff training requirements. In addition to this the reports also enable MUDC Tourism to measure and benchmark operational standards across the wider tourism & hospitality industry.</p> <p>Dungannon and Cookstown VIC recorded 100% during the last round of mystery visits to the centres which is a credit to all of those involved.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The VIC is scored on Customer Experience in VIC and graded against criteria as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical features of VIC • Welcome received • Accessibility, formats and quality of visitor information • Retail offering • VIC staff – attitude, appearance, empathy, professionalism, knowledge and promotion of internal services and the local area

	<p>Above all else the member of staff at Dungannon VIC offered a thorough and tailored solution for the visitor, it received the following feedback “Ranfurly House had an excellent VIC. The building itself is very impressive. My experience was very positive. The staff were both very helpful, friendly and knowledgeable. They went out of their way to ensure I had all the information I needed.”</p> <p>Cookstown VIC also received fantastic feedback “I had a terrific experience in the VIC. I walked into the VIC and walked towards the literature wall. I had hardly started to browse when I was offered assistance. I said I was gathering some ideas of things to do with children over Easter. I was asked age of children; where we lived; did I want to stay locally. I thought my needs were very well identified. I was given local suggestions plus ideas for further afield. Both ladies worked together to give me a really good solution. They both spoke passionately about the animation courses and if this was a genuine enquiry I would have signed my children up to it there and then!”</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: none
	Human: Training were identified
	Risk Management: none
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: none
	Rural Needs Implications: none
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the Mystery Shopper report for information.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Mystery Shopper reports for Dungannon VIC and Cookstown VIC



Please score as Strongly Agree = 10 points Mostly Agree = 5 points Disagree = 0 points

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN VIC		Strongly Agree Mostly Agree Disagree	SCORE (Max 10)
VISITOR INFORMATION		Please enter Y	
A1	The VIC exterior, entrance and interior was well presented and looked welcoming The exterior & interior of the VIC were well maintained & welcoming. It had clear "i" signage and there was out of hours provision.	Y	10
A2	Visitor information was easily available in a range of formats and was of a high quality Visitor information was of a high quality and available in a range of formats e.g. Maps, brochures, leaflets, fact sheets, videos showcasing the area, photos of the area; PC, plasma screens, touch screens. Do not deduct marks if digital was not available.	Y	10
A3	Visitor Information helped promote the local area Visitor information promoted local events/amenities/services and would entice visitors to increase their time and money in the area or return for another visit.	Y	10
A4	The retail offer was well presented and promoted local crafts/produce (NA for airports) The retail offer was well merchandised and presented; it supported local industries.	Y	10
VIC STAFF			
A5	Staff were well presented and ready to serve customers Staff were immediately visible and were ready to serve customers; staff had a tidy appearance with standardised dress; queues were timely and well managed; and customers were prioritised at all times.	Y	10
A6	Staff were friendly and welcoming Staff greeted visitors with eye contact and a smile; they created a warm welcome and demonstrated a willingness to help.	Y	10
A7	Staff listened to visitors requests and identified their needs Staff listened to visitors needs, built a rapport and quickly identified their needs through questioning; Visitors felt at ease to ask any questions but staff took the lead in driving the conversation.	Y	10
A8	Staff delivered a thorough and tailored solution for visitors Staff provided a selection of relevant activities for visitors ; the response was timely, detailed, accurate and mindful of group size/age/hobbies etc. Visitors left feeling satisfies their enquiries had been completely answered.	Y	10
A9	Staff were professional and knowledgeable The attitude of staff was professional and they were polite; Staff were very knowledgeable and provided good insight and personalised advice; the information was delivered with confidence in a helpful well paced manner.	Y	10
A10	Staff promoted internal services (If applicable) and the local area Staff promoted internal services - e.g. art galleries, theatres; Staff promoted local events/amenities/services and enticed visitors to increase their time and money in the area and possibly return again.	Y	10
TOTAL			100
MAXIMUM SCORE			100
PERCENTAGE			100



QUERY DETAIL

I asked for ideas of things to do with the children over Easter. When asked, I explained I was interested in local events/activities plus also some day trips further afield.

QUERY RESPONSE

Locally - Easter egg hunt; animation sessions; leisure centre camps; Jungle NI.
Further afield - Folk Park; HomePlace; W5; Crumlin Road Gaol; north coast drive; American Folk Park

DIGITAL (if applicable)

COMMENTS

I had a terrific experience in the VIC. I walked into the VIC and walked towards the literature wall. I had hardly started to browse when I was offered assistance. I said I was gathering some ideas of things to do with the children over Easter. I was asked age of the children; where we lived; did I want to stay locally. I thought my needs were very well identified. I was given local suggestions plus ideas for further afield - as above. Both ladies worked together to give me a really good solution. They both spoke passionately about the animation courses and if this was a genuine enquiry I would have signed my children up to it there and then.

In passing conversation afternoon tea, minus children, was suggested at either Killymoon Castle or Lissan House.

The literature wall appeared to be generous and had a lot of information. There was also a nice small retail area that has attractive seasonal gifts at a good price point.

Overall I felt I was extremely well looked after.

Report on	Corporate Events
Date of Meeting	4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members about forth coming corporate events taking place during August and September 2018.
2.0	Background
2.1	Besides being enjoyable, corporate events provide important economic, social and cultural benefits to our local community whilst increasing community spirit and instilling local pride.
2.2	Corporate Events need to continually develop and grow, maintaining our existing audience base but also attracting new audience. Growth is achieved through evaluations and listening to our customer's needs and we are continually looking at more innovative and creative methods in the planning and delivery of our events.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Coalisland Summer Bash – Enjoy the fun along with the run!</u></p> <p>An evening of free family fun will take place at the Lineside, Coalisland on Friday 29 June from 6.30pm - 8.30pm alongside the annual Newell 10K and 5K run. Visitors, runners and supporters will be entertained with live music by Brian Mills and Declan McGrath of Reverb, alongside the latest hits played by DJ Brian Nicholl. Also to be enjoyed is a selection of free children's entertainment including: Face painting, hula hoop workshops, balloon modelling, circus workshops and tricks, arts and crafts workshops, glitter tattoos, badge/medal making, character walkabouts and dancing demonstrations from local dance schools.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Magherafelt Town Centre event</u></p> <p>A cultural festival weekend will take place on Friday 10 – Sunday 12 August 2018 throughout Magherafelt town centre. A design concept will be developed to profile this festival with the aim of developing an annual event. Entertainment will also take place throughout the town centre over the weekend to complement the entertainment in the hospitality venues.</p> <p>A number of hospitality businesses are organising entertainment in their premises over the weekend. . The programme will have entertainment to suit a variety of interests and children will also have an opportunity to get involved, with music</p>

	workshops being organised in the Bridewell the week prior to the festival, finishing with a showcase event on Saturday 11 August.
3.3	<p><u>Lumarina</u></p> <p>The shores of Lough Neagh will be illuminated on Friday 17 August from 6pm until 10pm at Ballyronan Marina. This free family event will host live music, fun fair, shoreline lighting, fireworks display and loads to keep the family entertainment. The entertainment will continue on Saturday 18 August with a programme filled with free family fun to include Fun Fair, climbing wall, pirates and princess theme activities along children's performers and much more.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Picnic in the Park</u></p> <p>The Idyllic and picturesque Dungannon Park site will host the annual Picnic the Park on Monday 28 August 2017 from 12noon until 5pm. This free family event will attract thousands of visitors to the park. This event will include live music, entertainment and workshops.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Maghera Walled Garden Event</u></p> <p>A family fun day will take place in Maghera Walled Garden on Saturday 8 September 2018 from 11am – 4pm.</p> <p>Based on the theme of Peter Rabbit and friends the garden will come alive with a host of activities for children to enjoy including Peters sports day challenge, messy garden play, arts & crafts activities, balloon modelling, face painting, theatre shows, live music and in interactive trail in the garden.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Delivered within Budget
	Human: Each event will have a lead officer and planning team.
	Risk Management: Event Management Plans and Risk Assessments will be carried out per event.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	N/A
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	WorldHost Ambassador Training – Lake Torrent, Coalisland
Date of Meeting	4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Charmain Bell
Contact Officer	Charmain Bell

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 information council on the WorldHost Ambassador initiative for Coalisland in preparation for the World Superbike Championships Spring/Summer 2019.
2.0	Background
2.1	The WorldHost Destination schemes for the Clogher Valley and Cookstown areas are on hold. In the interim to deliver WorldHost Ambassador training in Coalisland in advance of the opening of Lake Torrent.
2.2	The development of Lake Torrent will transform 163 acres of former clay pits into a world class racing circuit and its creation will see WorldSBK visit Northern Ireland for the first time in the series' history.
2.3	The WorldSBK Championship is one of the largest motorsport championships in the world, anticipated to attract 35,000 visitors over one weekend. Now in its 31 st season, the championship is contested by 59 teams, visiting 12 countries and with global TV airtime in excess of 18,000 hrs. Northern Ireland will join a list of host nations that currently includes Australia, Thailand, Spain, Holland, Italy, England, Czech Republic, USA, Portugal, France, Argentina and Qatar.
2.4	In order to prepare local businesses for the World Superbike Championships 2019, MUDC Tourism Team and Tourism NI (TNI) would like to offer WorldHost Ambassador training to traders within Coalisland. Thus ensuring the delivery of a warm welcome to both domestic and international visitors.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	MUDC Tourism Development Officer contacted TNI in May 2018 securing funding from Tourism NI to deliver the WorldHost Ambassador training in Coalisland.
3.2	This is a co-funded model. Tourism NI will pay the external trainer fees (approximately £3,000) and provide the training materials for each training session (approximately £3,600). Mid Ulster Council will provide the venue, hospitality, marketing of the workshops, and coach for the familiarisation trips.

3.3	The Ambassador programme will be tailored specifically to Lake Torrent and Coalisland, and will include a familiarisation trip highlighting the local area. Participants will be asked to pay £10 to attend the course, as this confirms participant's attendance and reduces the risk of 'no-shows' at training.
3.4	Training is scheduled to run from September 2018 to June 2019. There will be 8 workshops with a minimum of 25 participants per session. Unfilled spaces will be offered to participants from Clogher Valley and Cookstown, in preparation of the Destination Recognition scheme re-opening.
3.5	Meetings have taken place with David Henderson from Lake Torrent who will provide information to tailor the training. Lake Torrent have also offered the new hospitality suite to deliver training when it is operational.
3.6	Discussions have also taken place with Economic Development to work alongside the Coalisland Town Centre Forum, to create awareness of the workshops and to encourage participation.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Funding to cover venue hire, hospitality, marketing and coaches.
	Human: Tourism Development Officers' time to assist with the delivery of the training.
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To deliver the Coalisland Ambassador Training, while the WorldHost Destination Recognition is on hold for Clogher Valley and Cookstown.
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Big Ted's Party 2018
Date of Meeting	4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Genevieve Bell

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Council of the annual Big Ted's Party event at US Grant Homestead from Monday 4th - Friday 8 th June 2018.
2.0	Background
2.1	This is an annual event now in its 28 th year at USG Homestead. The event ran daily from 4 – 8 June and was open to pre-school, foundation stage and key stage 1 children within the Mid Ulster area and further afield.
2.2	All necessary equipment for the event was ordered well in advance including entertainers, marquee, gazebos and portaloos. The site grounds etc.. were prepared and tidy and all soft play equipment was put out within the picnic area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The event began at on Monday 4 th June and finished on Friday 8 th June 2018. Approximately 400 children from across the Mid Ulster District, Omagh, Armagh and Monaghan attended the event. Each day reached its maximum capacity in terms of numbers. The event was hugely successful and the warm weather added to the experience.
3.2	The programme consisted of a magic show provided by Colin Walker and interactive dance for fun and exercise with Jump, Jiggle and Jive. The day consisted of 2 x 35/40 min sessions with a break in between.
3.3	The following Schools attended this year: Carnall P.S. Clogher, St Joseph's Killeenan, Royal School Armagh, St Patrick's P.S. Eskra, St Mary's P.S. Killyclogher, St Joseph's P.S. Caledon, Our Lady's P.S. Tullysaran, Laghey P.S., Windmill Integrated Dungannon, Edenmore National School Monaghan, Derrylatinee P.S., Gaelscoil Ui Neill Clonoe, Gaelscoil Aodha Rua.
3.4	Staff on site: Genevieve Bell Event Manager, Martha Beattie Health & Safety Officer, Charmain Bell and Damian McCooey, Stewards. There were no hitches and all went to plan during the week.

3.5	Feedback from both teachers and children was extremely positive and as part of our corporate objective we would hope to continue this very successful event for 2019.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Upskilled and Ready for Business Workshops
Date of Meeting	4 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary Mc Gee

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Council of the recent business engagement initiative titled "Upskilled & Ready for Business" aimed at realising the skills needs of the local tourism and hospitality industry in Mid Ulster. This was a joint initiative with Northern Regional College and South West College.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The hospitality and tourism industry continue to face a crisis in terms of staffing and skills. In order to try to address issues with staffing, recruitment, retention of staff and skills in the Mid-Ulster area, the council and the two local colleges organised a series of clinics on Tuesday 12th June to hear directly from the businesses. Businesses got an opportunity to highlight their personal concerns and the challenges they are experiencing on a day-to-day basis – getting the right people with the right skills.</p> <p>This information, it is hoped will guide and inform business on how best to allocate resources and will seek to put in place a structure, which will have a real, lasting, positive and practical impact on your business. This gave the businesses an opportunity to have one to one time to think about their needs and look at measures, which can be taken to futureproof business from the staffing challenges identified.</p> <p>Businesses were asked to consider examples such as:</p> <p>What needs to be done to improve the customer experience – are all staff customer focused?</p> <p>Do they need help to refine their menu offering – can they accommodate the changing food trends?</p> <p>Do they need to train existing staff in core technical skills – kitchen, food service, reception?</p> <p>Are existing staff equipped to mentor new employees and ensure they can integrate into the team quickly and successfully?</p> <p>Do they need advice or support on the best ways to recruit and attract staff or to use social media to enhance business opportunities?</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Twelve local hospitality and tourism businesses took the opportunity to avail of the one to one clinics with staff from the two colleges. Issues raised with the colleges included:</p> <p>Staff recruitments for a new start up business Food service skills training required, Chef mentoring and upskilling in an already busy kitchen Exploring marketing training opportunities again for a new start up, Menu writing and development, Catering for new markets including the Chinese market.</p> <p>The Colleges and tourism staff are now following up with the businesses and putting actions in place to deliver solutions to these businesses. It is planned that Council will run this clinic format again in mid-August to further facilitate the businesses.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: staff time as required
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	na
	Rural Needs Implications:
	na
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	Continue to assist this initiative with The Colleges.
6.0	Documents Attached & References



