

Report on	Social Inclusion – Community Wealth Building
Date of Meeting	10 th November 2022
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
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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 an update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building framework for Mid Ulster District Council.
1.2	To commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan.
1.3	To consider and agree the proposed governance approach.
1.4	To approve Council officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham.
2.0	Background
2.1	A motion considered and agreed by Council on 23rd June 2022 in regards to the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework; which stated that, “Council commits to developing a fully funded Community Wealth Building framework with the purpose of democratising the economy by empowering community organisations, non-profits, social enterprise and co-operatives to be established or expanded with the ambition to create employment and grow local economies.”
2.2	To progress the motion, Officers were asked to develop governance to take this forward, including the establishment of a Members working group. At a meeting of the Council in July 2022, it was further suggested that the working group could be consumed within an existing structure and it was agreed that this would be considered as part of a wider review of Council working groups.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Officers have carried out some initial research into the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework and conducted desk based research into best practice and principals of Community Wealth Building across the UK, referring to Preston City Council and North Ayrshire Council as examples of best practice (Synopsis of each at Appendix 1)

3.2	<p>Community Wealth Building was initially developed by the Democracy Collaborative in the United States, and championed in the UK by the progressive economics think tank Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). It is a model of local economic development that tackles inequality and poverty by redirecting wealth and public spending into communities. It works through changes to public sector investment and spending practices and greater collaboration with the community.</p>
3.3	<p>There are five practical pillars for implementing Community Wealth Building.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fair employment and just labour markets Anchor institutions have a defining effect on the prospects of local people. Recruitment from lower income areas, paying the Living Wage and building progression routes all improve local economies. 2. Progressive procurement of goods and services Develop dense local supply chains of businesses likely to support local employment and retain wealth locally. These include SMEs, employee owned businesses, social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses. 3. Plural ownership of the economy Developing and growing small enterprises, community organisations, co-operatives and municipal ownership is important because they are more financially generative for the local economy – locking wealth in place. A key mechanism for developing these enterprises is through a more progressive approach to business support. 4. Socially just use of land and property Deepen the function and ownership of local assets held by anchor institutions, so that financial and social gain is harnessed by citizens. Develop and extend community use – public sector land and facilities as part of “the commons”. 5. Making financial power work for local places Access to credit is the life blood of many small businesses. Without it they struggle to operate and compete. Yet the UK banking sector is orientated to global markets rather than local investment and economic development and, in recent years, we’ve seen a stagnation of lending to small business and a loss of connection between lenders and communities. We need to increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing and recirculating the wealth that exists, as opposed to attracting capital. This includes supporting mutually owned banks/credit Unions. It may also include the consideration of community no interest or low interest loans to support the sector development.
3.4	<p>In considering how this work should be taken forward in a Mid Ulster Context, awareness needs to be given to Community Wealth Building at a Regional Level. In autumn of 2020 the Communities Minister committed to embedding CWB into Departmental spending priorities and development. The Minister for Finance announced that the NI executive has agreed to mandate that from June 2022, tenders must include a minimum of 10% of total award criteria to social value, with contracts stipulating that bidders must pay the Real Living Wage.</p>

<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p>In March 2022, Communities Minister appointed an advisory panel to undertake a focused piece of work that would advise on the most effective and sustainable approach to embedding the principles of Community Wealth Building into all relevant departmental investment, policy and practice. The Panel was also asked to identify potential actions which could be taken forward as part of the next Executive Programme for Government. The Ministerial statement on the report, terms of reference and makeup of the panel are now published (see Appendix 2). The report includes 26 recommendations which include a mix of specific actions and needs, while others suggest larger-order changes in government policy and direction.</p> <p>Engagement has taken place with senior officials from the Department of Communities (DfC) to explore the opportunities for Mid Ulster to develop a localised Community Wealth Building Framework, in parallel with any regional initiatives and ‘dove tail’, were relevant. The Officer team is also engaging with representatives from DTNI and CLES to explore options to get guidance on the development of a plan for Mid Ulster District Council, based on good practice guidance from other areas.</p> <p>To enable this work to be taken forward in a way which is inclusive, appropriate governance needs to be developed, involving the correct stakeholders and avoiding any unnecessary duplication of structures.</p> <p>It is proposed to embed this work under the area of Social Inclusion; and link it to the work already being undertaken including: addressing poverty, social housing, deprivation etc. It will also be important to correlate to Mid Ulster Community Planning.</p> <p>At this initial stage it is recommended to follow a 3 tiered approach to the governance, which takes account and complements other structures within the area of Social Inclusion, involving; Members, Stakeholders, and Cross Departmental Officers. It is proposed to establish the following governance groups to support the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework in Mid Ulster:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working Group This will be established with a number of sectors; Elected Members (D’hondt), social enterprise groups (selected through an EOI process), Community Planning Partnership nominee, DFC representatives (advisory – to create the links with any regional work) and Officers from Communities & Place, Economic Development & Procurement. Expert support from agencies such as CLES, DTNI will be engaged as required. 2. Cross Departmental Officer Group To ensure CWB is implemented across all council services. It is proposed to use the existing Leadership Team of Strategic Directors and Assistant Directors. 3. Community Planning Aligned to the Vibrant and Safe Communities, which also engages with Council in the delivery of addressing poverty, social housing and deprivation. This will allow for strategic engagement with key departments on community wealth building, as delivery and impact will be cross sectoral.
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<p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p>	<p>An all Member Group is organized on a regular basis to update on a range of issues being delivered under Social Inclusion: addressing poverty, social housing.</p> <p>On agreement of the governance structures, Officers will develop an initial high level action plan to enable work to be progress, which will include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training & Awareness Raising; 2. Best practice & information sharing 3. Wider stakeholder & community engagement. 4. Development of a Plan <p>The fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit is scheduled to take place on Friday 18 November in Birmingham. The only UK-wide event dedicated to examining and expanding community wealth building, this year the Summit will focus on examining the function and future of local economic development and the role that community wealth building can play in unlocking solutions to the most pressing challenges being experienced in our places.</p> <p>DFNI is arranging for a number of NI regional and local government officers to attend and DfC has confirmed that they will cover the cost of the Mid Ulster representative.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial resources may need to be made available, if required, but this will be considered as the structure develops.</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u></p> <p>DTNI/CLES for Community Wealth Building Advisory Support, as required.</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>To note the update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building framework</p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p>To agree to commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan, with support as required.</p>
<p>5.3</p>	<p>To consider and agree the proposed governance approach.</p>

5.4	To consider and approve Council officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham, with no financial cost to Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Synopsis of Community Wealth Building on Preston and North Ayrshire
6.2	Appendix 2 – DfC’s Community Wealth Building Report and Recommendations