



10 September 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt and by virtual means Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN on Thursday, 10 September 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest  
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Chair's Business

### Matters for Decision

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 4. Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme   | 3 - 6   |
| 5. Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding 2020/21   | 7 - 12  |
| 6. ITT report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt) and update on grant aid letters of offer for OM, Dark Sky Park Solar Walk | 13 - 18 |
| 7. Autumn Corporate Events Update   | 19 - 24 |
| 8. Social Housing Working Group & Pilot Dungannon Place Shaping Plan  | 25 - 28 |
| 9. Community Development Report   | 29 - 32 |
| 10. Economic Development Report - OBFD  | 33 - 66 |
| 11. A29 Cookstown and Dungannon By-Passes   | 67 - 72 |
| 12. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21   | 73 - 76 |

#### Matters for Information

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18	EA Youth Engagement Mid Ulster	141 - 144
19	Economic Development Report - OBFi	145 - 184

**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

20. Reservoirs Safety Management Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team
21. Moydamlaght Forest Permissive Path Agreements
22. Meadowbank Sports Arena Carpet
23. Sport NI Multi Facility Fund Application

#### Matters for Information

24. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 9 July 2020
25. Greenvale Leisure Centre
26. Culture & Arts Update Report
27. Economic Development Report - CBFi

<b>Report on</b>	Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	N Hill Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Council approval to appoint a qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity hubs, subject to available funding.
1.2	As outlined in the Action Plan of Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	As part of Council's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020, forest projects were identified for the future development of outdoor recreation.
2.2	As part of the Action Plan it was specified that Master Plans would be carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Year 1 – 2 for Altmore/Cappagh as a local hub</li> <li>- Year 2 – 3 for Drumcairne as a local hub</li> <li>- Year 2 – 3 for Parkanaur as a regional hub</li> <li>- Year 3 – 4 for Drum Manor as a regional hub.</li> </ul>
2.3	Regional multi-activity hubs are significant development projects designed to attract for 'out of state visitors' and also cater for the local community. Regional hubs will include a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by accommodation options and extensive visitor servicing.
2.4	Local multi-activity hubs are moderate development projects designed to cater for the local community. Local hubs will include a limited range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Consultations between Council Officers and the main stake-holders have been taking place for the various local hubs:
3.2	<p><b>Altmore Forest/Cappagh:</b> Council has had consultations with NI Water, Forest Service NI, Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council (F&amp;ODC) in relation to the development of outdoor recreation at Altmore/Cappagh. Consultations with NI Water has provided suggested boundaries to the extent of lands associated to the project. These lands are currently subject to a process to identify all landownership issues in order to enable progress.</p> <p>In consultation with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, MUDC were informed that FODC had met with the local community group and were aware of the proposals and community support for recreational development at Altmore. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have advised MUDC that although their current focus continues to be the development of Gortin Forest, they would seek to support MUDC with the master planning and participate in the development of proposals for the Forest.</p> <p>Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections to the initial request from MUDC for the provision of a Licence Agreement for Altmore Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan, which also clearly sets out and apportions any partnership management structures and responsibilities, as Altmore forest straddles two local authority jurisdictions. This will have to be formalised with FODC in order to enable the licence agreement for the entire forest to be progressed with FSNI. Should this option prove problematic an alternative proposal to enter into a Licence Agreement with FSNI for the portion of the forest in MUDC could be an option.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Drumcairne Forest/Stewartstown:</b> Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections to the initial request from MUDC for the provision of a Licence Agreement for recreational development in Drumcairne Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan to enable this licence to be progressed.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Dunmoyle Forest/Ballygawley:</b> In response to local community and private sector support for development at Dunmolye Forest Council have explored initial development proposals with Forest Service NI. Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections for consideration of a Licence Agreement for recreational development in Dunmoyle Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan to enable this licence to be progressed. The Dunmolye Forest proposal, although not identified specifically in the action plan, is representative of the nature of development recommended in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, adopted by Council in March 2020.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial: Master Plan for Local Hub Development Projects estimated cost £10,000 per project.</p> <p>Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.</p>
	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.
	<p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Council approval is sought to procure and appoint qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity recreational hubs. Subject to available funding.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A



<b>Report on</b>	Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding 2020/21
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Allison O'Keefe

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To approve annual contribution for year 2020/21 towards the core running costs associated with Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council .
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>LNP is the main co-ordinating body for tourism, environmental, heritage and marketing activities on Lough Neagh, delivering projects and programmes on behalf of local and central government. Funding is sought to operate a continuous marketing plan for LN, including areas within Mid Ulster.</p> <p>LNP receives funding toward core running costs from five Council's around the Lough Shore for the co-ordination of substantial development, promotion and marketing of LN.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Funding primarily contributes towards core staff costs (Manager, Marketing Officer and Admin/Finance Officer), development/ delivery of programmes and office running costs.</p> <p>LNP will continue to identify and secure additional investment to the region to assist in addressing social, environmental and economic issues around the Lough. As part of the funding LNP will offer Mid Ulster District Council continued coordination and marketing around Lough Neagh and its Waterways and continue to develop the Lough as a tourism destination.</p> <p>The overall cost of the project is £73,000 and funding is conditional to requests being made to the other five Councils around the Lough Shore, pro-rata in accordance with the approximate amount of shoreline and/or activity hubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council £22,000</li> <li>• Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council £22,000</li> <li>• Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council £22,000</li> <li>• Mid &amp; East Antrim Council £3,500</li> <li>• Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh Council £3,500</li> </ul>

	Measurable targets and quantifiable outputs attached in Appendix 1.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: £22,000 which has been identified in the 2020/21 budget and will be paid in 2 stages:</p> <p>Stage 1 payment covering period 1 April – 30 August 2020</p> <p>Stage 2 payment covering 1 September – 31 March 2020</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>Ensure effective co-ordination of activities on LN and its shoreline and deliver social, economic and cultural benefits within MU. LNP is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity in all its activities with a focus on all citizens living within the Mid Ulster area of LN.</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>LNP has been in existence since 2003 with experience in managing risk. Funding has been secured with 4 Councils surrounding Lough shore therefore minimising risk to MUDC. Monitoring and verification of original invoices, payslips and corresponding bank statements, as well as, quarterly reports and site visits will be carried out to minimise risk.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Recommend Mid Ulster District Council fund Lough Neagh Partnership £22,000 as requested subject to funding being secured from all five Councils on the shores of Lough Neagh.
5.2	Recommend that the Lough Neagh Partnership submit a quarterly update to MUDC.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - LNP Application Report for Funding 2020/21

**LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP CORE FUNDING 2020/21 - £22,000**

**MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL FUNDING MEASUREABLE TARGETS AND QUANTIFIABLE OUTPUTS**

Targets	Target Date 31/03/2021	Quantifiable Outputs
<p><b>1. Landscape Partnership Project</b> Deliver Year 2 of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership project</p>		<p>Implement projects as agreed in HLF plan for 2020/21 e.g. signage project, manage Brookend and Derryloughan nature reserves.</p> <p>The Partnership is working with local communities and the Council in helping develop a community buy out of Derrytrasna land owned by DEL. This is a major environmental conservation project within the Mid Ulster Area and includes a major effort to conserve Curlews that breed in the bog area. This is one of the last breeding areas for Curlew around the shores of the Lough and an important site.</p> <p>The Partnership has also worked with local communities and Mid Ulster council to address peatland fires at Derrytrasna. This has been a serious problem in the area.</p> <p>The Partnership has also been liaising with the planning section regarding illegal extraction of peat in the area. Overall the Partnership has been working closely with the Council in this area.</p>
<p><b>2. Destination Marketing Plan</b> Working with Mid Ulster Council and stakeholders, identify and help develop new tourism products on Lough</p>		<p>Develop and promote two new major Lough Neagh Tours, two of which relate to and promote the Mid Ulster Tourism development product.</p> <p>The Partnership has been working closely with the Mid Ulster Council to develop an “Embrace the Spirit” Experiential Tourism project with Mid Ulster. This is building on the work of the Partnership in developing the Food and Craic tours around the western shores of the Lough and Lough Beg. The new potential programme will work with local private businesses in the mid ulster area and at the same time promote the wider Lough as an important place to visit.</p> <p>The Partnership has also helped Mid Ulster with implementation of their tourism strategy particularly in the area of built heritage and heritage signage. The signage project will be implemented around the shoreline in 20/21 period.</p>

<b>3. General Marketing and Promotion of Lough Neagh</b>  Ensure that VICs provide event information to Tourism NI on regular basis  Co-ordination of Tourism NI marketing features for LN work includes co-ordination of marketing features for Tourism NI productions/advertorials. Production & distribution of Lough Neagh E-Newsletter for stakeholders & consumers online.  Trade fairs and exhibitions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 20 events per District</li> <li>• MUDC events submitted to TNI will be featured on Discover Lough Neagh website &amp; app</li> <li>• 2 advertorials - Spring and Autumn</li> <li>• 3 stakeholder newsletters - Quarterly</li> <li>• Minimum 6 press releases</li> <li>• Review other content on website &amp; update</li> <li>• Issue of event updates and press releases.</li> <li>• 200 posts for consumer and trade pages on Facebook &amp; Twitter</li> </ul> <p>Lough Neagh Partnership will attend trade fairs and exhibitions with Mid Ulster staff where opportunities arise to promote the destination and its events.</p>
<b>4. Lough Neagh Artisan Food Programme</b> Implement a Lough Neagh Artisan Food project		Implement an artisan food branding project and help group members in Mid Ulster area. There are six businesses in total, two of which are in the Mid Ulster area. The purpose of the project is to help train the businesses and create a supply chain for the artisan products. It is now in the second year of the programme.
<b>5. Liaison with MUDC</b> Ongoing liaison MUDC		The Partnership manager meets regularly with Mid Ulster Council officers to update on progress and assistance in any joint projects
<b>6. NIEA Shoreline plan</b>  Attract new funding and engage with farmers and landowners on the western shore to improve condition of western shore		<p>Lough Neagh Partnership staff will help implement and administer funding of £73,000 which has been secured for a second year from NIEA towards the development and implementation of management plans for Special Protected Areas (SPAs). A large part of this project will relate to the Mid Ulster Council Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor all birds on Loughs western shore.</li> <li>• Monitor condition of all small Islands on western shore.</li> <li>• Monitor all main important beaches for invertebrates.</li> <li>• Monitor any habitat changes in western shores</li> </ul>

		<p>This is a very important service that could help the Council as it provides an indication of the health of its Lough shoreline in terms of habitats and species.</p> <p>The Partnership has also applied for assistance to carry out a study into the impact of climate change on the Lough and again Lough Neagh Partnership will liaise closely with Council when it is implemented.</p>
<p><b>7. Implement 2 Group Farm Schemes on Lough Neagh</b> 2 new Group Farm Schemes set up.</p>		<p>The Partnership manages and administers a £200,000 DAERA Group Farm Scheme for Lough Neagh with main focus area in western shores/ mid ulster area giving help and assistance to over 16 new farmers along the mid ulster shoreline on Lough Neagh. Over 50 farmers within the Council area are included in the scheme which helps farmers better manage their land in an environmentally sensitive way and received income for this. Over £1.27 million of investment has been brought into the area through the Environmental Group Scheme and this offers great value to the Council area. The partnership would be very willing to deliver a presentation to the Council on this project.</p> <p>A new extension farm management programme will begin on 1 September 2000. This will cover the rivers in the east side of Lough Neagh.</p>
<p><b>8. Lough Neagh Planning</b> Assist Mid Ulster Council Planning Group to develop new planning zone designation for Lough Neagh</p>		<p>Lough Neagh Partnership staff to attend any Lough Neagh Planning meetings led by Mid Ulster District Council and give advice and assistance on the development of a new co-ordinated Lough Neagh plan. It has also liaised closely with Council regarding the illegal extraction of peat in the southern area of the lough.</p>
<p><b>9. EU Life Plus Project and NPA application</b></p>		<p>Lough Neagh Partnership has applied for a Life Plus project with support from Mid Ulster Council.</p> <p>The Partnership will also apply for 3 other funding projects which have been discussed with Mid Ulster Council.</p>
<p><b>10. Coalisland HLF Great Places Project</b> Make application</p>		<p>Lough Neagh Partnership is in the second year of implementing the Great Places project in Coalisland and wider area. Up to £500,000 will be invested in the area working with local people to protect and celebrate its industrial heritage. The Coalisland Museum has been restored and is now open for planned visits. Communities have worked closely to complete this project. The Project has been impacted by Covid, however a great deal of work has been taking place on-line and an extension is expected. It is estimated that the programme will allocate over £100,000 spend in 2020/21.</p>

<b>11. Lough Neagh Interdepartmental Committee and Ownership</b>		Work with political parties to develop an interdepartmental committee and ownership for the Lough. This is an important project that the Council should become involved in.
<b>12. Moil Cattle Scheme</b>		Develop a Moil Cattle scheme on the shores of Lough Neagh with focus on western shores. The partnership has received a small grant to develop a moil cattle scheme. The intention is to create a bank of 6 farmers who have moil cattle and create a supply chain. Two farmers will be from the Mid Ulster area.
<b>13. Navigation scheme and Black water mouth</b>		The Partnership will attempt to improve navigation of Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster Rivers. The partnership will implement feedback from recent Lough Neagh Conference, e.g. dredge mouth of Blackwater to try and develop a Navigation sub authority for the Lough.
<b>14. Common Tern Project</b>		Lough Neagh Partnership staff intend to assist with the implementation and administration of Interreg Water Quality Programme (Waterpro) relating to the whole of Lough Neagh but parts will relate to the Mid Ulster area.

<b>Report on</b>	ITT report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt) and update Council regarding grant aid letters of offer for OM, Dark Sky Park Solar Walk
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Genevieve Bell

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide an update on the ITT report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation projects at Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt).
1.2	To provide an update regarding letters of offer for the DAERA match funding for OM Solar Walk, OM Archaeological Walks & The Ballyronan Tourism Project.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Understanding the tourist experience has been a major challenge in the development of new experiences and attractions, and more so in today's environment whereby the visitor demands so much more. It is recognised that a tourism experience can be made up from a number of elements, ranging from total tranquillity to fully immersive thrill seeking experience made of many different elements. But the key is to ensure that the mix is appropriate to the message or experience that is on offer to the visitor.
2.2	When planning and developing the following projects OM Solar Walk, OM Archaeological Walks & The Ballyronan Tourism Project, the tourism team identified that these attractions would benefit from being enhanced by interpretation other than the normal traditional physical signage and identified augmented reality (AR) as a way of enhancing the visitor experience in an innovative and immersive way.
2.3	Augmented reality or AR overlays digital content and information onto the physical world — as if they're actually there with you, in your own space. AR opens up new ways for your devices, such as phones or tablets to be helpful throughout your day by letting you experience digital content in the same way you experience the

	<p>world. It lets you search things visually, simply by pointing your device at them. It can put answers right where your questions are by overlaying visual, immersive content on top of your real world.</p>
2.4	<p>An OJEU Tender opportunity seeking tenders for an AR solution was released on ETendersNI on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council and South West Mayo Development Company, to include supplying an AR solution for the following projects, OM Solar Walk, OM Archaeological Walks, The Ballyronan Tourism Project and the South West Mayo Development Company tourism project.</p>
2.5	<p>Funding for these projects have been identified and applied to the Mid Ulster District Councils LAG's Cooperation funding, DAERA's Rural Tourism fund and match funded under the MUDC's capital projects programme which has been approved by Council previously. As lead partner within the project, MUDC managed the procurement process. All ITT documents were uploaded to the ETendersNI portal on 26th April 2020. This opportunity was the third release of the tender as unfortunately, on both previous occasions, all tenderers failed to achieve a pass in the Pre-Qualification/Selection Criteria.</p>
2.6	<p><u>OM Dark Sky Park &amp; Observatory – Solar Walk</u></p> <p>This project which is to link the OM Davagh Dark Sky &amp; Observatory with Beaghmore Stone Circle will create a first of its kind Solar Walk. The innovative project will consist of a 3.4km solar walk linking the observed solar system above in the sky with the astronomical solar and lunar alignments at the Beaghmore complex. The walk will use an Augmented Reality App to provide a digital guide of the solar system to explore space and planets in real-time, linking the uniqueness of the dark sky above to the uniqueness of the area's deep archaeological landscape. The use of the App will provide a "digitally immersive scale model of the solar system" and connect the sky directly with the land.</p>
2.7	<p><u>OM Dark Sky Park &amp; Observatory – Archaeological Walk</u></p> <p>The interpretation of the Archaeological Walk will allow the 'story behind the sites and planets' and its cultural importance to be presented to the public in an accessible way as well as unveiling the archaeological discovery, solar experience and subsequent academic story. AR interpretation will be used to help visitors to understand the significance of the sites in human history at local, national, and international levels. The walk will offer a visitor the opportunity to access new journeys that through the development of a number of archaeological sites enhanced by both traditional and innovative interpretation, will intuitively tell the story of both locations (Davagh and Slievemore) and the many connections to the landscape and astronomy.</p> <p>The sites at Davagh Forest and Slievemore will become enlivened and provide for the greatest experience and full visitor engagement.</p>
2.8	<p><u>Ballyronan Tourism Project</u></p> <p>This proposal at Ballyronan Marina is to provide four on water floating luxury glamping pods complimented by state-of-art interpretive displays to promote to</p>

	<p>visitors the rich heritage and mythology of Lough Neagh. The proposal will also be added in the form of augmented reality, whereby visitors staying in the glamping pods will be able to gain a myths and legends experience of Lough Neagh and learn about the rich cultural and heritage sites that exist around the Lough, but within the comfort of the pod itself. The proposed project also will include a new 3m wide pathway leading to the floating glamping pods which will include feature lighting. The pathway will have new indigenous boundary planting and new ecological grass seeding. A viewing platform will also be constructed on the breakwater to give visitors to the marina a spectacular 360° view of Lough Neagh, giving them a better sense of place. The current pathway will be resurfaced with timber edging installed. Technology will also be made available for visitors to link with passenger vessels using the marina facilities.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Four firms submitted a response by the closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 @ 3:00 pm. Tenders were received from the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tandem Partners Ltd</li> <li>2. Next Level Publishing Mediaintegrale SL</li> <li>3. Squint/Opera Limited</li> <li>4. The Peel Entertainment Group Ltd</li> </ol> <p>The tender evaluation panel consisted of the following panel members:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Linda Ferguson - Mid Ulster District Council (Chair of the Panel)</li> <li>2. Michael Browne - Mid Ulster District Council</li> <li>3. Sue O'Toole - South West Mayo Development Company</li> </ol> <p>Tenders submissions were evaluated on a 40% quality and 60% cost basis with certain scores and weightings applied to achieve the most economically advantageous tender.</p> <p>The 4 firm's pre-qualification/selection criteria were assessed to identify any clarifications required.</p> <p>Clarifications were issued to the following 3 tenderers:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tandem Partners Ltd – Confirmation and Evidence of Insurances</li> <li>2. Squint/Opera Limited – Confirmation and Evidence of Insurances</li> <li>3. The Peel Entertainment Group Ltd – Confirmation and Evidence of Insurances</li> </ol> <p>Clarification responses received from all 3 tenderers confirmed and evidenced that the necessary insurances were held by each of the tenderers.</p> <p>However, during the assessment of the selection criteria for Experience, the following 2 tenderers, Next Level Publishing Mediaintegrale SL and Squint/Opera Limited failed to achieve a pass rating as they were unable to demonstrate relevant experience and the ability to deliver a contract of this scope and complexity.</p> <p>The following 2 tenderers, having met all of the pre-qualification/selection criteria, proceeded to the quality/cost evaluation.</p>

3.2	<div>1. Tandem Partners Ltd</div> <div>2. The Peel Entertainment Group Ltd</div> <div>Following evaluation of the quality, The Peel Entertainment Group Ltd failed to achieve the required minimum score of 2 in one of the quality questions which resulted in their tender being rejected at this stage.</div> <div>Tandem Partners Ltd achieved the following scores following the evaluation of quality/cost:-</div> <table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Quality Score</th><th>Cost Score</th><th>Overall Score</th></tr><tr><td>Tandem Partners Ltd</td><td>28%</td><td>60%</td><td>88%</td></tr></table>	Name	Quality Score	Cost Score	Overall Score	Tandem Partners Ltd	28%	60%	88%								
Name	Quality Score	Cost Score	Overall Score														
Tandem Partners Ltd	28%	60%	88%														
4.0	Other Considerations																
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications																
4.2	<div>ITT report for Augmented Reality and Trail Interpretation for Davagh Forest (Cookstown), Slievemore (Mayo) and Ballyronan Marina (Magherafelt)</div> <div>Financial: £218,443 total project costs:</div> <div>Breakdown of finance for each project.</div> <div>OM Dark Sky Park &amp; Observatory – Solar Walk</div> <div>Below is the amounts of match for OM Dark Sky Park project through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020 Rural Tourism Scheme:</div> <table><tr><td>Capital works</td><td>£447,950</td></tr><tr><td>Augmented reality</td><td>£50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Fees</td><td>£29,500</td></tr><tr><td>Total project cost</td><td>£527,250</td></tr></table> <div>Letter of offer received from DAERA on 30th July 2020.</div> <div>OM Dark Sky Park &amp; Observatory – Archaeological Walk</div> <table><tr><td>Capital works</td><td>£78,620.00</td></tr><tr><td>Augmented reality</td><td>£50,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Fees</td><td>£12,100.00</td></tr><tr><td>Total project cost</td><td>£ 140,720.00</td></tr></table> <div>Letter of offer received from Mid Ulster Local Action Group on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020</div>	Capital works	£447,950	Augmented reality	£50,000	Fees	£29,500	Total project cost	£527,250	Capital works	£78,620.00	Augmented reality	£50,000.00	Fees	£12,100.00	Total project cost	£ 140,720.00
Capital works	£447,950																
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Fees	£12,100.00																
Total project cost	£ 140,720.00																

	<p><u>Ballyronan Tourism Project</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Capital works</td><td>£551,850.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Augmented Reality</td><td>£68,443.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fees</td><td>£31,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total project cost</td><td>£651,293.00</td></tr> </table> <p>funding on.</p> <p>Total project cost: £651,293  Grant sought from the Rural Tourism Scheme: £488,469.75  Match funding request from council: £162,823.25</p> <p>Letter of offer received from DAERA on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020</p>	Capital works	£551,850.00	Augmented Reality	£68,443.00	Fees	£31,000.00	Total project cost	£651,293.00
Capital works	£551,850.00								
Augmented Reality	£68,443.00								
Fees	£31,000.00								
Total project cost	£651,293.00								
	<p>Human: Will be delivered by the relevant Council officers</p>								
	<p>Risk Management: Without Council match funding this project will not go ahead</p>								
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>								
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p>								
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>								
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>								
5.1	To approve the tender received from Tandem Partners Ltd, being the most economically advantageous tender and their tender total price of £218,443 is recommended for acceptance.								
5.2	Council grant approval for the match funding for the projects outlined in this report.								
5.1	For information.								
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>								



<b>Report on</b>	Autumn Corporate Events Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Sharon Arbuthnot

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide a further update on the Corporate Autumn Events.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	No advice has been given yet regarding mass gatherings and maximum numbers permitted to attend an outdoor event. However, from Monday 24 August 2020 the maximum number of people who can meet outdoor has been reduced from 30 people to 15 people. Any meetings of more than 15 people will be required to complete a risk assessment.
2.2	To ensure all options were investigated; site visits took place in particular looking at the logistics of hosting firework displays with officers and Health and Safety.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Health and Safety would recommend a 2m social distancing measure should any event occur. If families arrive in their 'Household Bubble' that will be permitted.
3.2	It is envisaged that the maximum attendance permitted at an outdoor event during autumn could be between 300 to 500 people. However, at this stage it is hard to judge with the recent increase in positive Covid-19 cases and the tightening of some of the relaxed measures what this will look like come October.
3.3	It is important to note, hosting an event with a maximum capacity of up to 500 people or even 1000 people would greatly reduce the numbers from previous events and in most cases decrease the audience by at least over one third or more.
3.4	To ensure the maximum capacity numbers were not exceeded, any events organised would have to be ticketed. This will also enable Council to contact the people attending any event with guidance on the lead up to the event and in addition may support contact tracing if required.

3.5	<p>It is vital to highlight that if an event was at capacity (based on the maximum attendance numbers in line with Executive guidance); Council must also consider the risk of non-ticket holders attending the area outside the event arena. Depending on the probability of this occurring and the level of risk associated the PHA and/or the PSNI could cancel the event due to public safety.</p>		
3.6	<p>The Marketing and Communications plan will be vital to the success of any event, this year more than others.</p>		
3.7	<p>Consultations took place with each of the Town Centre Forums. A series of options were discussed with the proposed options included below.</p>		
3.8	<p><b>Coalisland Halloween Event – Gortgonis Site (Council Site)</b></p> <p>Three options were investigated; Option one was to organise a Firework Display similar to previous years however with the social distance measures in place this would impact massively in attendance figures permitted on site.</p> <p>Option two, host a lower scale firework display which would have reduced visible from neighboring residential area and again significantly reduced the attendance numbers.</p> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Event Proposal</b></td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Source Halloween themed lighting to be positioned at the Cornmill Centre Coalisland. The lighting could be programmed and run for a few hours each evening over a number of days. People could come and view this with their own families and in their cars at a safe distance from others.</li><li>• External community activities could be organised and promoted which could take place over a number of days. For example, the bi-lingual Ghost folk lore tours, football tournament and Halloween themed story telling.</li><li>• No Firework display would take place this year. This would reduce, numbers of people coming together.</li></ul></td></tr></table>	<b>Event Proposal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Source Halloween themed lighting to be positioned at the Cornmill Centre Coalisland. The lighting could be programmed and run for a few hours each evening over a number of days. People could come and view this with their own families and in their cars at a safe distance from others.</li><li>• External community activities could be organised and promoted which could take place over a number of days. For example, the bi-lingual Ghost folk lore tours, football tournament and Halloween themed story telling.</li><li>• No Firework display would take place this year. This would reduce, numbers of people coming together.</li></ul>
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3.9	<p><b>Dungannon Halloween Event – Market Square Dungannon (Town Centre Location)</b></p> <p>In depth discussions took place with regards to hosting a Fireworks display similar to last year in the town centre. However due to the social distancing and maintaining the maximum capacity, hosting an event in the town centre would be challenging. Additionally, the PHA and/or PSNI may have concerns which could result in the event being cancelled.</p> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p>		

	<table><tr><th>Event Proposal</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Halloween themed lighting erected in Market Square Dungannon for a number of days to celebrate Halloween. This would enhance the atmosphere within the town centre for residents and shoppers.</li><li>Halloween Story Telling by characters in costume from a Halloween decorated set in Ranfurly House. The stories could be produced by local school children and streamed online.</li><li>The Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House could host Halloween workshops for families (either online/or as ticketed event).</li></ul></td></tr></table>	Event Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Halloween themed lighting erected in Market Square Dungannon for a number of days to celebrate Halloween. This would enhance the atmosphere within the town centre for residents and shoppers.</li><li>Halloween Story Telling by characters in costume from a Halloween decorated set in Ranfurly House. The stories could be produced by local school children and streamed online.</li><li>The Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House could host Halloween workshops for families (either online/or as ticketed event).</li></ul>
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3.10	<p><b>Maghera Halloween</b></p> <p>St Patrick College site and the vacant site on the Tobermore Road was visited and considered for a firework display. The main concerns as with the other sites include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The uncertainty around the numbers permitted to attend any outdoor gathering.</li><li>2. The limit on numbers would result in more than one third of last year's attendance figures not being permitted to attend.</li><li>3. The continued daily incline in Covi-19 positive cases impacts on the confidence of our local residents.</li><li>4. The risk of localised lockdowns or second wave which would result in no event proceeding.</li></ol> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p> <table><tr><th>Event Proposal</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a Halloween trail from the Walled Garden adjoining the new Largentogher Walk.</li><li>Social distancing measures would be in place and tickets would be issued to manage numbers.</li><li>The Halloween trail could be open for a number of days subject to demand.</li><li>The option encourages people to get outdoors and active within their Bubble with no mass gathering of people.</li><li>Run competitions in the schools for children to design monsters/witches etc for the walk and then have them made as figures and integrated into the walk, may encourage families and grandparents' aunts' uncles etc to participate</li><li>No fireworks display for this year.</li></ul></td></tr></table>	Event Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a Halloween trail from the Walled Garden adjoining the new Largentogher Walk.</li><li>Social distancing measures would be in place and tickets would be issued to manage numbers.</li><li>The Halloween trail could be open for a number of days subject to demand.</li><li>The option encourages people to get outdoors and active within their Bubble with no mass gathering of people.</li><li>Run competitions in the schools for children to design monsters/witches etc for the walk and then have them made as figures and integrated into the walk, may encourage families and grandparents' aunts' uncles etc to participate</li><li>No fireworks display for this year.</li></ul>
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3.11	<p><b>Mid Ulster Sports Arena</b></p> <p>Historically this event has was always attracted an audience of approximately 5000 people. Similarly, to the other events, a number of options where investigated for this year. However, the issues still need to be considered.</p> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p>		

3.12	<b>Event Proposal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a Halloween trail for children and families on the site.</li> <li>• The Trail would be Halloween themed and would take into consideration the social distancing measures.</li> <li>• A ticket management system would be in place to manage numbers.</li> <li>• Allocated time slots to ensure residents safety.</li> <li>• Due to demand the trail could run over a number of days.</li> </ul>
	<b>Magherafelt Christmas</b> <p>As with other town Centre events during these surreal times restricting the numbers would be extremely difficult. Firework display tends to attract large numbers of people, which leads to mass gatherings of people.</p> <p>With this in mind, we propose the following:</p>
	<b>Event Proposal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A virtual switch on –this could be pre-recorded to avoid people coming into the town centre.</li> <li>• Santa could visit the residential areas within the town centre to ensure the kids saw Santa.</li> <li>• Enhanced lighting/lighting feature on Broad Street to link with the existing lighting features. The lighting could be launched at the virtual switch on and remain on during the run up to Christmas.</li> <li>• The lighting would increase the feel-good atmosphere in the town centre whilst increase civic pride within our residents.</li> <li>• Local artists would be invited to participate in a recorded Christmas song.</li> <li>• Shops would be encouraged via the chamber to get involved in the Christmas window decorating competition.</li> </ul>
3.13	<b>Other Christmas Events</b> <p>Discussions will take place regarding all our Christmas events. Proposals will be developed after consultation with our Town Centres Forums and presented at the next meeting for approval.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: All event proposals will be delivered within budgets.
	Human: Officers will develop the proposals subject to approval.
	Risk Management: Risk Assessment will be completed where necessary.

<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To celebrate Halloween and Christmas in Mid Ulster a new way. With no mass gatherings of people, but in a safe way enhancing the atmospheres within our town centres and instilling civic pride with our residents amidst these uncertain times.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>



<b>Report on</b>	Social Housing Working Group & Pilot Dungannon Place Shaping Plan
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Head of Community Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martina Totten, Community Planning Coordinator

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 social housing working group issues and plans to address these.
1.2	To seek agreement to proceed with the development of a pilot Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Several meetings have been held this year with NIHE, elected members and Council officers to address a number of issues regarding social housing and agreeing plans to address them. Through the meetings the following key areas were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social Housing Demand - DEA Meetings on Social Housing Issues and land opportunities</li> <li>2. Latent Demand Requests</li> <li>3. Local Development Plan</li> <li>4. Rent Review</li> <li>5. Potential Social Housing Development - Site Analysis</li> </ol>
2.2	<p>At the last member meeting on social housing a number of issues were raised particularly relating to the impact social housing delivery is having on the regeneration of Dungannon town in comparison to other towns in Mid Ulster where housing has contributed to regeneration. As a result of the discussion it was suggested to develop a pilot Dungannon Place Shaping Plan to identify 'Place Shaping Principals' for town centre development based complementing the priorities for regeneration for Dungannon town. The Dungannon Place Shaping Plan would be a pilot plan, with the aim of developing Place Shaping Plans for the 3 main towns in the District.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><b>Social Housing Demand</b></p> <p>It has been proposed that DEA meetings will be held in the Autumn with NIHE and each group of DEA members to look specifically at local housing requirements, land availability and ownership. They will also share and discuss with members the NIHE</p>

submission to Mid Ulster Local Development Plan consultation and their recently completed Rent Review. Meeting dates will be issued in due course.

#### **Latent Demand Requests**

NIHE has confirmed that they are following up member requests for latent demand testing in the following areas: Gulladuff and Swatragh. Newbridge and Ballyronan. Requests for tests by members for Cappagh/Gallbally area and Ardboe to take place.

#### **Local Development Plan**

Members at the last meeting with NIHE felt that there is a need for greater social housing provision within private developments. There was agreement that mixed tenure is a priority going forward. After discussions on how to manage the combination of development management and Local Development Plan approaches, in order to allow for greater housing supply, it has been agreed to develop corporate position with a Council vision and set principles, regarding social housing provision and development. This is to be progressed with NIHE.

#### **Rent Review**

NIHE is currently completing a review of rents and LHA levels in areas. This will be presented to the next Housing Working group and shared with members as soon as received.

#### **Potential Social Housing Development – Site Analysis**

As previously reported to Council, Council officers are exploring a number of solutions to the current social and affordable housing stress, with a number of Council sites being assessed with NIHE for social housing development. Officers will continue to work with NIHE to progress these sites and will report back to Council.

### **3.2 Dungannon Social Housing Demand and Place Shaping Plan**

Members at the last meeting with NIHE expressed concerned that Phase 2 land that have been released have not been utilized by Housing Associations and are of the opinion that Associations may be developing what could be viewed as easier sites e.g. town centre. NIHE has agreed to look at the available Phase 2 lands and make contact with landowners and housing associations to identify a way to unlock the potential for housing in areas where need has been identified.

Concern was also raised that the lack of sewage and water infrastructure in the area was being used as a barrier to development. NIHE is carrying out more detailed investigations with NI Water regarding this and will feed back at next Housing Forum.

The number of proposed social housing flat schemes in Dungannon town centre on key retail routes was also discussed. Should these schemes progress, this would impact significantly the fabric of town centre. For example, Irish Street has been identified as part of the retail core for the next Area Plan; however the number of housing units proposed would prevent this happening. In order to address this issue, it has been proposed to develop a Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon which will include the following steps:

1. Evidence base/Health Check of Town Centre
2. Principles/priorities identified for housing in line with regeneration of town
3. Area Plan and retail development

	4. Future planning for town centre
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Cost for the design and development of a Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon</p> <p>50% of the cost will be shared with NIHE</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note update on social housing issues and plans to address them.
5.2	To commit up to £10,000 towards the development of a Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon with a further 50% match from NIHE (from within existing budgets).
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	None



<b>Report on</b>	Community Development
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 Sept 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Grants – to agree the rolling good relations grants
1.2	Peace IV – to agree the Peace IV proposals and note the update
1.3	Community Development – to note the community development update
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually delivers two rolling community grants programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals. Local Community Festivals is on hold due to Covid 19. Good Relations grants are to continue where possible using innovative methods of delivery.
2.2	Peace IV – Council delivers on the Peace IV Action Plan through guidance and engagement with the Peace IV Partnership.
2.3	Community Development includes the following areas, Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Grants - Rolling Good Relations - 3 applications are recommended for awards totalling £3,000- <b>Please refer to Appendix 1.</b>  As per Good Relations Action Plan, the Decade of Anniversaries grant programme will open to groups who wish to increase understanding of our shared history within Mid Ulster District Council area. Any activities will have to be similar to the good relations programme that they can be delivered based on innovative methods that allow for social distancing. The Decade of Anniversaries funding will open from September and will be promoted from this time.
3.2	Peace IV

3.3	<p>An extension has been sought to allow for the completion of Peace IV programmes that have been delayed due to Covid 19. The pending extension is to agree an updated end date for Peace IV local action plan to June 2021. It is hoped a response will be received by the end of September.</p> <p>An update on progress of the Peace IV programmes is below. Note a number have ceased for a period to recommence September. A number have been agreed by SEUPB to deliver in alternative online engagement formats.</p> <p><b>Partner Delivery</b>  EA Youth continuing to deliver with online and interactive engagement.  STEP to reconvene in September.  CWSAN nearly complete to finish September.  BEAM Post Primary Engagement complete.</p> <p><b>Tenders</b>  Engaging Youth People via sport delivered by Todds Leap is continuing to deliver through social distancing provision.  Engaging people through Art is being delivered by Artseaka and 10 Minutes More and is reconvening in September through agreed online interactive engagement.  Cross Border Heritage Links is continuing to deliver on the research element through online engagement. The final workshops and shared heritage event will take place in 2021.  Cross Border Literary Links is continuing to deliver on the literary research links between the poet laureates. The research has been procured and the successful bidder is the company 'Telltale' at a value of £12,000. Delivery will commence of this element of the programme in September. The workshops and last shared literary week will take place in 2021.</p> <p><b>Grants</b>  The grants, where possible, are being delivered through online engagement and others will reconvene when they can in 2021.</p> <p><b>Shared Space</b>  The shared space ITT is to go to procurement in September 2020.</p> <p><b>Community Development Update</b></p> <p><b>Community Support –</b>  The Community Support team continues to work with groups on the flexibility of delivery of their Council grant and apply for other funds to continue to respond to their communities.</p> <p><b>Good Relations –</b>  Good Relations continues to deliver the updated Plan through innovative and flexible models in line with social distancing requirements. The Decade of Anniversaries Lecture Series is to commence September through online delivery.</p> <p>The teams continue to support in the development and delivery of Mid Ulster poverty plan and initiatives.</p>
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	<p>The PCSP team is currently completing out the befriending calls through reallocation of these to the ones still in need to the Ageing Well initiative. The Partnership has commenced delivery of its plan.</p> <p>All of the partnership meetings are continuing via Zoom to accommodate members and external partners.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Good Relations awards £3,000</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Grants - To agree the grant award recommendations for Good Relations
5.2	Peace IV – To agree the Peace IV extension and note the Peace IV Update
5.3	Community Development – to note the update report
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 Grant Award Recommendations

## Appendix 1

### Good Relations September 2020 (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Sperrin Kidz	Community	Children's course in musicianship	3	£1250.00	£ 960.00
2	Stewartstown & District Environmental Outreach	Community	Ulster in Bloom 2021	3	£2250.00	£ 960.00
3	Mid Ulster community support network	Community	The Pandemic Crisis & Community Cohesion	2	£1200.00	£ 1,080.00
						<b>£3000.00</b>

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

<b>Report on</b>	1) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt  2) DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support & Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)  3) Review of Council's Online Business Directory
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b> Over the last five years, a car parking scheme was implemented in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres to boost trading over the key Christmas period. Following positive feedback from businesses and the public, it is proposed to bring into effect a similar scheme this year to support the local retail sector.</p>
2.2	<p><b>DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b> DAERA has launched a public consultation on a Review of Further Education Support and Charging Policy at CAFRE.</p> <p>DAERA provides a range of full-time and part-time further and higher education courses as well as industry training courses at CAFRE. The courses cover agriculture, equine, food, horticulture and business for agri-food and rural enterprise.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory. Businesses will have given their permission for their details to be published. It also enables members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. Recently, Mid Ulster District Council received complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Directory.</p>

3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p data-bbox="229 262 1281 297"><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b></p> <p data-bbox="229 297 1378 479">As part of this year's Christmas Promotional Campaign, officers have considered options for a car-parking scheme in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres aimed at encouraging footfall and spend during the critical festive trading period. Following positive feedback from trader groups, it is proposed to implement a similar scheme to last year as follows:-</p> <p data-bbox="229 517 1361 624">The First 3 Hours parking for 10 pence in <u>all</u> Pay &amp; Display Car Parks from Saturday 21 November 2020 to Saturday 2 January 2021 (6 week period). The total cost of implementation will be £23,400.</p> <p data-bbox="229 663 1386 844">The normal tariff is 40p for 1 hour (except for Central in Magherafelt, which has a tariff of 40p per three hours) and the proposed pricing arrangements are intended to boost town centre trade at one of the busiest times of year. The very nominal fee of 10p for the First Three Hours is being charged to prevent 'all day parkers' and ensure town centre car parks are available to visitors and shoppers.</p> <p data-bbox="229 844 831 880">The car parks included in the scheme are:</p> <ul data-bbox="277 880 1372 996" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Street East, Castle Hill, Perry Street West and Scotch Street North in Dungannon.</li> <li>• Rainey Street, Union Road and Central in Magherafelt.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="145 1070 1347 1140"><b>3.2 DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b></p> <p data-bbox="229 1140 1388 1247">DAERA has developed a set of proposals for future FE support at CAFRE. The purpose of this consultation is to gather the views of the public on FE support and charging proposals.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1285 1335 1321">The consultation documents are available to review at <a href="https://bit.ly/3gINTD2">https://bit.ly/3gINTD2</a>.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1359 1391 1431">A draft consultation response for Council has been prepared and this is contained on <b>Appendix 1</b> for Members' review.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1469 1409 1650">DAERA's consultation closes on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. As such, it will not be possible to bring the consultation response through Full Council in September for approval, prior to submission. It is therefore, requested that delegated authority be granted to the Development Committee to approve the response (taking on board any amendments) and submit the response on 11 September 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="145 1727 944 1762"><b>3.3 Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b></p> <p data-bbox="229 1762 1359 1834">Recently, Mid Ulster District Council received some complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Online Business Directory.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1872 1417 1944">In aiming to be inclusive, it appears that the scope of Council's Online Business Directory is too wide ranging in terms of what is deemed a 'business'.</p>

	<p>An Equality Screening Exercise (<b>see Appendix 2</b>) has been undertaken which has identified a minor negative impact. Mitigating actions have been proposed.</p> <p>To summarise, it is now proposed to focus the Online Business Directory only on those businesses that are 'commercial entities' and can demonstrate this at registration stage by providing their HMRC number.</p> <p>The organisations impacted by this proposal will be those from the community/voluntary, social enterprises and charity sectors. Council proposes to make contact with them to advise that the introduction of this new criteria requires their details to be removed from the Business Directory. They will be offered the opportunity to have their details included on the Council's Community Services Database.</p> <p>Going forward, those seeking to register their business details will be offered the option of completing an Equality Monitoring Form. This will enable Council to monitor the impact of this proposed following its implementation.</p>
	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b> Budget of £23,400 available under the Economic Development Budget</p>
	Human: Officer Time
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b></p> <p>The process of requesting businesses to provide their HMRC number to verify that they are 'commercial entities' has been used in application forms for other Council Grants Schemes and no issues have been raised to date.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> An Equality Screening Exercise has been undertaken which has identified a minor negative impact. Mitigating actions have been proposed.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> A Rural Needs Assessment is underway.</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that;
5.1	<p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b>  Members <b>approve</b> the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay &amp; Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt during the Christmas period from Saturday 21 November 2020 to Saturday 2 January 2021 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.</p>
5.2	<p><b>DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b>  <b>Approval</b> be granted to delegate authority to the Development Committee to <b>approve</b> the draft consultation response to enable it to be submitted to DAERA before the closing date for submissions of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b>  Members <b>approve</b> the recommendations contained in the Review of Council's Online Business Directory.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - MUDC Consultation Response on Review of Further Education Support &amp; Charging Policy at CAFRE.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Equality and Good Relations Screening Report – Council's Online Business Directory (August 2020).</p>

## APPENDIX 1



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

# Review of Further Education Support and Charging Policy at CAFRE

Consultation response by Mid Ulster District Council

Deadline for response: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the opportunity to submit this consultation response to DAERA on the Review of Further Education Support and Charging Policy at CAFRE.

The responses below follows the format outlined within the Consultation Document. This document outlines important proposals relating to DAERA's charging and support policy for FE courses provided by CAFRE which this Council believes will positively impact on the student body who attend on a full time or part time basis.

### Responses to Proposals

**Proposal A:** DAERA proposes offering support to part-time FE students for books and equipment associated with their part time study and, as a consequence, eligibility to the other student support mechanisms available such as Childcare Support and the CAFRE Hardship Fund.

Question 1: Do you agree with offering support to part-time FE students?

☒

Yes

☐

No

**Please give reasons for your choice and if you consider providing support for books and equipment alone (maximum £400) is sufficient?**

Mid Ulster District Council would support Proposal A to offer part-time FE students support for books and equipment associated with their part time study. This is a welcome move considering that there are almost twice as many part-time FE students studying at CAFRE compared to full time students. This would be considered a more equitable and fair means of supporting all students attending CAFRE and bring the support structure into line with GB policy.

The added benefit of this proposal is in opening access to other support mechanisms for part time students such as childcare support and the CAFRE Hardship Fund. This could serve to encourage more prospective part time students from households where the cost of study may serve as a barrier to taking up a course.

It is noted within the Review of DAERA Further Education Support and Charging report that the cost to students for books and equipment ranges from £50 to £520 depending on the course. Introducing support for part time students at £400 would appear sufficient on this basis.

**Proposal B:** DAERA proposes applying an inflationary increase to both the 'At Home' and 'Away from Home' grant rates.

Question 2: Please indicate which statement you agree with in relation to the 'At Home' grant:

- ☒ The maximum 'At Home' grant rate should increase from £1,659 to £2,400 per annum.
- ☐ The maximum 'At Home' grant rate should remain unchanged
- ☐ I have an alternative proposal which I have detailed below

Question 3: Please indicate which statement you agree with in relation to the 'Away from Home' grant:

- ☒ The maximum 'Away from Home' grant rate should increase from £2,362 to £3,400
- ☐ The maximum 'Away from Home' grant rate should remain unchanged
- ☐ I have an alternative proposal which I have detailed below

**Proposal C: DAERA proposes raising the lower household income threshold (currently £23,660) to £31,000.**

Question 4: Please indicate which statement you agree with in relation to the total gross lower household income threshold:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The total gross lower household income threshold should increase from £23,660 to £ 31,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	The total gross lower household income threshold should remain unchanged
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have an alternative proposal which I have detailed below

**Proposal D: DAERA proposes reducing the total gross upper household income threshold (currently £52,622) to £41,000.**

Question 5: Please indicate which statement you agree with in relation to the upper household income threshold:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The total gross upper household income threshold should decrease from £52,622to £ 41,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The total gross upper household income threshold should remain unchanged
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have an alternative proposal which I have detailed below

## ORDER OF PREFERENCE

Question 6: Future budgeting constraints could limit the FE support proposals that can be implemented going forward. Please place the FE support proposals in order of preference for implementation should it be necessary for the Department to prioritise them (1 = most preferred option through to 4 – least preferred option):

3rd	<b>Proposal A: Extending support to part-time FE students</b>
1st	<b>Proposal B: Increase the amount of 'At Home' and 'Away From Home' grant available</b>
2nd	<b>Proposal C: Raise the total gross lower household income threshold</b>
4th	<b>Proposal D: Reduce the total gross upper household income threshold</b>

Additional comments about your order of preference:

**1<sup>st</sup> Rank - Proposal B: Increase the amount of 'At Home' and 'Away From Home' grant available**

This Council regards Proposal B as the first ranking priority considering this grant has remained at current levels unchanged for the past 14 years. As evidenced within the Review report, the annual cost of attending courses at CAFRE for both "at home" and "away from home" students now far exceeds the current levels of grant available for both categories of student. This Proposal brings the level of grant more into line with the cost of studying at CAFRE and should reduce the financial burden on students.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Rank - Proposal C: Raise the total gross lower household income threshold**

Proposal C is regarded by this Council at the second highest priority for two reasons:

1. Raising the lower threshold of total gross household income from £23,660 to £31,000 increases the number of students from lower household incomes who will qualify for the maximum grant.
2. It will help reduce reliance on the CAFRE Hardship fund.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Rank - Proposal A: Extending support to part-time FE students**

Proposal A, extending support to part time FE students is regarded at the third highest priority. This Council still considers this proposal as an important intervention considering the high number of part time students who attend CAFRE courses. It is ranked third on the basis that Proposals B and C are considered more important for assisting students most in need.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Rank - Proposal D: Reduce the total gross upper household income threshold**

Proposal D is ranked as the lowest priority. The budget implication of this proposal are not significant estimated at £9000 per annum therefore we would suggest the current upper ceiling of £52,622 remains in place.

**Question 7: Should the Department consider introducing charges for Further Education courses?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please give the reasons for your answer:

This Council recognised the important role CAFRE plays in providing further and higher education for those interested in pursuing a career in agriculture or agri-food related businesses. It is essential for the sustainability of our rural areas that opportunities for employment are developed and enhanced through learning. The introduction of fees for courses provided at CAFRE will serve as a barrier especially for low income households in rural areas. We note that the Department is not minded to introduce fees for FE course and this Council would support that position.

## **ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD CONSIDER?**

Question 8: Are there any other options for Further Education support which you believe the Department should consider or any other information you would like to add to your response? If so, please detail below:

Mid Ulster District Council has no further options for consideration.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

Question 9: Are there any further comments that you would like to add in regards to the published Rural Impact Assessment? If so, please detail below:

Mid Ulster District Council is satisfied that due regard has been given to the Rural Needs Act during the completion the Review of DAERA Further Education and Charging.

Question 10:

Are there any further comments that you would like to add in regards to the published Equality Impact Assessment Screening? If so, please detail below:

Mid Ulster District Council is satisfied that due regard has been given to Equality Impact Screening during the completion the Review of DAERA Further Education and Charging.



## **Introduction**

Mid Ulster District Council has a statutory duty to screen its policies, procedures, practices/decisions. This Policy Screening Form and Report assists Council Departments to consider the likely equality and good relations impacts of the aforementioned, if any, placed upon our ratepayers, citizens, service users, staff and visitors to the district.

## **Section 1 – Policy scoping**

This asks the Policy Author to provide details on the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations. Reference to policy within this document refers to either of the aforementioned (policy, procedure, practice, and/ or decision).

## **Section 2 – Screening questions**

This asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and issues.

## **Section 3 – Screening decision**

This guides the Council to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

## **Section 4 – Monitoring**

This provides guidance to the Council on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

## **Section 5 – Approval and authorisation**

This verifies the Council's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

## **Appendix A      Screening Process**

## Section 1 Policy Scoping & Information

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration which sets the context and confirms the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. Scoping the policy helps to identify constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy author to work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

<b>1. Policy Name</b>		
Review of Mid Ulster District Council Online Business Directory		
<b>2. Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?</b>		
This is an existing directory.		
<b>3. What is it trying to achieve? (aims/outcomes)</b>		
This review is being carried out in order to fully consider the role of the Directory and to set out guidance for the management and public circulation of the directory going forward.		
<b>4. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?</b>	Yes	
	No	x
If so, please explain		
<b>5. Who initiated or wrote the policy?</b>		
Mid Ulster District Council (Economic Development Department)		
<b>6. Who owns and who implements the policy?</b>		
Mid Ulster District Council (Economic Development Department)		

### Implementation factors

		Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/ detract from intended aim/ outcome of the policy?			
• If yes, are they financial?			x
• If yes, are they legislative?		✓	
• If yes, Please specify	<b>Financial:</b>  <b>Legislative:</b> Council proposes to use one additional criteria – requiring businesses to provide their HMRC number on their Registration Form to evidence they are actively trading and a commercial entity. This will be subject to review, should HMRC make any changes to their processes.		
• Other, Please specify			

### Stakeholders

The internal and external (actual or potential) that the policy will be impacted upon

	Yes	No
Staff		
Service Users	X	
Other public sector organisations		
Voluntary/community/ trade unions	X	
Other, please specify		

### Others policies with a bearing on this policy

Policies	Owners
Customer Services Policy	Mid Ulster District Council Communications Dept

**Available evidence**

Information and available evidence (qualitative and quantitative) gathered to inform the policy under each of the Section 75 groups as identified within the Northern Ireland Act 1998. [Add information and evidence from other sources, eg, research, survey findings, service user feedback, consultation feedback, review findings, etc]

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information																																								
Religious belief	<p>63.77% of the population in Mid Ulster were brought up in the Catholic religion and 33.46% belong or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. Other religions comprised 690 (0.5%) and None 3,153 (2.28%) of the population (Source: 2011 Census).</p> <table><tr><th>Religion or Religion brought up in</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Catholic</td><td>88,375</td><td>63.77</td></tr><tr><td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td><td>46,372</td><td>33.46</td></tr><tr><td>Other religions</td><td>690</td><td>0.5</td></tr><tr><td>None</td><td>3,153</td><td>2.28</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>138,590</td><td>100</td></tr></table> <p>Mid Ulster District Council's complaints data has recorded complaints made in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Directory</p>	Religion or Religion brought up in	No.	%	Catholic	88,375	63.77	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	46,372	33.46	Other religions	690	0.5	None	3,153	2.28	Total	138,590	100																						
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Political opinion	<p>Political party representation can be used as an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within Mid Ulster council area. The table below shows the results from the May 2019 local government/council elections - percentage 1<sup>st</sup> preference vote share for each political party and current representation (seats) on Council. (Source: Electoral Office):</p> <table><tr><th>Party</th><th>Votes</th><th>Percentage</th><th>Council Seats</th></tr><tr><td>SF</td><td>23,553</td><td>39.8%</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>DUP</td><td>13,700</td><td>23.2%</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>SDLP</td><td>8,512</td><td>14.4%</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>UUP</td><td>8,021</td><td>13.6%</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Independent</td><td>3,422</td><td>5.8%</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Aontu*</td><td>846</td><td>1.4%</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Alliance</td><td>729</td><td>1.2%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TUV</td><td>230</td><td>0.4%</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Workers' Party</td><td>95</td><td>0.2%</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>*A councillor who was elected as a representative of the SDLP resigned from that party and aligned with Aontu shortly after the 2019 local government elections</p>	Party	Votes	Percentage	Council Seats	SF	23,553	39.8%	17	DUP	13,700	23.2%	9	SDLP	8,512	14.4%	5	UUP	8,021	13.6%	6	Independent	3,422	5.8%	2	Aontu*	846	1.4%	1	Alliance	729	1.2%		TUV	230	0.4%		Workers' Party	95	0.2%	
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# Racial group

According to the 2011 Census the overwhelming majority of the population 136,485 (98.48%) were classified as 'white'. Within this total will be migrant communities, such as Polish, Lithuanian and so forth. Statistics indicate that the number of people in Mid Ulster Local Government District (LGD) born outside Northern Ireland is:

Place of Birth	No.
Great Britain	4,053
Republic of Ireland	2,250
EU Countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)	6,795
Other	2,280

The minority ethnic language profile within the area can serve as a possible indicator of the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community profile within the district. The composition of language groups in Mid Ulster LGD area is also noted from the 2011 census by NISRA as:

Main Languages of residents in Mid Ulster Council area	No.
English	125,715
Polish	2,008
Lithuanian	2,039
Portuguese	903
Irish (Gaelic)	404
Slovak	477
Russian	297
Latvia	261
Hungarian	117
Chinese	64
Tagalog/Filipino	38
Malaysian	33
Other	922

# Age

The age profile of Mid Ulster Local Government District area as at 2015 (Source, NISRA)

	Mid Ulster	Northern Ireland
Total Population	144,002	1,851,621
0-15 years	33,123	385,200
16-39 years	47,646	583,116
40-64 years	43,621	591,481
65+ years	19,612	291,824
Population Change % (2005-2015)	15.3%	7.2%

Marital status

The below table sets out the marital status profile for Mid Ulster District Council area as extracted from results of the 2011 Census

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No	%
Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	38,353	35.97	517,393	36.14
Married (Aged 16+)	54,192	50.82	680,831	47.56
In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	62	0.06	1,243	0.09
Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	3,369	3.16	56,911	3.98
Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+)	4,139	3.88	78,074	5.45
Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	6,523	6.12	97,088	6.78

Sexual orientation

No specific statistics are available from the 2011 government census for this Category and there are therefore no official statistics available in relation to persons of different sexual orientation. However, the Integrated Household Survey would include between 3% and 4% would be either gay, lesbian and/or bisexual. However, due to the nature of 'disclosure' in this area, umbrella organisations often state that the figure may be closer to 10%.

Region	Heterosexual / Straight	Gay/ Lesbian	Bisexual	Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual	Other	Don't know /refuse	No response
England	92.54%	1.10%	0.51%	1.61%	0.33%	4.07%	1.45%
Wales	93.93%	1.04%	0.48%	1.52%	0.45%	2.99%	1.11%
Scotland	94.65%	0.82%	0.33%	1.14%	0.26%	2.59%	1.37%
N Ireland	93.00%	0.64%	0.96%	1.60%	0.26%	3.98%	1.17%
Total	92.80%	1.06%	0.51%	1.57%	0.32%	3.89%	1.42%

Research also conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5%-7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgender and transvestite) (LGBT).

Men & women generally	<p>The gender profile of Mid Ulster LGD is detailed as;</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>69,362</td><td>50.05</td><td>887,323</td><td>49.00</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>69,228</td><td>49.95</td><td>923,540</td><td>51.00</td></tr></table>		Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland			No.	%	No.	%	Male	69,362	50.05	887,323	49.00	Female	69,228	49.95	923,540	51.00					
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Male	69,362	50.05	887,323	49.00																						
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Disability	<p>According to the 2011 NISRA census statistics 19.39% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities whilst 80.43% of people within the district stated their general health was either good or very good</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Disability / long term health</td><td>26,870</td><td>19.39</td><td>374,646</td><td>20.69</td></tr><tr><td>No disability / long term health problem</td><td>111,720</td><td>80.61</td><td>1,436,217</td><td>79.31</td></tr></table> <p>In Northern Ireland the profile of persons with a disability has been reported by Disability Action as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population have a disability</li><li>• 1 in 7 people have some form of hearing loss</li><li>• 5,000 persons use sign language - British Sign Language and/or Irish Sign Language</li><li>• There are 57,000 blind persons or persons with significant impairment</li><li>• 52,000 persons with learning difficulties</li></ul>		Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland			No.	%	No.	%	Disability / long term health	26,870	19.39	374,646	20.69	No disability / long term health problem	111,720	80.61	1,436,217	79.31					
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Disability / long term health	26,870	19.39	374,646	20.69																						
No disability / long term health problem	111,720	80.61	1,436,217	79.31																						
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/ or a dependent older person. The below table provides a summary with respect Mid Ulster LGD.</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Households with dependent children</td><td>18,626</td><td>38.99</td><td>238,094</td><td>33.86</td></tr><tr><td>Lone parent households with dependents</td><td>3,485</td><td>7.30</td><td>63,921</td><td>9.09</td></tr><tr><td>People providing unpaid care</td><td>12,821</td><td>10.69</td><td>231,980</td><td>11.82</td></tr></table> <p>Of the households in Mid Ulster Local Government District with dependent children, they can be summarised as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7,407 families in households have 1 dependent child</li><li>• 6,394 families in households with two dependent children</li><li>• 5,014 families in households with three dependent children</li></ul> <p>There are 37,306 dependent children within families.</p>		Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland			No.	%	No.	%	Households with dependent children	18,626	38.99	238,094	33.86	Lone parent households with dependents	3,485	7.30	63,921	9.09	People providing unpaid care	12,821	10.69	231,980	11.82
	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland																							
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Lone parent households with dependents	3,485	7.30	63,921	9.09																						
People providing unpaid care	12,821	10.69	231,980	11.82																						

Other relevant information includes the information that since August 2019 to July 2020, google analytics reports show that of the 1,556,651 people visiting the Council's website, 34,943 (or 2.22%) visited the Business Directory section. There is no specific data captured or available on the engagement of the nine categories with the Directory or pages visited.

Mid Ulster District Council recently received complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Directory. In aiming to be as inclusive as possible, it appears that the scope of the Directory is too wide ranging in terms of what is deemed a 'business'. It is proposed to now focus the Directory listing on those businesses which are actively trading and require those seeking to register their business on the Directory to provide their HMRC number to demonstrate that they are a commercial entity. All other organisations (from the community/voluntary/social enterprise sectors) not in this category will be contacted to advise their details will be removed from the Business Directory and will be offered the opportunity to be included on the Council's Community Services Database.

#### **Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of Political Opinion.
<b>Political opinion</b>	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of Political Opinion.
<b>Racial group</b>	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in

	the District. This function is carried out regardless of racial grouping.
Age	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of age.
Marital status	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of marital status.
Sexual orientation	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of gender.
Disability	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of disability.
Dependants	The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. This function is carried out regardless of dependants.

## Section 2 – Screening Questions

In making a decision as to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), the Council should consider its answers to the questions 1- 3 detailed below.

If the Council's conclusion is none in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity categories, then the Council may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity, the Council should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the Council's conclusion is major in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the Council's conclusion is minor in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

**In favour of a 'major' impact**

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of 'minor' impact**

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;

- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

#### **In favour of none**

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity for people within the equality categories.

#### **Screening questions**

<b>1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories (minor/ major/ none)</b>		
<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? minor/major/none</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people from different religious backgrounds so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
<b>Political opinion</b>	Those impacted are from the community /voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people who hold different political views so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
<b>Racial group</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary/social enterprise /charitable sectors, some of which may	Minor (negative)

	represent people from different racial groups so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	
<b>Age</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people from different age groups so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
<b>Marital status</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary/social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people holding different marital status, so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people of different sexual orientation so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
<b>Men and women generally</b>	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise, or charitable sectors, some of which may represent people of different genders so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will	Minor (negative)

	be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	
Disability	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent those with a disability so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)
Dependants	Those groups impacted are from the community/voluntary, social enterprise or charitable sectors, some of which may represent those with dependents so may experience a minor negative impact in being removed from the Business Directory. This will be mitigated by Council providing the opportunity for them to be listed on Council's community/voluntary services database.	Minor (negative)

<b>2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories? (Yes/ No)</b>		
Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Political opinion		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Racial group		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have

		an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Age		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Marital status		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Sexual orientation		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Men and women generally		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Disability		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory
Dependants		No, all organisations, regardless of Section 75 grouping, will have an opportunity to be included in the appropriate Council Directory

<b>3. Are there opportunities without prejudice, to the equality of opportunity duty, to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories, through tackling prejudice and/ or promoting understanding? (Yes/ No)</b>		
	No	✓
	Yes	
If yes, please detail the opportunities below:		

If yes is concluded to Question 3, then the policy will be referred to the Council's Good Relations Working Group for consideration. The Group will consider the potential opportunities and assess if and how the overall impact of a decision/policy can better promote good relations.

### Additional Considerations - Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? <i>(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).</i>
N/A
Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.
N/A

### Section 3 – Screening Decision

In light of answers provided to the questions within Section 3 select one of the following with regards the policy:

		Select One
1	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - <i>with no mitigating measures required</i>	
2	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - <i>mitigating measures/ alternative policies introduced</i>	✓
3	Shall be subject to an EQIA	

If 1 or 2 above (i.e. not to be subject to an EQIA) please provide details of reasons why.
N/A

**If 2 above (i.e. not to subject to an EQIA) in what ways can adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.**

The organisations impacted by this proposal will be those from the community /voluntary, social enterprise and charity sectors. Council proposes to make contact with them to advise that the introduction of this new criteria requires their details to be removed from the Business Directory, and they will be offered the opportunity to have their details included on the Council's Community Services Database.

To ensure in future that only those businesses who can confirm they are actively trading and have a commercial focus are listed, it is proposed to require those registering to provide their HMRC number. The organisations impacted by this proposal will be those from the community/voluntary, social enterprise and charitable sectors. Council proposes to make contact with them to advise that, due to the introduction of this new criteria, their details are being removed from the Business Directory and they will be offered the opportunity to be included on the Council's community services database.

**If 3 above (i.e. shall be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons.**

## **Mitigation**

When it is concluded that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity?**

**If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy:**

The function of this Directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory and also enable members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. Mid Ulster District Council recently received complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Directory.

Going forward, to ensure that only commercially operating businesses are included in the Directory, it is proposed that an additional question will be added to the Business Registration Form requiring businesses to provide their HMRC number. This will provide an objective means of confirming that a business is actively trading and is a commercial entity.

The organisations impacted by this proposal will be those on the Directory from the community /voluntary, social enterprise and charity sectors. Council proposes to make contact with them to advise they are being removed from the Business Directory and they will then be offered the opportunity to have their details included on the Council's Community Services Database.

A review of the impact of this change will be carried out 12 months following its implementation.

## Timetabling and prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the below to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

- On a scale of 1-3 (1 being lowest priority and 3 being highest), assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a Council's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the Council in timetabling. Details of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the Screening Reports.

- Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

Yes	
No	

## Section 5 – Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

Council's Economic Development Section proposes to provide those seeking to register their business details with the facility to complete an Equality Monitoring Form.

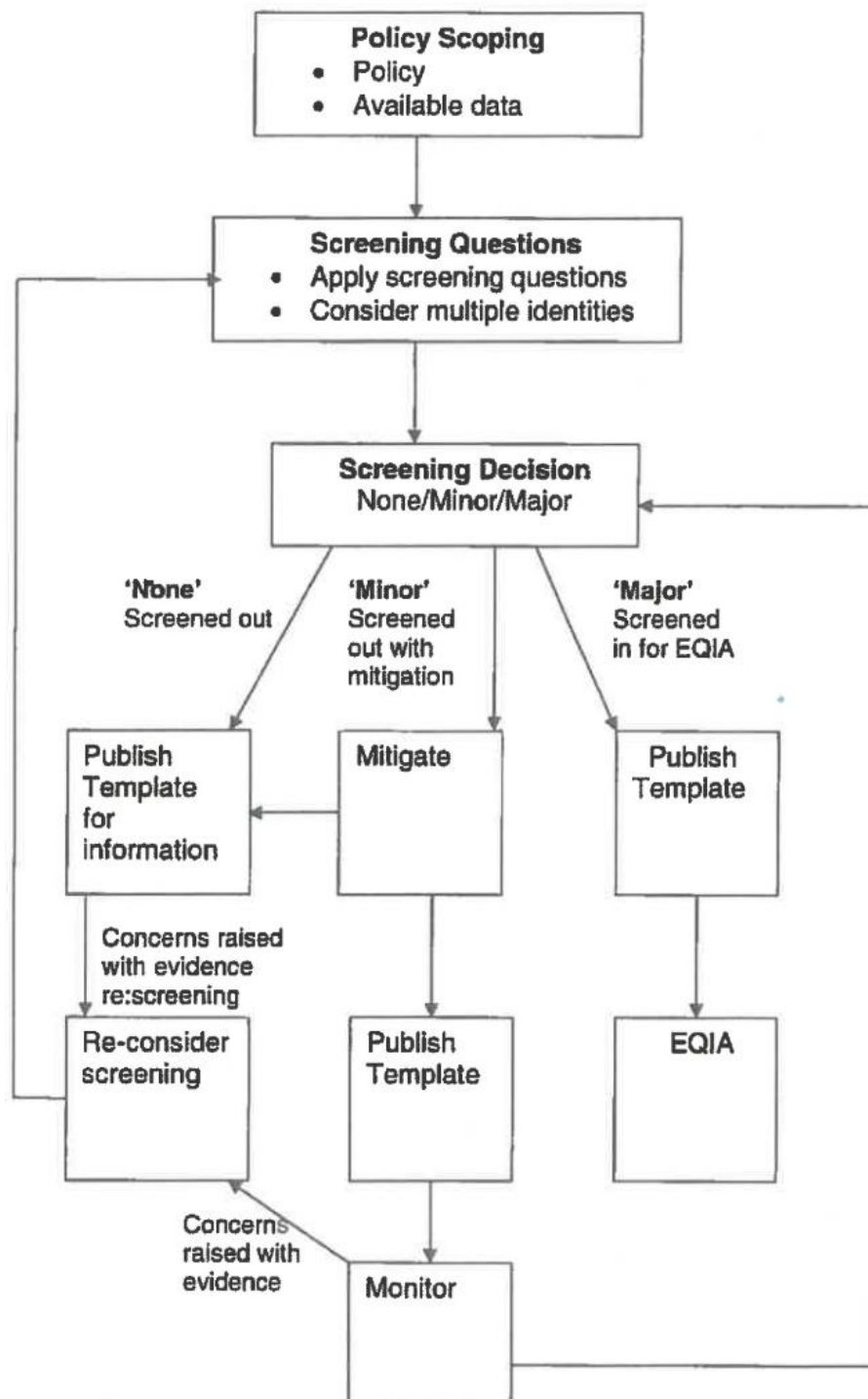
This will enable Council to monitor the impact of this proposed change 12 months following its implementation.

## Section 6 – Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/ Job Title	Date
<i>Fiona McKeown</i>	Head of Economic Development	14.08.2020
Approved by:	Position/ Job Title	Date
<i>Cosmin Ionescu</i>	Director of Business & Communities	19.08.2020

**Note:** A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy; made easily accessible on the council website as soon as possible following completion and be available on request.







<b>Report on</b>	A29 Cookstown and Dungannon by-passes
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martina Totten, Community Planning Coordinator

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>To update members on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass project.</p> <p>To seek agreement with Dungannon DEA elected members to form a working group with officials from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress a by-pass scheme for Dungannon.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>A by-pass for Cookstown has been pursued for over 40 years by Cookstown District Council and then Mid Ulster District Council, having first been identified in the East Tyrone Area Plan (1974-1994), which was published in 1978. It was again identified in the Cookstown Area Plan (2010) published in 2004 and more recently in Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy), Community Plan 2017-2027 and Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>Known as the Eastern Distributor it was acknowledged as being able to relieve the town centre traffic congestion.</p> <p>A number of meetings have taken place with officers from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), elected members and council officers, since January 2020, to discuss the progress of the Cookstown by-pass scheme.</p>
2.2	<p>Similarly, the proposal for a Dungannon Bypass has existed for over 40 years. Mid-Ulster District Council has identified a need for such a scheme and it has been included in the Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy), Community Plan 2017-2027 and Economic Development Plan.</p>
2.3	<p>Both by-pass schemes have been identified within the Mid South West (MSW) Regional Economic Strategy under the 'Enabling Infrastructure' pillar and have been prioritised under the Growth Deal for the MSW region.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020, DfI informed elected members and Council officers of the following progress made on the A29 Cookstown by-pass scheme:-</p>

	<p>A preferred Route was announced by DfI for the scheme in June 2010. Due to the time that then lapsed, much of baselining work was out of date and needed updating, along with a review of the Preferred Route. An updated Preferred Route announcement was anticipated for spring 2020, however, with the pandemic this is now scheduled for December 2020, along with a Public Information Day.</p> <p>DfI then anticipate that all environmental assessments will be completed and Statutory Vesting orders published, by late 2021.</p> <p>At this stage it will be determined if a Public Inquiry is required. If so, DfI would aim to have this completed by Mid 2022. If not, they would move to the next and final steps.</p> <p>The next steps are Ministerial Approval, procurement and construction. This timeframe is based upon satisfactory completion of statutory procedures and funding secured. DfI are confident that funding will be made available for the scheme development up to 2021/22. Thereafter, funding for delivery of the new road will depend on the Minister's priorities.</p> <p>Discussion also took place on the impact the new road will have on Killymoon Golf Club (the loss of two holes and timescale of 2 years to redesign the course) and the importance of liaison with the Club and other landowners in order to move the scheme forward successfully.</p> <p>It was agreed that meetings would take place with DfI officers, Cookstown DEA elected members and Council officers every 2 months, to update members on the progress of the scheme.</p> <p>3.2 Unlike the A29 Cookstown by-pass, a by-pass scheme for Dungannon has not progressed as far. One of the first steps in the development process will be to ensure that a proposed by-pass scheme for Dungannon is included in the DfI's Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP). DfI have advised that timescales on the consultation on the next RSTNTP have been affected by the COVID-19 emergency which has impacted upon staff resources and work priorities. It is now expected to be available in early 2021.</p> <p>DfI have agreed to also meet with Dungannon DEA elected members, every 2 months, to progress a potential by-pass scheme in Dungannon.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None</p>

	Rural Needs Implications:
	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note update on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass scheme
5.2	To form a working group comprising Dungannon DEA elected members and officers from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress the development of a by-pass scheme in Dungannon.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Report of the Cookstown by-pass Meeting held with DfI officers, Cookstown DEA elected members and Council Officers on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2020.



## **Cookstown Bypass Meeting with MUDC and Department for Infrastructure**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**MUDC Dungannon Office**

### **Attendance**

David McKinley	Department for Infrastructure
Eamon Lynch	WSP
Cllr Cathal Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kerri Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Trevor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Martina Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Paul McCreedy	Mid Ulster District Council

### **Apologies**

Gordon Noble	Department for Infrastructure
Cllr John McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Wilbert Buchannon	Mid Ulster District Council

E. Lynch delivered a presentation on the update of the scheme including progress to date, proposed timeline and route options.

Cllr Mallaghan asked when DfI will be in discussion with land owners. E. Lynch said that they have been in continuous contact with land owners and they are aware of what is happening. D. McKinley said that discussions regarding land purchase is further down the line and that the Public Information Day in December will be a formal starting point for discussions.

Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that the Golf Club and failed to secure finance from the bank to commence amendments to the course in advance of the scheme as the bank require a formal commitment from DfI that the by-pass scheme will happen. They also will require 2 years to complete all necessary works before they can release the required land for the by-pass.

Cllr Hughes enquired about the progress of all necessary surveys. E. Lynch confirmed they are all ongoing.

D. McKinley confirmed he was confident that funding will be made available for the scheme development up to 2021/22. There after funding for delivery of the new road will depend on the Minister's priorities.

Cllr Mallaghan proposed Elected Members and DfI meet every 2 months to discuss updates on the scheme. D. McKinley agreed that the Project Team would be happy to do so.

Cllr Mallaghan offered Dfl to use the Burnavon the same day Council meet in December as all appropriate equipment will be in place in place for the meeting.

P. McCreedy questioned what initiates a Public Inquiry. D. McKinley informed that depending on the number and nature of objections received a Public Inquiry may be required. The decision as to whether a Public Inquiry is required will be referred to a Dfl Roads Director other than the Director responsible for Strategic Road Improvements.

A. McCreesh recommended that Dfl carry out discussions with all key stakeholders prior to the Public Information day in order to resolve any issues. He offered the Council's assistance.

A McCreesh underlined the fact that the golf club will require a financial payment in advance to make the necessary amendments to their course prior to release the required land. He asked Dfl to have the necessary discussions to ensure this can happen. D. McKinley assured that he will take this back to the department.

A McCreesh asked Dfl to share the vision for the link with Sandholes and the new by pass. D. McKinley gave a brief outline of the reasons for promoting the Sandholes Link Road and that it's delivery would depend on affordability. It may be that the A29 bypass would proceed ahead of the link road but the eventual decision on this would be for the Minister.

Cllr Mallaghan informed the meeting that the 3 councils in the South West Region Growth Deal have now agreed their priorities for the bid, which the Cookstown by-pass is one. D. McKinley welcomed this news and stated that it will be very important to the progression of the scheme.

A McCreesh pointed out that there is growing pressure for moving forward with the Dungannon by-pass. He proposed to include discussion of this scheme at the bi-monthly meetings. D. McKinley welcomed the idea to open discussions to further this scheme.

## **Actions**

1. Share WSP presentation with elected members and council officers
2. Dfl and Elected Members to meet every 2 months to discuss Cookstown and Dungannon by pass scheme.
3. Dfl to meet with key stakeholders prior to the Public Information day.
4. Dfl to discuss the provision of advanced payment to the golf club.

<b>Report on</b>	Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion funding Programme
1.2	To seek Council approval to participate in the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Scheme and to request project submissions from internal Arts & Culture, Leisure, Parks, Tourism Services and to assess submissions received in advance of submitting all project applications to the Department for Communities for further project funding assessment.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In 2017/18 the Department for Communities (DfC) worked in collaboration with Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Public Health Agency on the delivery of a pilot programme aimed at improving access to, and participation in, Arts and Cultural activities by people with disabilities across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.
2.2	Following the success of the pilot programme, DfC secured budget in 2018/19, 2019/20 and now 2020/21 to develop an Access and Inclusion Programme for roll out across the 11 Council areas in Northern Ireland.
2.3	The most recent 2019/20 programme resulted in letters of offer totalling almost £158,619.00 being allocated to 7 projects (including 3 Council projects) within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The aim of the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2020/21 is to improve access to and participation in arts and cultural activity, leisure and outdoor recreational activity by people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.

3.2	This Capital programme is designed to support small scale capital investments to improve access to arts and leisure venues and recreational activities for people with disabilities.
3.3	The Department for Communities has invited Local Councils to apply for the funding and to prioritise project submissions prior to submission to DfC.
3.4	Subject to Council approval it is proposed that potential projects will be submitted from internal Council services (Arts & Culture, Parks and Leisure and Tourism Services).
3.5	The maximum funding available for each project applied for is £30,000.
3.6	Council-owned arts & cultural, leisure and recreational venues and facilities would be eligible to apply.
3.7	The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion funding is only eligible for capital expenditure incurred from date of letter of offer until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
3.8	Subject to Council approval it is envisaged that internal project submissions will be required to submit a Business Case and an application to Mid Ulster District Council for assessment
3.9	The current 2020/21 Access and Inclusion Programme opened on 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2020.
3.10	The Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00pm on Friday 11 September.
3.11	All eligible projects must be complete by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
3.12	Applicants are eligible to apply for any amount up to the maximum of £30,000 per project.
3.13	The fund will cover capital costs only and cannot be used for the repayments of debts, retrospective grants or revenue costs.
3.14	The funding cannot be used for funding of salaries or wages nor for payment for programming, project or hospitality costs.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: DfC may not be able to fund all successful applicants, or support the maximum available grant award requested.

	<p>Human: Staff time and staff resource processing applications and assessment and scoring of applications prior to submission to DfC. Can be met from within staffing existing resources.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: It is envisaged that there will be significant interest in the programme across Northern Ireland. As such the funds available, may not cover all the costs of submissions received by DfC. Projects may be rejected on basis of the limitations of funding available.</p> <p>All projects submitted for consideration, will be required to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: The Purpose of DfC funding programme is to provide capital funding to ensure that access to arts, culture, leisure and recreational activities is equitable.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Rural needs are considered as part of the planned activity undertaken by Council Services including Arts &amp; Culture, Leisure and Parks and Tourism.</p> <p>Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC 2020/21 Access and Inclusion Programme</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Council approve participation in the 2020/21 DfC Access and Inclusion Programme
5.2	It is recommended that Council request project submissions from internal culture, arts, Leisure, Parks, Recreational and Tourism services to form applications for funding to the 2020/21 DfC Access and Inclusion Programme.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A



**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 9 July 2020 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt  
and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke\*, Corry, Cuddy,  
Doris, Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Kearney, Milne, Molloy  
(7.11pm), Monteith, Wilson

**Officers in  
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism\*\*  
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure  
Mr Hill, Head of Parks  
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development\*\*  
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts\*\*  
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development  
Mr O'Hagan - ICT  
Ms Forde, Member Support Officer

**Others in  
Attendance**

Councillor S McGuigan\*\*

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D086/20      Apologies**

None

**D087/20      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest and drew particular attention to the Review of Service Level Agreement report, Community Development Report – Good Relations Grants.

*Councillor Wilson declared an interest in D095/20 Community Development Report Good Relations Grants - Mid Ulster Pipe Band Association*

*Councillor Clarke declared an interest in D092/20 Review of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2020/2021 – Broughderg Area Development Association*

## **D088/20      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee advised Members that the Economic Development Service Plan 2020/21 had been inadvertently missed from the agenda and would be forwarded to Members for information but should anyone wish to comment they could do so at July meeting of Council.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee advised Members that the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation would present an additional item in committee.

Councillor Burton advised Members that Carleton Cottage, Springtown Road, Augher was a Grade B1 listed building due to its links with the late poet William Carleton. She advised that prior to COVID 19 efforts had been made to secure an environment grant to repair/restore the premise however during recent heavy rain the roof had collapsed which would lead to the cottage falling into further disrepair. Councillor Burton highlighted the distress of local people and asked if even the possibility of a tarpaulin on the roof could be investigated whilst local groups endeavored to secure agreement to preserve the historic building which had great significance in the local area and contributed to the tourism product.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked if it was possible to weatherproof the cottage.

The Head of Tourism stated he was aware of the problem and advised that the cottage was in private ownership. He stated that there was ongoing efforts to form a Trust similar to that in relation to Killymoon Castle site. He advised that the owner had been contacted and Council would continue to encourage formation of a Trust to save the historic building.

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council that Head of Tourism investigate and report to committee options for preventative measures of further deterioration and also formation of a possible Trust to save the historic Carleton Cottage, Springtown Road, Augher (Grade B1 Listed Building). It was noted that the building is in private ownership.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D089/20      Autumn Corporate Events 2020**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to provide an update and recommendations on the Autumn Corporate Events 2020.

He advised that Halloween and Christmas events had to be remodeled due to social distancing restrictions.

Councillor Doris advised that there had been a meeting with regard to events in Coalisland at which a number of innovative ideas had been discussed.

Councillor Ashton agreed that as reported these are strange times and stated events should be in consultation with town traders and any change in costings should be brought back to committee.

In response the Head of Tourism stated that they were in consultation with town centre forums and it was hoped to sign off Halloween events in September.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the new creative formats of the Corporate Events for Halloween and Christmas 2020.

*Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.11 pm*

## **D090/20 Economic Development Report**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to update members and sought approval for the following:

- (i) TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA Funded Initiative)**  
Delegated authority to Senior Council Officials as outlined in Section 5.1 (a), (b) and (c) of the report

Councillor Wilson acknowledged challenging times and thanked the economic development team and officers across Council for their efforts to rejuvenate town centers. He referred to a recent town centre forum meeting at which it had been hoped that Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) would have indicated their intention on funding delivery.

Councillor Kearney also acknowledged the efforts of the economic development team and stated that Northern Ireland Local Government Association were also using Council ideas.

Councillor Molloy also concurred with regard to thanks to the economic development team.

- (ii) Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan**  
Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan and associated delegated authority approvals to progress the scheme as outlined in Section 5.2 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the report

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the Mid Ulster COVID-19 Towns Recovery Plan and highlighted proposals outlined in the report. In respect of proposed funding from both DEARA and Department for Communities (DfC) she advised that Council was not yet in receipt of any formal contracts/letters of offer for the scheme.

Councillor Kerr expressed disappointment in lack of progress with the DAERA grant scheme as rural communities needed to be afforded every opportunity.

Councillor Doris expressed disappointment in relation to lack of response from DAERA stating that she had been speaking to representatives from DfC with regard to boundary lines which was prohibiting businesses applying for grants as they sit just outside the predefined boundary. She advised many of these business owners would be looking to Council for direction.

Councillor Elattar thanked the economic development team for their hard work in marketing town centers especially during the current recovery period highlighting that the video messaging and good news stories being issued inspired confidence.

Councillor Molloy stated he would propose the recommendations outlined in the report to give delegated authority given that there would be no committee meetings until September and it is urgent that once funding is confirmed it can be distributed.

Councillor Molloy acknowledged that the matter had been raised at Environment Committee with regard to enforcement letters being sent out to businesses in Moy village with regard to business signage situated in grass areas which was not affecting sight lines or disability access thus Council was seen to be encouraging with one hand and inhibiting with the other.

Councillor Monteith concurred with aforementioned comments with regard to Moy and stated Council needed to be more pragmatic in its approach as to the public it was one Council not separate departments. With regard to town centre recovery plans Councillor Monteith commended the work of officers and spoke of the significant investment which would be required to deliver. He stated there was a job of work to be completed with regard to lobbying that local businesses would be afforded the same opportunities as those in England and Republic of Ireland. He stated he had no issue with the proposal but that a clear message needed to be communicated that Council would not facilitate any grant scheme that businesses are excluded from due to boundary issues. He proposed that flexibility is afforded to Council officers to indicate Council would not facilitate an urban grant which splits the community and ensure it is communicated to relevant departments. He also stated that monies had been identified within economic development budgets in June to be moved to a fund to assist businesses and this could be directed to bridge the gap.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Consider and provide support to applicants who may have been excluded from these grant programmes based upon existing Departmental directives reference urban and rural boundaries, utilizing any available economic development budgets to bridge the gaps.

Councillor Wilson concurred that businesses were suffering and asked that since DfC had stated their funding was ready to distribute could Council proceed with this and await DAERA funding.

Councillor Ashton welcomed the work done to date and echoed the comments of Councillor Monteith in that Council look to support people who 'fall through the gaps' in relation to funding criteria.

Councillor Doris advised that Francie Molloy MP in conversations with local newspaper had advised they would sponsor a Shop Front Window Scheme.

The Director of Business and Communities concurred with Members with regard to comments in relation to boundaries and stated that Council had made it clear to the relevant departments that Council must be afforded the flexibility to discern between urban and rural and it was hoped this would be reflected in the letter of offer.

In relation to comments regarding rolling out separate urban and rural programmes he advised it could be done but it was better for Council to work in tandem as it would be difficult for officers to differentiate and many officers had not had leave for almost a year. With regard to the flexibility in allocating grants he advised if it was not granted Council could identify the gaps and such a proposal would give officers a degree of authority to move forward.

In response to comments regarding shop front window schemes, the Director advised that Traders would be made aware of the possible newspaper sponsorship opportunities should they wish to progress a Shop Front Window Scheme independent of Council.

The Director of Business and Communities concluded referencing that issues in relation to the enforcement letters in Moy village had been brought to senior management team for discussion.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the funding would be in retrospect as although there was speculation with regard to a second wave many large businesses had already opened and Council did not want to put its name to something which was too late referencing that already there was a new normal. In relation to enforcement letters issued in Moy Councillor Cuddy expressed disappointment stating that many shops and businesses were looking for a new income stream and needed to be encouraged.

In response the Director of Business and Communities stated that central government did not permit retrospective funding but already businesses in contact with Council were being advised of this and further advised that the funding would be a rolling grant for a number of months. He further clarified that Council was lobbying the relevant departments daily insisting that the grant is paid in one tranche as the demand is there but that the department is indicating 50% until end of October and remaining 50 % post October.

Councillor Corry concurred with previous comments made by Councillors Monteith and Molloy.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney

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

### **TRPSI Micro Business Development Scheme (DAERA Funded Initiative)**

- (a) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Business and Communities to sign and accept the contract for 2020/21 TPRS micro business scheme, subject to review by Council's solicitor.
- (b) Promotion and marketing of this scheme to commence immediately following acceptance of the contract and before the full Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> July in light of the anticipated call opening of the first week of August 2020.
- (c) Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to sign off on letters of offer to successful participants up to a maximum grant of £4,999 with a full list of approved projects to be brought to Committee for noting.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that

### **Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan**

- (a) Mid Ulster Covid-19 Towns Recovery Plan as detailed at appendix one of the report.
- (b) Delegated authority be granted to Chief Executive and/or Director of Business and Communities to sign and accept any letters of offer/contracts received by Council offering funding for Covid19 Towns Recovery Plan actions, in response to funding bids made by Council, subject to review by Council's solicitor.
- (c) Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to develop and roll out a business grants scheme to urban and rural businesses, if funding is made available to Council by the Department for Communities (for urban businesses) and DAERA (for rural businesses). Also that authority be granted to the Director of Business and Communities to sign off on letters of offer to successful participants on a business grants scheme, with the list of approved projects to be brought to Committee for noting.
- (d) Existing budgets in Economic Development (which weren't required due to activities not happening as a result of the pandemic), be reassigned to assist with other Covid19 business supports as identified in the Towns Recovery Plan (on Appendix 1 of the report), and undertake appropriate procurement of schemes, as far as budgets extend.

Noted that not all the schemes may be able to be progressed in the current year (2020/21) due to budget limitations, unless further external funding is obtained.

- (e) That flexibility is afforded to Council to officers to consider and provide support to applicants who may have been excluded from these grant programmes based upon existing Departmental directives ref urban and rural boundaries, utilizing any available economic development budgets..

#### **D091/20      Play Park Annual Audit 2020/21**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the commissioning of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate Services to conduct annual play equipment inspection audit and report.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Milne

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to approve the commissioning the services of suitable qualified independent Play Inspectorate to conduct an annual play equipment inspection audit and report.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's enquiry as to whether the audit could be carried out inhouse the Head of Parks advised that it was best practice to have an independent inspectorate.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee drew attention to the recent incident at lands adjacent to Council play park at Orritor Street, Cookstown where a child suffered burns from an invasive species. He stated whilst Council did not own the lands the play park was scheduled to open on 10 July 2020 and caution needed to be exercised. The Head of Parks advised that staff had inspected the play park on 30 June and there had been no visual evidence of hog weed and speaking in relation to access to the adjacent lands he stated there was a 1.2 meter perimeter fence in existence. Parks and Property Services sections were looking at further options but it would be impossible to have in place for the park opening.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that some preventative measure needed to be in place.

Councillor Milne suggested that signage could be erected.

The Head of Parks stated that the property owner had been informed of the incident and Council was awaiting response.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that Council would erect signage as a matter of urgency at play park off Orritor Street regarding possible vegetation issue.

Councillor Kerr raised the matter of hogweed at Coalisland Canal which would need to be eradicated before anyone else received injuries.

In response the Chair, Councillor McNamee advised that the matter would be referred to the Environment Committee to deal with as appropriate hogweed at Coalisland Canal.

In response to Councillor Kearney's enquiry the Head of Parks advised that the park where the silage trailer had broken the exterior fence had now been repaired.

## **D092/20      Review of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2020/21**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to view current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2020/21 impacted upon as a result of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. MUDC have current Service Level Agreement commitments with nine community based organisations (within report) in support of leisure and outdoor recreations services. The value of these Service Level Agreements range from £50,000 to £2,000 dependent on the scope of the services provided.

The Council have allocated £96,916 in this financial year for the payment of Service Level Agreements associated to Leisure and Outdoor Recreation.

### Two available options for consideration:

- Option 1 -** Subject to Council approval, current Service Level Agreement payments can be adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the level of services provided. This approach will effect some identified service partners where services have not been possible due to the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions. Payments schedule for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June (Qtr 1) would indicate a maximum reduction on SLA payments of £18,782 across the Leisure and Parks Service. This figure may be reduced due to evidenced claims associated to overheads and utility costs incurred by some partner organisations.
- Option 2 -** Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions. This approach will reflect a nil saving to Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

The Head of Parks recommended option one.

Councillor Elattar stated that although some organisations had not been able to deliver it was through no fault of their own but due to the pandemic and in her opinion it would be an indictment on Council to restrict the service level agreement at this time and stated Council needed to be mindful of future costs such as personal protective equipment.

Councillor Elattar proposed option two,

Councillor Burton seconded option two.

Councillor Kerr concurred with the proposal of option two and stated that during recent conversations with Muintor na Mointeach Ltd he had been advised they were unaware of the evidence to be submitted in relation to performance indicators and stated that officers had not raised them at a recent onsite meeting with the group.

Councillor Burton stated that Council needed to support the community who through no fault of their own were unable to honor elements of the agreement. Speaking in relation to Fivemiletown in particular she stated that health and well being going forward was of paramount importance and community groups needed the support and partnership of Council and were desperately awaiting confirmation of the service level agreement. Councillor Burton concluded that to go forward with option one would attract bad press.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query in relation to Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Department the Head of Parks advised that the pro rata would be applied to a quarter.

Councillor Cuddy reminded Members that they had been advised at the Council meeting that water temperature in swimming pools had to be managed carefully or tiles would come off thus it was important to treat the swimming pool in Fivemiletown the same.

Councillor Milne concurred with option two stating that there would be hard decisions in the future but asked if really a short fireworks event costing thousands was really required.

Councillor Wilson expressed uneasiness stating that it was a service level agreement and work had not been carried out. He highlighted that community groups had helped Council and expressed concerns in relation to equality.

Councillor Ashton supported option two stating that it was an exceptional time and groups would incur costs to get up and running again. With regard to Councillor Kerr's comments in relation to required information on performance indicators Councillor Ashton sought clarity on how this information was communicated to groups.

The Head of Parks advised that each service level provider signs an annual agreement of which performance indicators are stipulated. He confirmed that it is signed by two members of the group. He suggested that the information has not been conveyed to the full membership of the group if they are not aware of the requirements of the SLA.

Councillor Kerr stressed the importance of communication in relation to the matter.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree to the implementation of Option 2 and to note the content of the report in relation to the variation of services provided due to the impact of COVID 19 restrictions.

Option 2 -Subject to Council approval, Service Level Agreements impacted upon by Covid-19 restrictions would be paid as per current terms and conditions, without pro rata reductions. This approach will reflect a nil saving to Council for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Councillor Wilson requested that it be formally noted his opposition to the aforementioned decision.

## **D093/20      Continuation of Northern Ireland Forest Schools within Council Area**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to update on the growing success of the Forest Schools programme within the Mid Ulster District Council area and to confirm continuation of the programme from September 2020 to June 2021.

Councillor Molloy proposed the continuation of the programme and asked why it is limited to areas listed in the report.

In response the Head of Parks stated that they were actively seeking other sites for example Lissan House in Cookstown and possible sites in Clogher Valley. He advised that it was based on resources and officers needed to be trained to deliver the project but within resources it would be rolled out as much as possible.

Councillor Doris seconded the proposal and sought an update on license transfers in relation to Altmore and Drumcairn forests.

In response the Head of Parks stated that the NI Forestry Service were in receipt of the requests and Council was awaiting response.

Councillor Corry referred to forests listed but stated there were others within her area.

The Head of Service advised that consideration would be given to rotating the projects annually as resources was limited.

Councillor Burton asked if Council linked in with Castlecaulfield group which works with Ulster in Bloom.

In response the Head of Parks stated that currently Council did not link with them but in looking for opportunities could explore Parkanaur and link with the Horticultural Society. He also advised that schools were waiting to participate.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Doris' comments with regard to Altmore and Drumcairn Forest Licenses and proposed that Council seek an update and report to committee on the progress of the license transfers.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal stating that the transfer was too timely and further suggested that Council link with the Speedwell Trust at Parkanaur.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked if Council should go back to the Forest Service.

The Head of Service stated that Council would follow up.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to seek an update and report to committee on the progress development of Altmore and Drumcain Forests.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree to the commitment to continuation with the Forest School programme within Mid Ulster for 2020-21 subject to meeting requirements of COVID restrictions.

#### **D094/20 Walk NI Consortium 2020/21**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Walk NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2020-21.

Councillor Doris stated she was happy to proceed with the proposal and spoke of the need for continuation of the footpath at Clonoe as there was a great stretch of road for walking but an extended footpath was essential.

The Head of Parks stated that the stretch of road and footpath was a matter for the Department for Infrastructure and advised that the Walk Ni Consortium referenced footpaths in the Sperrins.

Councillor Doris stated she would like the matter of the footpath raised.

Councillor Monteith stated that Council would need to promote walking within the district and concurred with Councillor Doris that some would need improvements. He stated that Council needed to promote and build upon walks which were a great means of attracting visitors as people would travel for a good walk. He used the example of Sligo County Council who promoted walks and had attracted over 1000 visitors across three days. He emphasized that it was a growing market and now was the time to rebrand and establish a campaign stating that Council must lead and not always wait to copy other areas. Councillor Monteith spoke of Knockmany, the Hill of The O'Neill and the possibility of grouping walks and market as for example the 'Trail of the Chieftains'. He stressed the importance of a strategy to promote walks as short trip experiences and requested that the Tourism section investigate possibilities.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree to the participation as a Regional Partner with the Walk NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £2,583.75\* to 2020/2021 campaign.

\*This is a reduction of 25% from previous years; the campaign to run from July 2020 – March 2021.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee spoke of the Sperrin Trekkers and concurred that Council must exploit what they have.

Councillor Corry stated that many visit Carntogher to walk the Sperrins and concurred that it does bring in day trippers.

The Head of Tourism stated that a proposal was being explored and a report would be brought to a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith requested that the Councils Communications department along with Parks and Tourism develop and promote a walking marketing plan within the district.

The Head of Parks stated that both Parks and Tourism had been liaising with regard to good quality walks and were investing through forest schemes also and confirmed there was projects in the pipeline.

Councillor Doris spoke of a community group in Derrytresk promoting walks and proposed that DEA meetings be accommodated to explore local walks.

Councillor Elattar sought an update on a forest area in Sperrins near Ballinascreen and also asked if work had been done to clear paths at the river walk.

The Head of Parks stated there was a conflict of interest with equestrian users and advised there had been discussions with property services in relation to outstanding maintenance issues.

Councillor Elattar stated that with the current pandemic people were utilizing the walkways more and asked if the walk beside the river could be cleared as soon as possible.

The Head of Parks stated he would update the Member on progress and would liaise with colleagues in property services as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Ashton stated that the walking strategy was a good idea and highlighted that over 20 walks were detailed on the website across the district but concurred this could be added to.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Doris' proposal for DEA meetings highlighting that Coalisland Canal is a prime example of walking attached to historical local industries and that there was great potential within Newmills.

Councillor Burton highlighted that safety was paramount and spoke of walks such as Roundlake, Knockmany, Riverside Walk in Caledon and emphasized that flyers promoting walks should be available in local businesses. She also asked if the Ulster Way signage was completed corroded in the district.

In response the Head of Parks stated that the Ulster Way as a continuous walk no longer existed and that quality sections had been identified but the district had not met the criteria. He also advised that Council had not experienced any reduction in footfall but part of the problem was the walks were on roads which was a weakness. He highlighted that many circular routes and community trails had been established such as Augher

Riverside Walk and Council continued to work with communities to establish for example 3k walks. The Head of Parks concluded that whilst currently there was established walks a report would be brought back to committee to incorporate all.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that

- (i) DEA meetings be facilitated to explore promotion of walking routes throughout the district;
- (ii) A report be presented to future committee of strategy to develop and promote walking routes throughout the district.
- (iii) Promotion campaign on existing walks be commenced.

## **D095/20 Community Development**

The Head of Community presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Ashton good relations grant 2021/22 it is usually February and agreed by march

- **Council Good Relations Plan**

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the alternative delivery for the agreed Good Relations Plan as per Appendix 1 of the report..

- **Community Grants – Rolling Good Relations**

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree the grant award recommendations for Good Relations as per Appendix 2 of the report.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted update report.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D096/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 June 2020**

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 11 June 2020.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *D079/20 Tourism Department Update – Davagh Dark Skies Project* and stated that Council must speak with one voice in relation to the public enquiry into Dalradian Gold Mines proposal. He spoke of the significant investment Council was making to the Davagh Dark Skies Project and stated that

Council must prepare robust opposition to present to the enquiry, that the senior management team needed to discuss and fight on behalf of the communities and protect the investment being made on behalf of the ratepayers. He also stated that the risk posed by the proposed gold mine be added to the Corporate Risk Register. Councillor Monteith stated that Council were opposed to the gold mine and that the lighting alone would destroy the Dark Skies Project.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and stated there was over 40,000 objections and was emphatic that the residents of Greencastle deserve better and this was on Mid Ulster Council's doorstep. He stated that the light pollution would be equivalent to that of Belfast City Airport lighting if it was to proceed.

Councillor Elattar concurred with previous comments stating that the impacts on health, wellbeing and community spirit of Ballinascreen would be major. She stated that the objections was not on economic grounds but on community grounds and if it were to proceed it would have a negative impact.

Councillor Ashton asked if this could revert back regarding the Dark Sky Project as Council had been informed.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the corporate position was abundantly clear and had been robustly reflected to colleagues in planning. He stated Council had a defined position which it would vigorously communicate in the response.

Councillor Kearney stated that the Planning Committee had communicated a strong message.

Councillor Corry stated that Councillor Clarke had highlighted at planning committee that the river from Greencastle runs into the Mid Ulster district.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved:** *That it be recommended to Council that in relation to Public Enquiry Dalraidan Gold Mines:*

- (i) Council prepare robust opposition to present to public enquiry;
- (ii) That recommendation be referred to Audit Committee that Council add the risk posed by proposed Goldmine to Corporate Risk Register.

Councillor Doris raised the issue of complications within Coalisland Public Realm Scheme in relation to parking spaces at Barrack Street and requested that Council write the Department for Infrastructure in relation to this.

In response the Director of Business and Communities stated this was a matter for the Environment Committee and would be referred to them.

In response to Councillor Doris' query with regard to the walkway at Washingbay the Head of Parks stated that there had been a site meeting the previous week at which a

number of issues had been raised and Council was seeking to pursue improvements with local land owners and also would be speaking to the DfI in relation to signage.

Councillor Doris asked who had called the meeting and the Head of Parks confirmed he had attended at a Councillor's request.

In response to Councillor Corry's request for an update on the launch of the Davagh Dark Skies project the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that plans were being put in place for the Autumn and it was hoped the venue would be open to the public by early October. The Director advised a report would be brought to the committee in September.

#### **D097/20      Economic Development Report**

Members noted letter issued by the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, dated 15 June 2020, to Minister Poots, seeking urgent financial assistance from DAERA to fund a Covid-19 Rural Business Support Programme in Mid Ulster and also Response from Department for the Economy, dated 22 June 2020 regarding Project Stratum.

#### **D099/20      EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme**

Members noted update on the 19/20 EBA 2020 Strand 4 Small Grants Programme, in the form of an End of Year Report required by Sport NI so as to authorize the final payment to MUDC. Funding received from Sport NI 19/20 - £32k.

*Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.32 pm*

In response to Councillor Wilson's query as to why all case studies related to the GAA and no other sport in Mid Ulster the Head of Leisure stated he would enquire from Sport NI on the selection of groups for case studies and report back.

#### **D100/20      Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Members noted update on Leisure Services – Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

Councillor Kerr proposed that Council consult with special needs groups especially in relation to Autism in order that they can be included in more events especially given the closure of schools.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation reminded Members of the Everybody Active programme at MUSA and coaches working specifically in the area of special needs. She further advised that prior to the pandemic there had been engagement with special needs schools.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal and stated that it was very much to do with families accessing leisure facilities and that many with special needs had their routines and these had been destroyed and parents really needed support as they struggled to redefine routines and this would need to be incorporated in recovery plans.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council that Officers investigate further incorporation of those with special needs in recovery plan for leisure facilities use and activities.

**D101/20      Sport NI Sports Club Survey**

Members noted update on the Sports NI Sports Club Survey 2019.

**D102/20      Parks Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Members noted update on Parks Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

**D103/20      Culture & Arts Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Members noted update on Culture & Arts Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the success of the bursary scheme for the Gaeltacht which supported many in their experience of language, sport and music and asked if this could be extended in relation to the 100 anniversary of the Battle of the Somme to support people making trips from the area to the historic site. He spoke of how the Somme had been a lesson for all and proposed that within the Culture and Arts a plan for a bursary for people to experience trips to the Somme be explored.

Councillor Burton seconded the proposal.

The Head of Culture and Arts stated that the current bursary scheme was a language based one and a budget would need to be identified to look at any proposed new schemes.

Councillor Cuddy stated that his proposal had been seconded and acknowledged that the Gaeltacht was a great scheme but he thought that Council should explore options and spoke of how the Belgium and French governments had invested much to expand the experience of a visit to the Somme and it would be good to support young people from all walks of life to make the visit and stressed it would strengthen the Culture and Arts Programme.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that officers could explore and equality check the suggestion.

Councillor Molloy stated he had no problem with the concept but sought clarity as to whether within culture and arts or good relations currently there was a grant programme for such ventures.

The Director of Business and Communities reiterated the Head of Culture and Arts in that the bursary was a language scheme but stated that officers would explore possibilities and report back.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the bursary was a great success story and it would be good to expand it and have something in the structure for other young people.

Councillor Black concurred with Councillor Cuddy and stated that a proposal should tie in with the forthcoming anniversary.

Councillor Monteith said it was his understanding that good relations funding had supported the decade of anniversaries programme and stated that if the proposal was to fund individuals just for the Somme experience he could not support just one element of history as there had been massive investment in Dublin with regard to events in 1916 and also Croke Park anniversary to which many local GAA clubs were intending to make trips. He stated any scheme must encompass all.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that any scheme would be equality checked.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council that a report be presented to future committee on the development of a support programme to accommodate historical visitor experiences.

#### **D104/20      Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Members noted update on Tourism Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

Councillor Cuddy reiterated earlier comments in relation to the promotion of walking and stated that Tourism improvement plan should make mention of this.

#### **D105/20      Community Development Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Members noted update on Community Development Service Improvement Plan 2020/21.

*The Live broadcast ended.*

#### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Black  
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 D106/20 to D108/20.

### **Matters for Information**

- D107/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 11 June 2020
- D108/20 Economic Development Report – Information
- D109/20 Community Planning – Poverty Paper – ‘Towards Alleviating Poverty in Mid Ulster’

### **D110/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.10pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.




<b>Report on</b>	OM Dark Sky Park & Observatory, Davagh
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Nigel Hill Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kirsty Gordon

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the progress and scheduled official launch of the OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory, Davagh Forest.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory is a £1.2M facility located in Davagh Forest in the foothills of the Sperrin mountains, where a lack of light pollution allows unrivalled views of the night sky and makes the site ideal for stargazing.
2.2	OM will be home to an exhibition, observatory and telescope to showcase the uniquely dark sky, combining technology, from holographic installations to virtual reality headsets with colourful, accessible interpretation panels, to allow visitors to explore our solar system. The significance of the stars to ancient life, to the seasons and to stone circles also forms part of the exhibition experience, linking the landscape, archaeological and astronomical heritage of the Sperrins, including the nearby Beaghmore Stone Circles.  The centrepiece of the facility will be a stargazing telescope, used to observe the skies via a retractable roof, and to transmit images onto large screens around the centre for visitors to enjoy an amazing stargazing experience and to explore the universe we live in.
2.3	Mid Ulster District Council have developed the project, with funding investment of £500K secured from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Rural Tourism Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and a further £245k towards the project from the Landfill Tax Fund.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The planned opening in April 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19. The official opening event of OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory will now take place in mid-October. Given ongoing restrictions associated with the pandemic, the opening event will be smaller in scale than that originally envisaged when the facility was due to open in April. However, plans are currently being finalised which will allow stakeholder, community and media previews on the day/evening which should ensure that the opening receives a significant level of exposure.
3.2	OM will then open to the public the next day, with a weekend of events to mark the occasion.

3.3	Staff recruitment has taken place for OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory with the creation of eight new posts comprising (2 full-time and 6 part-time positions).
3.4	Building and fit-out works are complete with final snagging due for completion early September. Audio Visual content is being finalised with installation and associated commissioning scheduled for mid-September.
3.5	Additional improvement works are proposed to include the resurfacing of the access road between upper and lower car parks to compliment the commissioning of agreed traffic management and pay parking systems.
3.6	In advance to the official Opening, OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory website will go live to the public week commencing Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September to cater for online and telephone bookings.
3.7	Chair of the Council, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, welcomed Rural Affairs Minister Edwin Poots to OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory on 7 <sup>th</sup> August for a preview tour ahead of the opening.
3.8	On the 8th August Geoff Maskell from BBC North Ireland came to OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory to catch a glimpse of the Perseid Meteor Shower along with night sky photographers Martin McKenna and Alastair Hamill. It was an amazing night with nearly 30 meteors and a green fireball that illuminated the sky. Geoff delivered his weather broadcast live at OM 4.30pm and 5.15pm from OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory.
3.9	<p>Further experiential walking and cycling developments are in the pipeline for Davagh Forest adding increased diversity to the visitor experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Davagh Solar Walk – a new public trail to link the Beaghmore Stone Circles to Davagh Forest via a gravel path and boardwalk.</li> <li>• Davagh Archaeology Trail – a new public access trail to connect the natural heritage of Davagh with its archaeological heritage by creating access to a Wedge Tomb and Megalithic complex within the forest.</li> <li>• Davagh Mountain Trails – an additional 4km of blue trail and 7km of red trail. There will also be a provision of off-road trail for use by persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial: Due to the opening being postponed by six months, revised income projections for year one are projected to reflect a significant down turn. Current visitor/tour capacities will be reduced by up to 70% due to the introduction of Covid operational procedures in line with Government guidelines and recommendations on social distancing (reduction tour capacity from 20 visitors to 6 visitors per tour).</p>
	<p>Human: A full complement of staff have been recruited to manage and operate OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory, eight in total.</p>

	<p>Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and currently in line with Government guidelines on COVID-19</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	This report is for the purposes of updating members on post lock-down planning and progress undertaken to coordinate the rescheduled launch date for the OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory Project.
5.2	Members are asked to note the content of this report for information purposes.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	<p>OM Dark Skies Park and Observatory Ministerial Visit Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020</p> 
6.2	Council Chair and Officials with Minister Poots in OM Observatory telescope room

6.3



Geoff Maskell from BBC Northern Ireland at OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory to catch a glimpse of the Perseid Meteor Shower





<b>Report on</b>	Macmillan Move More Service Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon , Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide information on a research and evaluation report completed in partnership with Queens University Belfast and Macmillan, demonstrating how proactive the Macmillan Move More programme has been throughout the Covid pandemic.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, Members will be aware that all Leisure facilities within MUDC such as indoor centres, outdoor pitches, tennis courts etc closed for public use at 2pm on the 16th March 2020. This also had an impact on the Macmillan Move More service as on site facilities were no longer able to be used.
2.2	MUDC support the funded 3 year Macmillan project by employing and hosting a Move More Coordinator and MUDC provide access to leisure facilities for the Coordinator to deliver physical activity sessions for people with cancer, and providing a range of incentives (e.g. discounted membership rates)
2.3	The Move More Coordinator plays a key role in the development and delivery of the project by facilitating consultations with people with cancer, supporting them to access physical activity opportunities (both cancer specific, and non-cancer specific), and providing ongoing behaviour change support to each individual for a minimum of 12 months.
2.4	Therefore, a service evaluation of the Macmillan Move More programme was carried out during the COVID-19 lockdown / restrictions period, from a user perspective. 377 Macmillan Move More NI service users supplied feedback and further details are within Appendix A.
2.5	The analysis within this report will be used within MUDC to review and adapt the Macmillan service where required.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	This pandemic has presented an unparalleled economic and social burden, affecting the provision of routine cancer care in Northern Ireland.
3.2	The prescription of exercise remains an integral aspect of cancer treatment and survivorship to manage treatment-related side effects and improve physical / mental well-being and quality of life.
3.3	The research found that exercise programmes for cancer survivorship must adapt to engage participants in continued exercise. The Move More Programme has been proactive and successful in responding to the needs of subscribers during this difficult time.
3.4	Continuing to maintain an exercise regime as part of care, during the current pandemic and restrictions and in the years to come, is essential. Continuing to use and explore 'new methods' (smart technologies) of delivery is essential.
3.5	The results of the report suggest a detrimental / negative shift in physical activity levels as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. In one particular grouping, the percentage of respondents classing themselves as 'not regularly active' increased from 4% (pre-COVID) to 21% (currently), suggesting greater levels of physical inactivity.
3.6	Physical themes emerging: reduced activity levels, health / fitness deterioration, increased pain, increased body weight and dietary changes.
3.7	Psychological themes emerging: loneliness / isolation / lacking social support; decreased motivation to exercise; fear / anxiety.
3.8	These negative results and emerging themes will apply equally to MUDC residents.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and the evaluation report completed in partnership with Queens University Belfast and Macmillan.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A – QUB and Macmillan Report

# Evaluating the Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the Macmillan Move More Service

Dr Malcolm Brown, Dr Dominic O'Connor and Dr Gillian Prue (QUB)  
Alexandra McMeekin, Claire Murphy and Maura McClean (Macmillan Cancer Support NI)



## Introduction

- COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease initiated by a newly discovered strain of coronavirus [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)].
- This pandemic has presented an unparalleled economic and social burden, affecting the provision of routine cancer care in Northern Ireland.
- In order to contain viral transmission, societal restrictions have been implemented, directly impacting the traditional delivery of the Macmillan Move More programme.
- The prescription of exercise remains an integral aspect of cancer treatment and survivorship to manage treatment-related side effects and improve physical / mental well-being and quality of life, thus we must adapt to enable participants to avail of these benefits in challenging circumstances.

## Methods

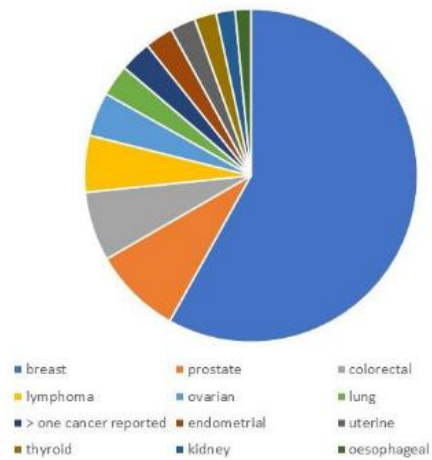
- The purpose was to conduct a service evaluation of the Macmillan Move More programme during the COVID-19 lockdown / restrictions, from a user perspective.
- A multiple choice questionnaire and short answer survey was developed and distributed to enrolled participants.
- This survey was 'live' for 3-weeks (08-June-2020 to 26-June-2020).
- 377 respondents (325 completed by Move More participants; 52 completed by Move More coordinators on behalf of participants).
- Sample representative of both male and female participants (309 female; 68 male).
- Respondents were mandated to respond to all questions.

## Sample Cancer Diagnoses

- 35 primary tumour sites reported.
- Predominantly breast cancer patients / survivors ( $n=190$ ).
- Second largest; prostate (28), followed by colorectal (22); Lymphoma (18 – pooled); Ovarian (14); Lung (10); > one cancer stated (10).
- Next, endometrial (9); uterine (8); thyroid (7); kidney (6) and oesophageal (5).
- Remaining cancers < 5 reported for each and include testicular, brain, melanoma, cervical, head and neck, stomach, leukaemia among others.

## Sample Cancer Diagnoses

- 35 primary tumour sites reported
- Predominantly breast ( $n=190$ )
- Cancers not displayed include testicular, brain, melanoma, cervical, head and neck, stomach, leukaemia among others, all  $< 5$  reported



## Physical Activity Levels (How often are you physically active?)

■ Not regularly active 
 ■ 1 - 2 days per week 
 ■ 3 - 4 days per week 
 ■ 5 - 6 days per week 
 ■ Everyday

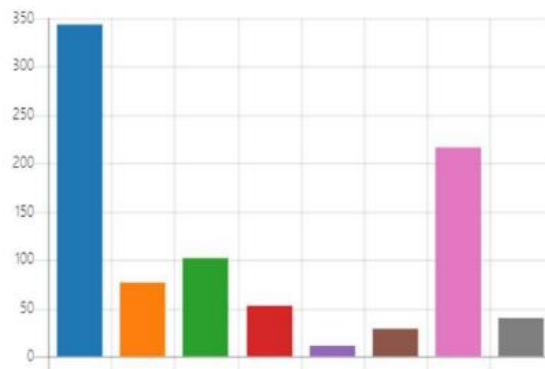


## Physical activity levels continued.....

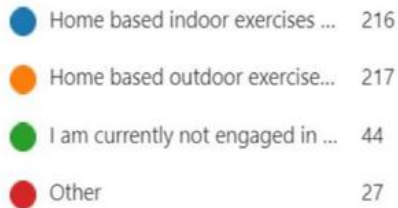
- The results suggest a detrimental / negative shift in physical activity levels as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Given exercise assists with disease management, this shift is likely to be impactful and is likely attributed to an array of physical and psychological issues (discussed later).
- Strikingly, the percentage of respondents classing themselves as 'not regularly active' increased from 4% (pre-COVID) to 21% (currently), suggesting greater levels of physical inactivity.
- The largest shift in exercising groups was in the category of 3 – 4 days per week (36.3% pre-COVID to 26.8% currently).
- No changes in the percentage of those who are active everyday!

## Prior to COVID-19, where did you complete your PA?

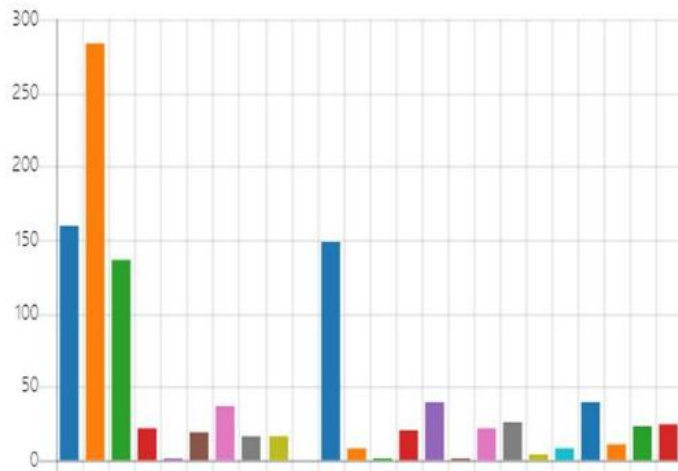
Move More classes in the leisu...	344
Move More outdoor activities ...	76
Gym-based exercises (at a leis...	102
Other indoor organisation / c...	53
Other outdoor organisation / ...	11
Home based indoor exercises ...	29
Home based outdoor exercise...	216
Other	40



Under the current COVID-19 restrictions, where are you completing your PA?



What type of exercise are you currently completing?



## The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- 268 (71%) respondents felt the pandemic has had an impact, with 45 (12%) respondents feeling no impact of the restrictions.
- 64 (17%) respondents were not explicit in their response (e.g. not really, neither 'yes' nor 'no' stated).
- 119 (32%) specifically stated a physical impact ( $n=9$  positive impact) with 231 (61%) reporting a psychological impact.
- Physical themes: reduced activity levels, health / fitness deterioration, increased pain, increased body weight and dietary changes.
- Psychological themes emerging: loneliness / isolation / lacking social support; decreased motivation to exercise; fear / anxiety.

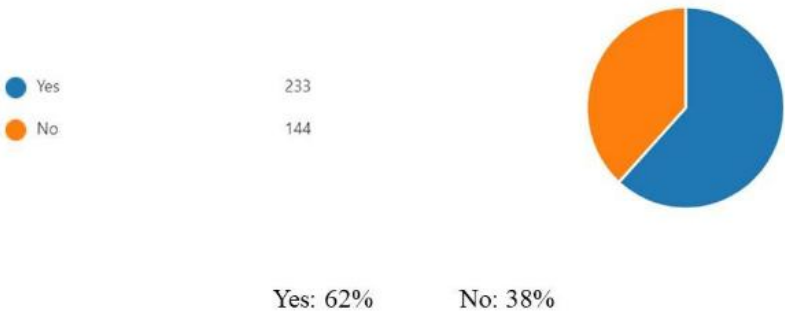
## Any concerns about returning to Move More once restrictions ease?

- Most respondents ( $n=231$ ; 61%) are looking forward to face-to-face classes returning, with no major concerns highlighted as long as safety precautions are closely adhered.
- 134 (36%) respondents stated they had concerns about returning (major themes: safety / social distancing / hygiene / fear (virus-related) –  $n=121$ ; fitness –  $n=9$ ).
- Three respondents mentioned they will not return (work related,  $n=2$ ).
- Nine respondents were not explicit.

# Digital / Smart Technologies

Do you currently use digital or smart technologies to access PA?

*'Digital or smart technologies include the Internet, Smart mobile phone applications (apps) and any other mobile technologies including tablet PCs or Smart watches'.*



## What digital or smart technologies?

### Hardware

- Smart phone (71)
- PC / Laptop (28)
- Tablet [e.g. iPad] (52)
- Smart watch (9)
- Smart television (11)

### Software

- Zoom (60)
- Facebook (9)
- YouTube (50)
- WhatsApp (20)
- FitBit / Pedometer (24)
- Apps [inc. Strava] (14)
- Teams (1)
- Internet (26)
- DVD (1); Unclassified (2)

For those that currently do not use digital technology to support exercise, would you be interested in doing so?



Yes (Blue) – 62 (43%) No (Orange) – 82 (57%)

## Patient preferences regarding class delivery during COVID restrictions? *(Multiple responses enabled)*

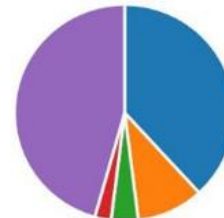
In live time (e.g. Zoom / Skype)	155
A mobile phone app (for Smar...	108
Over the internet (e.g. Move ...	183
Written materials	51
Other	35



Blue – 29%; Orange – 20%; Green – 34%; Red – 10%; Purple - 7%

## How often would you like to receive contact (e.g. phone, WhatsApp; text messaging) from your coordinator during COVID restrictions?

Once per week	144
Twice per week	37
Three times per week	15
More than three times per week	9
No preference	172



Blue – 38%; Orange – 10%; Green – 4%; Red – 2%; Purple – 46%

## Are there things that make it difficult for you to exercise during COVID restrictions?

- Yes ( $n=194$ ; 52%):

### *Emerging themes:*

- Isolation / restrictions / fear (virus related) ( $n=52$ )
- Access / provision (space, gym closures, equipment etc) ( $n=40$ )
- Technology ( $n=23$ )
- Time ( $n=14$ )
- Decreased motivation ( $n=38$ )
- Declining health / fitness ( $n=44$ ).

- No ( $n=182$ ; 48%)

- Unclassified ( $n=1$ )

## Is there anything that could be done, by Macmillan Move More, to increase your likelihood of participating?

Yes ( $n=86$ ; 23%)

### *Themes:*

- Technological support ( $n=9$ )
- More zoom classes ( $n=9$ )
- Outdoor exercise classes ( $n=26$ )
- Safety ( $n=9$ )
- More information / handouts ( $n=7$ )
- Contact / calls / texts ( $n=9$ )
- Live classes / contact ( $n=14$ ).

No ( $n=263$ ; 70%)

Not sure ( $n=9$ ) or unclassified ( $n=19$ )

If a Mobile Phone App, was developed to deliver Move More classes and support, would you use it?



Yes: 80% No: 20%

How might you feel about using an app to receive exercise or participate in 'live' supervised exercise?

- Positive ( $n=271$ ; 72%)

Main themes: Facilitates group contact; allows flexibility around current lifestyle; technology needs to be user friendly / supported.

- Undecided / willing to try ( $n=45$ )

- Negative ( $n=61$ ; 16%)

Main themes: bad with / no access to technology; preference towards face-to-face classes.

## Smart technology app idea

Even though technological proficiency is a recurring theme throughout, the sample appear to have the necessary confidence to use a smart technology application, to engage with the Move More activities and for support (please see the confidence rating below,  $n=377$ ). Although, a thorough information pack and additional coordinator support is still required to assist those unfamiliar with using digital / smart technologies initially.



3.64 Average Rating

1 star = not at all and 5 stars = very confident

### Selected extracts from the positive responses to the app idea.....

"I feel this would be very beneficial not only in the present situation but also at times when it is difficult to attend classes due to illness or travelling problems."

"I am doing it already via zoom and find it easy to use, after initial installation and a few tech purchases. It feels just like an actual studio class, and client posture movements are corrected by the Instructor and also the Instructor will repeat a move if you miss interpret it. Also, the immediacy of the feedback is very good for personal moral as is the interaction with the other clients. It's good to know we are all in the same boat and not expected to be athletes. The speed of the class is set at our pace unlike a pre recorded video."

"An app is good because you can exercise any time, anywhere and also maybe do 2 or 3 types of exercise depending on what the app offers. It would be good for me when I return back to work especially if Move More classes are on during the day. Participating in live supervised exercise classes are great too. People need encouragement and social interaction. I would need to know that I'm doing the exercises properly for a start. A mixture of both would be great!"

## Any further comments or suggestions?

- No = 172
- Positive comments = 119 (please see extracts on the following slide).  
*Themes:* Lifeline; Brilliant support; Great motivation; Outdoor / open air sessions; Miss classes; Invaluable.
- Negative comments = 4

## Extracts from the positive comments

“The program is wonderful, a real lifeline”.

“Brilliant programme and support, keep up good work”.

“I think it’s all very positive - nothing beats personal contact / connection but sometimes it’s not always possible so having alternatives to do at home is a great idea and still keeps me active”.

“Macmillan are doing a great job and the zoom app is great and the WhatsApp chat is really good for us but I need to be in company I live alone and I need to connect with other people”.

“I really appreciate the effort our coordinators have put in. Switching to online technology to deliver their support has been challenging for them and I think they have done very well”.

“The move more team were very helpful to me before covid-19 and got me into keeping active. After the restrictions they made sure to include me in online invites, despite the fact that I hadn't previously taken part in group activities. I think they provide a great service, even in difficult circumstances”.

“Move More has been an excellent motivational system. People love the whole experience, the different exercises, the help delivered the compassion provided by leaders. It’s a feel good experience all round”.

## Common barriers to supervised exercise, as it applies during COVID-19 restrictions?

The barriers to exercise tends to vary between individuals, but the three greatest barriers during the COVID-19 restrictions are:

Lack of Motivation  
No one to exercise with  
Fear of COVID-19 infection

Next, is low levels of physical fitness, lack of interest and poor health.

## Conclusion

- In the age of COVID-19, exercise programmes for cancer survivorship must adapt to engage participants in continued exercise. The Macmillan Move More NI programme has been proactive and successful in responding to the needs of subscribers, during this difficult time.
- Fortunately information technology, social media and other Internet-based solutions have been adopted to facilitate this transition as novel methods of delivery.
- Continuing to maintain an exercise regime as part of care, during the current pandemic and restrictions and in the years to come, is essential and continuing to use and explore 'new methods' (digital / smart technologies) of delivery is necessary.
- Further investment in digital and smart technologies would be worthwhile and there seems to be high demand from Move More users to do so.



<b>Report on</b>	Leisure – Covid 19 Recovery Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the response from the Leisure Team to the Covid19 pandemic and the ongoing engagement and contact with customers and users of Council Leisure Services.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, Members will be aware that all Leisure facilities such as indoor centres, outdoor pitches, tennis courts etc closed for public use at 2pm on the 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2020. A report noting the progress of recovery was brought to the June Development Committee.
2.2	The Covid19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the delivery of Leisure Services, at a time when the Council would normally be preparing for a busy spring and summer period of programmes, activities and participation levels within its facilities.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>As and when the NI Executive have released information on the movement through the roadmap to recovery, MUDC leisure have reflected this where relevant and appropriate to do so with new booking and access arrangements in place, together with strict social distancing measures and enhanced cleaning regimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tobermore Golf Centre re-opened to the public on 26th May 2020.</li> <li>➤ Tennis commenced phased re-opening from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.</li> <li>➤ Bowling commenced phased re-opening from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.</li> <li>➤ 3G's, Outdoor Sports Tracks and selected outdoor playing fields re-opened from 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with further sports pitches re-opening from 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</li> <li>➤ Indoor fitness suites and group exercise classes in Cookstown, Dungannon and Greenvale Leisure Centre's re-opened to the public on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</li> <li>➤ Indoor fitness suites and group exercise classes in Maghera LC re-opened to the public on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Indoor fitness suites within MUSA and Gortgonis Citizen Centre re-opened to the public on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</li> <li>➤ Selected Everybody Active Programmes resumed on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</li> <li>➤ Moneymore Recreation Centre re-opened on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</li> <li>➤ Swimming Pools in Cookstown, Dungannon and Greenvale Leisure Centre's re-opened to the public on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</li> <li>➤ Indoor fitness suite within Meadowbank Sports Arena re-opened to the public on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</li> </ul>
3.2	Members may recall that the majority of leisure staff had been furloughed with the exception of a small group of leisure staff who were maintaining key facility operations, developing plans for re-opening of facilities, maintaining ongoing engagement with customers and also the operation of the Meadowbank facility (venue in use for production of PPE) and Mid Ulster Sports Arena (venue in use as food distribution centre)
3.3	The full staffing complement of leisure staff started to return from furlough on Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 in advance of the indoor leisure facilities phased re-opening.
3.4	The food distribution hub at MUSA finished on the 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 and the use of the Meadowbank facility for PPE production finished on the 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
3.5	The developing and ever changing pandemic situation continues to be closely monitored across Leisure services within Mid Ulster. The Council has been in liaison with industry bodies and counterparts in other council areas to monitor arrangements as we move through the Executive's roadmap as published on the 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2020.
3.6	Programmes such as swim lessons, non-sporting governing body activities (ie. casual 5 a side football) along with facilities such as soft play, sauna, steam rooms and full changing facilities are still unable to be delivered as a result of the pandemic. However, staff are working on recovery plans for these areas to ensure citizens of Mid Ulster will be supported where possible in line with government and public health guidelines to safely resume these programmes and use of facilities during the recovery phase.
3.7	The latest transformation as a result of Mid Ulster District Council's investment programme in leisure services has seen a fully refurbished fitness suite at Maghera Leisure Centre reopen on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020. This was an investment of approx. £110,000 which also compliments the £30,000 on new spin bikes for Maghera LC earlier in 2020. In addition, Greenvale Leisure Centre also received a £40,000 investment in new spin bikes which became available for customer use during August 2020.
3.8	Staff have continued to deliver engagement initiatives with customers via website and social media to include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication of a position on the suspension of membership direct debits and reassurance on the way forward regarding extensions of memberships for paid in advance and direct debit customers to reflect any time missed as a result of the closures.</li> <li>• Ongoing regular engagement posts on a variety of social media pages with hints and tips to support physical and mental health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Mid Ulster virtual swim academy and recorded workout and educational videos produced by leisure staff to support citizens via social media channels.</li> <li>• During the period 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, MUDC Leisure social media page posts have appeared on over half a million people's screens in the eight-week period covered and a total of 41,189 unique users of Facebook have engaged with leisure social media content. In numerical terms, this represents 28% of the Mid Ulster population (note: not all of the 41k unique users are residents of the Mid Ulster area).</li> </ul>
3.9	The MUDC leisure team also launched a brand new online customer booking and payment application (LeisureHub) on Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 and this has largely been well received within the District meaning members can now book their gym, pool or group exercise classes online. Non-members can do likewise by also being able to pre-pay for their activity therefore meaning all customers can arrive at our facilities safe in the knowledge they have pre-booked or pre-paid. This has also helped reduce the volume of telephone calls to leisure centre receptions.
3.10	Previously in December 2019, Council approved the introduction for a new District-wide Household Membership package along with a simplified and consistent overall membership approach. This was delayed due to Covid19 but launched on the 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 and is inclusive of 2 adults and unlimited children aged 18 years old or younger. In addition, new student, corporate and single monthly direct debit and 3 month, 6 month and 12 month paid in advance options also launched during July 2020.
3.11	<p>Since MUDC indoor fitness suites, group exercise classes and swimming pools have re-opened, during the period 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020, there have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36,498 customer visits</li> <li>• 4,135 new membership accounts created which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ New direct debit members: 237</li> <li>➢ New 3 month paid in advance members: 303</li> <li>➢ New 6 month paid in advance members: 10</li> <li>➢ New 12 month paid in advance members: 318</li> <li>➢ New casual pay as you go accounts created: 3,271</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Significant impact on ability to deliver key programmes and activities within Leisure services to include loss of ongoing income. While facility closures may result in underspend in certain areas, it should also be noted that income targets for the 2020/21 year will not be realised.
	Human: None

	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policy and Covid-19 guidance
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policy
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with council policy
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the update on Leisure service delivery during the Covid19 pandemic.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Walking and Hillwalking Festival
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform the committee of the upcoming walking festival
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Our Marketing and Communication service developed an outline communications plan in June 2020 to support the work of the Tourism service in its Mid Ulster wide tourism recovery plan. The draft outline communications plan externally prepared in May 2020 suggests targeting initially the domestic, then ROI and GB markets, through the application of an innovative, engaging and unifying communications campaign, which will also provide marketing and communications support for all the tourism businesses in the area. One key aspect of this will see the formation and delivery of an all year walking programme.
	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the July Development Committee meeting Council requested a renewed focus on the promotion of walking product within Mid Ulster, following the recommendation to participate in a WalkNI Marketing Regional Partnership, asking for a report be presented to future committee of strategy to develop and promote walking routes throughout the district, and a promotional campaign on existing walks be commenced. We are proposing Autumn 2020 to kick start events.
3.2	Step one and two of the plan have been actioned and we are now in the position to move to Step 3: Re-activate planning and booking behaviour. People go online to find out more about experiences in the general area and will visit online websites in a broader search initially and then a targeted focus as they delve deeper into what's available. This step involves continuing with Reconnect campaign as above, and also building experiences and content for all search touchpoints, e.g., tripadvisor, Instagram, google pages, Council websites, tourism business websites to which tourism staff will assist Marketing & Communications.

3.3	<p>Tourism have enlisted the services of Brendan Adams and Ita McCrory who are both qualified hillwalking guides and residents of Mid Ulster. Both guides will coordinate and guide the five high level walks which are planned throughout the District.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Carntogher Way (Maghera) 20 September, 10am An Carn</li> <li>2. Slieve Gallon, date and time TBC</li> <li>3. Moydamlaght Forest and Eagles Rock, ++ (Moneyneany) Gallon, date and time TBC</li> <li>4. Crockmore / Crockbrack (Moneyneany), Gallon, date and time TBC</li> <li>5. Knockmany Forest Ascent (Augher), Gallon, date and time TBC</li> </ol>
3.4	<p>The above walks are rated as moderate and aim to attract town walkers who would like to try something more challenging. Current COVID restrictions have capped participation numbers to 15 per walk with social distancing guidelines in place.</p>
3.5	<p>Bookings will be taken via the Bridewell and priced at £10 per person</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>A budget of up to £5,000 (excl Vat) will be required to target the relevant markets as defined in the 'Outline Plan for promotion of walking in the Mid Ulster Area'</p>
	<p>Human: Tourism staff support required.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Risk Assessments will be carried out on each high level walk in addition to outsourcing the delivery of these walks to qualified hillwalking guides</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	<p>For information only</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	'Outline Plan for promotion of walking in the Mid Ulster Area'



## **Outline Plan for promotion of walking in the Mid Ulster area**

### **1. Context**

The Marketing and Communication service developed an outline communications plan in June 2020 to support the work of the Tourism service in its Mid Ulster wide tourism recovery plan.

The draft outline communications plan externally prepared in May 2020 suggests targeting initially the domestic, then ROI and GB markets, through the application of an innovative, engaging and unifying communications campaign, which will also provide marketing and communications support for all the tourism businesses in the area.

It recommends that the overarching campaign has a 'voice' that reflects the warmth and welcoming nature of the region.

Given that the suggested strategy needed to act both as a standalone Council campaign in and of itself to ensure connection with Council owned and managed sites, as well as a campaign that supports a diverse tourism base in the district, we recommended a campaign that uses the 'Reconnecting people and places' concept (note that place marketing recommendations focus very much on the people aspects and the importance of story-telling which centres on people, rather than the place).

The draft outline communications plan suggests the innovative use of digital outputs and social media techniques.

Step one and two of the plan have been actioned and we are now in the position to move to Step 3: Re-activate planning and booking behaviour.

People go online to find out more about experiences in the general area and will visit online websites in a broader search initially and then a targeted focus as they delve deeper into what's available.

This step involves continue with Reconnect campaign as above, and also building experiences and content for all search touchpoints, e.g., tripadvisor, Instagram, google pages, Council websites, tourism business websites

## **Impetus to focus on walking product**

At the July Development Committee meeting Council requested a renewed focus on the promotion of walking product within Mid Ulster, following the recommendation to participate in a WalkNI Marketing Regional Partnership (appendix one), asking for a report be presented to future committee of strategy to develop and promote walking routes throughout the district, and a promotional campaign on existing walks be commenced.

## **2. Target Market**

Walking for recreation and as a holiday pastime appears to be on the increase:

### **Recreation**

- 50% of all adults in Northern Ireland indicated that they participated in walking for recreation at least once within the last year, increasing from 36% in 2011/12<sup>1</sup>
- 63% reported going outdoors for exercise every day during COVID-19 lockdown, a much
- higher proportion than the 28% reported in the annual household survey (CHS 2017/18)<sup>2</sup>
- 51% expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown<sup>3</sup>

### **Tourism:**

- Walking or rambling is the most popular activity (36%) undertaken by Northern Irish residents on domestic overnight trips<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Continuous Household Survey 2017/18

<sup>2</sup> Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI

<sup>3</sup> Engaging with the Outdoors during COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland 2020, ORNI

<sup>4</sup> Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism 2018, NISRA

- Hiking or cross-country walking was the most popular sporting activity (12%) undertaken by external overnight visitors whilst in Northern Ireland.<sup>5</sup>
- Intention by the Republic of Ireland market to take a short break post COVID-19 lockdown continues to increase – 48% intend to take a short break in Ireland / Abroad in the next 6 months<sup>6</sup>

## Market Segments

Great Britain, Germany, France, North America	Great Escapers Breath-taking landscapes, remote and exciting places, fun evening in an authentic pub, gentle exploration – walking, cycling, boating.	Want to immerse themselves in nature and get away from it all. TV, newspapers, radio, outdoor. Internet and social media are all important. Ease of getting here and getting around is paramount. Let them know about NI's outstanding natural
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<sup>5</sup> External Overnight Trips to Northern Ireland 2016, NISRA

<sup>6</sup> [https://covid19.failteireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19\\_Consumer-Sentiment-and-Behaviour\\_18-May\\_FINAL.pdf](https://covid19.failteireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19_Consumer-Sentiment-and-Behaviour_18-May_FINAL.pdf)

		locations, focusing on geographical hubs which cluster together a range of integrated outdoor activities.
NI & ROI	<p>Time Together Romance, cool nightlife, gentle walking, shopping, relaxation, good quality food and drink, natural scenery, contemporary cultural experiences, landmarks.</p> <p>Mature Cosmopolitans Curiosity, authenticity, insight,</p>	<p>Interested in romantic breaks and spending quality time as a couple. Local terrestrial TV &amp; Radio channels, Local National papers, web and deal sites such as Groupon. Make them aware of idyllic relaxing retreats and romantic getaways offering inclusive packages.</p> <p>Aspire to travel more and have the time and</p>

	<p>exploration, eating out, natural beauty,</p> <p>relaxation, good quality food and drink,</p> <p>scenic drives, theatre experience,</p> <p>authentic pub experience.</p>	<p>money to do so, but are looking for good deals.</p> <p>Local TV, Sports Channels, Local National papers and Radio. Less digitally connected than other segments. Make them aware, largely through non-digital media, of high quality accommodation breaks in romantic settings.</p>
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### 3. Our product USP:

Walk	Location & Date	Length	Duration	WalkNI Website	Comment
<b>1. The Carntogher Way</b>	<p>Maghera</p> <p>20 September, meeting 10am</p> <p>An Carn</p>	9k			Well used walk by locals and has some interesting features. A shorter walk of 6.4 km is possible and follows the same track for two thirds of the way of the longer route.

<b>2.Slieve Gallon</b>	Money more / Cookstown  <b>Date TBC</b>	Various lengths depending of access point.			<p>There are a number of approached to Slieve Gallon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of people access the hill from the car park near to the summit of the mountain. This starting point allows walkers to walk to Tintagh Mountain or the mask on the north east end on the mountain.</li> <li>• Access can also be gained from the west side of the mountain close to Lough Fea. This route had been marked out a number of years ago and I am unsure if the markers remain.</li> <li>• Access from Iniscarn Forest. This route has a very steep ascent at the end of the forest before reaching open ground. However it is manageable with care.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Moydamlaght forest and Eagles Rock ++</b>	Moneyneany  <b>Date TBC</b>	4 miles +1 or 2 for open hill walk		Yes	This is an uphill forest walk but has the potential to be extended onto open ground adding a further 2/3 miles depending on direction taken after leaving forest. Could walk to either Mullaghmore or Craigna-shoke. (Could also do both)
<b>3. Crockmore / Crockbrack</b>	Moneyneany  <b>Date TBC</b>	7.2 miles		Yes	
<b>4. Knockmany Forest Ascent</b>	Augher  <b>Date TBC</b>	TBC		No	Contact made with Knockmany Rambler regarding length of walk. Brendan to visit

Industry examples of best practice:

#### **4. Potential tactics to employ during campaign:**

##### **Review of website**

Consumers continue to book more and more components of their itinerary online. With their travel options now virtually unlimited most consumers no longer want an off-the-shelf package and are happy to build separate and independent tourism products into a bespoke and personal holiday.<sup>7</sup> We need to give them the tools to do this.

Add to walks on web site currently

Add new categories under Walking section – Leave No Trace Guidelines / Top walks in Mid Ulster (could create UGC by asking people to vote for their top walk in Mid Ulster, collate and then list these) / Walking guides / Walking Clubs in Mid Ulster

Add walks by type? For example, upland; woodland; lakes, rivers and shores; Urban Walks; Rural Road Walks

##### **Video production**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://tourismni.com/globalassets/grow-your-business/toolkits-and-resources/northern-ireland-tourism-toolkit.pdf>

We recommend production of a show reel video (3 – 3:30 mins) featuring couples/families walking, close up footage combined with drone footage, showing some of the most iconic walks in Mid Ulster. A suite of “Walk with ....” individual videos (2 – 2:30 mins) for the top 5 or 10 (depending on budget) could be produced, profiling the history and features of the site and linking in with tourism providers on route.

### **Links with influencers and other stakeholders**

Consumers are increasingly influenced by what their peers are doing and saying on social media. Driven by ‘FOMO’ (Fear of Missing Out) or bragging rights, visitors increasingly want once-in-a-lifetime experiences that they can share on social media.<sup>8</sup>

Asking walking / tourism bloggers to do walks with GoPro and film reaction.

Recruit National Trust volunteers, local historians, Forest School, Conservation NI, Woodland Trust etc to do shorter 1 minute pieces of their favourite walks.

### **Content Marketing**

Autumn photography competition – Meteorological start of autumn is 1<sup>st</sup> September – could run competition all of September. Capture the colours of autumn on your walk, sunrise, sunset (focus on images for Instagram content). GoPro prize, link with tourism providers to give prize.

Campaign bridging current #Reconnect activity with opening of OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory focusing on walking. Suggested strapline/hashtag – Space to wander / space to roam / space to wonder?

Bundling Offers with local accommodation providers (Sperrins Walking Bundle) on Discover NI web site

### **PR**

Digital Touchpoints:

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<sup>8</sup> Consumers are increasingly influenced by what their peers are doing and saying on social media. Driven by ‘FOMO’ (Fear of Missing Out) or bragging rights, visitors increasingly want once-in-a-lifetime experiences that they can share on social media.

Lastminute.com

BBC Travel

Travel Zoo

Secret Escape

Guardian Travel

Thejournal.co.uk

The Sunday Times

### **WalkNI Marketing Regional Partnership (July 2020 – March 2021)**

Those investing in the WalkNI Marketing Consortium receive proactive inclusion within the following marketing activity. It is this key activity which drives visitors towards specific sections of the website.

Support provided by Walk NI includes:

Members of the public (local, regional and national) focused communications:

- Feature inclusion within WalkNI Blog <http://walkni.com/blog/>, WalkNI E-zines min 12 e-zines per year to 13,520+ NI contacts and WalkNI Social Media Channels (Daily posts to 15,000+ NI followers)
- PR in Regional and National Press via WalkNI Awards and other initiatives

Walking Club Promotional Campaigns including:

- E-marketing to 566 walking club contacts
- Promotion via Mountaineering Ireland and Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs

Outdoor media and paid advertising

#### BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES:

New Zealand: Good Morning World campaign

Sligo County Council: Let's not only get Sligo walking, let's get the world walking Sligo.

Sligowalks.ie: a new website featuring detailed walking information on over 60 waymarked walks through Sligo, supported by virial video campaign

Norway: <https://ourwaytours.com/our-blog/sheep-with-a-view/>

Sweden: listed its entire country on Air B&B

**Kate Keys**

**31 July 2020**

#### **Booking Information**

\*\*All walks capped at 15 participants\*\*

Price: £10 per person

All bookings and enquiries to the Bridewell

Opening hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:30 - 17:00

Friday & Saturday 9:30 – 17:00

Telephone: 028 7963 1510

Email: [Tourism@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Tourism@midulstercouncil.org)

### **Covid19**

Max numbers 15 per walk as this is based on information from Mountaineering Ireland. Walkers will also have to provide contact details for contact tracing purposes. Each person will be asked if they agree with following three questions prior to their participation:

1. You have not travelled outside Ireland in past 14 days
2. You have no Covid19 symptoms in the past 14 days
3. You have not been in contact/aware of contact with anyone who had Covid19 in last 14 days.

It is essential that all walkers observe social distancing (2 metres)



<b>Report on</b>	EA Youth Engagement Mid Ulster
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Head Community Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory PCSP Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Education Authority (EA) funding support for Youth Services in Mid Ulster.
2.0	Background
2.1	At March Council, Members asked for an update on the EA Youth extended provision for youth club activity in areas of deprivation. In response to the closure of this fund, officers were asked to follow up with EA Youth on support for youth work that was previously funded by the extended provision and support for young people dealing with Covid 19.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Engagement has taken place with the Divisional Youth Office for Mid Ulster and the following support is being provided:</p> <p><b>EA Youth Extended Provision Funding for Youth Clubs</b>  EA Youth ended extended provision at end September 2020, it was originally to end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 as part of a review of funding.  The EA Youth is encouraging Clubs to review their current provision to target its core funding resources. It has currently opened a post Covid fund to support initiatives for young people re-experiences or issues relating to Covid, this funding is currently being allocated at present.</p> <p><b>Future Funding Model</b>  A new funding model has been opened which provides a more sustainable solution for clubs focused in deprived areas. There are 4 specifications out for clubs in Mid Ulster to apply; they are Dungannon, Coalisland, Maghera North and Maghera South. These funds are up to £130,000 and are contracted to deliver a range of targets for this funding, from outreach, centre activity base to health and wellbeing and training activity. The reference to the funded contracts is:-  <a href="https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/youth-service/new-funding-scheme">https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/youth-service/new-funding-scheme</a></p>

The contracts will close at the end of September and successful awards will be known November with the funding contract commencing in April 2021. The funding will be for 3 years for up to a maximum of £130,000 per annum based on an annual review of targets. Some of the criteria for applying to the contracts includes local knowledge and experience of local delivery, proven track record with The Education Authority (EA), good internal governance, achievement of set targets based on an assessed need within the area and high quality delivery of programmes for young people that is monitored and quality assured by EA on a quarterly basis.

Alongside the Centre and outreach activity by the voluntary clubs, EA Youth remain committed with 1 worker in Dungannon, 1 in Coalisland and 1 in the Clogher Valley area to support voluntary clubs and outreach activity.

### **Targeted Funding**

Alongside above there maybe project specifications open up to £30,000 per theme for thematic pieces of work in relation to section 75 work and other areas , based on the assessed need of young people within a particular geographical area or across the region. One current local specification, under the theme of Good Relations, is to work with Newcomer young people in the Dungannon NRA. Full details of this specification can be downloaded and viewed on the EA funding scheme website.

### **Direct Provision**

EA Youth continues to have Centre based and outreach provision in Cookstown (3 workers) and Magherafelt (2 workers), and continues to provide funding under grants to smaller clubs around the District alongside direct provision in Draperstown and Maghera. Additional provision includes part – time 3 and 4 night a week Youth Annexes within Cornstore YC (St Colms HS, Draperstown), Fivemiletown YC (Fivemiletown College) and St Ciaran’s YC, (St Ciaran’s College, Ballygawley). All statutory EA workers also work with the post primary schools for the areas they are within (8 schools) to support the delivery of Key stage 2 – 4 programmes, peer mentoring and transitions programmes.

### **Targeted EA Youth Programmes**

EA Youth currently delivers its FLARE (mental health) programme in post primary schools targeting the schools within the neighbourhood renewal areas due to the link between mental health and poverty and deprivation (1 Mid Ulster worker).

EA Youth has just commenced a new programme called REACH again working with schools in Mid Ulster (post primary) to support young people at key stage 2-4 (1 MU worker) with educational attainment and again focusing on schools where attainment may be falling.

EA Youth linkages to the Schools for Hope Model to be developed; which is looking at training teachers across the post primary schools in a new resilience programme for young people.

EA Youth is currently partnering with Council In the establishment of the new Youth Forum to give young people a voice.

	<p>EA Youth is currently partnering with Council in the delivery of a good relations and resilience programme with primary schools in Mid Ulster. A dedicated worker has partnerships with 10 primary schools under the theme of Good Relations and post Covid-19 response to self-esteem, resilience and mental health support to pupils. The Good Relations programme is funded by MU Council (Targeting Good Relations). The programme is being run using innovative online methods and engagement via social distancing.</p> <p>Community Development &amp; Good Relations sections of Council will continue to engage with the EA Youth regarding delivery of youth programmes in Mid Ulster.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b> None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b> None</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b> None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the content of the report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	None



<b>Report on</b>	1) Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package 2) Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes 3) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 4) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes 5) Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
	To receive updates on the matters detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b></p> <p>Minister for the Economy, Mrs Diane Dodds, joined the Council Chair, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, to formally launch Mid Ulster Council's £1million business support package at a photocall held at PJD Safety Supplies Ltd in Ballygawley on 27 August 2020. The 4 new business programmes launched provide a comprehensive range of free mentoring support, equating to the value of £1million to support 690 micro and small businesses in Mid Ulster. Launch photos enclosed on <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes</b></p> <p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes</b></p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. The Forum members meet on a regular basis and work collaboratively to take forward a number of key initiatives to develop Coalisland town centre.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes</b></p> <p>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum was re-established in January 2017. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives.</p>

2.5	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes</b></p> <p>Maghera Town Centre Forum was established in August 2018. The forum works in partnership with businesses, statutory agencies, community and voluntary sector and Council officials to ensure Maghera can achieve its full potential.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b></p> <p>Minister for the Economy, Diane Dodds, and Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Council Chair, performed the official launch of Mid Ulster Council's comprehensive business support package, valued at £1million, on 27 August 2020 at PJD Safety Supplies Ltd, Ballygawley.</p> <p>The four programmes detailed below, all provide free bespoke mentoring support to micro and small businesses across Mid Ulster, employing less than 50 employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gearing for Growth Programme</b> – designed to build business capacity in key business areas including financial management, access to investment and finance, effective pricing, innovation, business planning, customer care, steps to exporting, achieving industry standards, human resources, social media and marketing.</li> <li>• <b>Tender Ready Programme</b> – working with businesses to improve their ability to source new work, identify supply chain opportunities and prepare high quality tender bids.</li> <li>• <b>Digital First Programme</b> – supports businesses to adopt digital technologies and strategies to enhance and grow their online presence and drive sales.</li> <li>• <b>Transform Programme</b> – will work with businesses to help them become an 'employer of choice', and implement tailored and sustainable measures to recruit and retain staff.</li> </ul> <p>These programmes were originally designed to help businesses grow and expand but have been rebranded so that assistance can also be targeted at helping local companies recover, build resilience and sustainability after the Covid19 pandemic.</p> <p>Invest NI has advised Council that whilst the Programmes' targets cannot change and jobs should be created where possible, they fully recognise that sustaining jobs would be equally important in the current environment and subsequently approved this new approach. If 'reasonable endeavours' to achieve targets can be demonstrated and programmes are delivered in line with Letters of Offer there will be no sanctions in relation to the non-achievement of job creation targets.</p> <p>Programmes are currently open to applications until April 2022 or until all places are filled. Full details on the programmes are available on Council's website <a href="https://bit.ly/3ljgLVr">https://bit.ly/3ljgLVr</a></p>

	<p>The programmes are currently being promoted in the press and through social media. Any interested business can contact Council's Economic Development Team to discuss the support available by emailing <a href="mailto:business@midulstercouncil.org">business@midulstercouncil.org</a></p> <p>Photos of the Ministerial Launch are enclosed on <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum</b> Minutes of the meeting of Cookstown Town Centre Forum held on the 6 November 2019 and 15 June 2020 are attached at <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum</b> Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 2 March 2020, 15 June 2020 and the 6 July 2020 are attached at <b>Appendix 3</b>.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</b> Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 4 November 2019 and 6 July 2020 are attached at <b>Appendix 4</b>.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Forum</b> Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum held on 6 November 2019, and 8 July 2020 are attached <b>Appendix 5</b>.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: <b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b> 4 Programmes: budget secured for the 4 financial years 2019/2023 covering the Programmes' delivery at the time of receipt of Invest NI Letters of Offer. These Programmes are funded 60% from ERDF Investment for Jobs and Growth Fund, 20% from Invest NI and 20% from Mid Ulster District Council.</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: <b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b> Invest NI's Letters of Offer for these 4 Programmes requires the delivery of support to 690 micro and small businesses until December 2022 and the use of 'reasonable endeavours' to create 900 new jobs and generate 80 quality referrals to Invest NI. As stated in point 3.1 (above) following Council's request to Invest NI for greater flexibility in approach, Invest NI advised that, <i>Where ever possible new jobs should be created but it is also recognised that sustaining jobs will be equally as important in the current environment. The European Commission has issued guidance around flexibility on the achievement of targets and indicators as a direct result of COVID-19, the final outputs will therefore be considered on that basis. DfE has also confirmed that they will not be seeking to penalise any project, which has failed to meet their targets as a direct</i></p>

	<p><i>result of the Covid-19 impact. On that, basis if reasonable endeavours have been demonstrated and programmes are delivered in line with the Letters of Offer there would be no sanctions in relation to the non-achievement of targets.</i></p> <p>The Contracts are managed by senior officers in the economic development team and programme delivery is subject to ongoing and regular monitoring of progress.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p><b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b> All Programme Contractors are required to maximise participation and report to Council who monitor their engagement and recruitment of businesses.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p><b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b> As noted above, the Programme Contractors are required to maximise participation and ensure the businesses recruited are reflective of Mid Ulster's sectors and geographical spread, and are required to report to Council who monitor their engagement and recruitment of businesses.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>It is recommended that Members: -</p>
5.1	<p><b>Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</b> <b>Note</b> the official launch of Mid Ulster Council's £1million business mentoring support package to assist 690 micro and small businesses in Mid Ulster with their recovery, resilience and growth.</p>
5.2	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum meetings held on 6 November 2019 and 15 June 2020.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meetings held on 2 March 2020, 15 June 2020 and the 6 July 2020.</p>
5.4	<p><b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum meetings held on 4 November 2019 and 6 July 2020.</p>
5.5	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Forum</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum meetings held on 6 November 2019 and 8 July 2020.</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Photos of Ministerial Launch of Council's £1million Business Support Package</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum – 6.11.19 and 15.6.20</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum – 2.3.20, 15.6.20 and 6.7.20.</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum – 4.11.19 and 6.7.20.</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum – 6.11.19 and 8.7.20.</p>



## APPENDIX 1

### PHOTOS OF MINISTERIAL LAUNCH OF MID ULSTER COUNCIL'S £1 MILLION BUSINESS SUPPORT PACKAGE 27 AUGUST 2020 AT PJD SAFETY SUPPLIES, BALLYGAWLEY



Councillor Mallaghan, Council Chair welcomes Economy Minister, Diane Dodds to Mid Ulster to launch the £1m suite of business programmes



Minister Dodds, pictured with Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan, and participant businesses on the programmes along with Invest NI



Minister Dodds pictured with Paul Coote, owner of PJD Safety Supplies Ltd, Ballygawley and his team who hosted the launch on their premises.



Pictured with Minister Dodds is Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan, Deputy Chair, Cllr Graham and Paul Coote, PJD Safety Supplies



Pictured are Council Members who attended the visit by Minister Dodds to Launch Council's £1m business support package



Council Chair, Cllr Mallaghan presents Minister Dodds with a gift to mark her visit

## Appendix 1

### **MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 12.30 PM IN THE CHAMBER, MUDC OFFICES, COOKSTOWN**

**Present:**

TP Sheehy	Small Independent Retailer
Councillor Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Peter Beckett	Large Retailer
Sean MacMahon	Property Developer
Hazel McKenzie	Cookstown North Community Association
Bernie Sonner	Tenants Association
Mary McCullagh	Mid Ulster District Council

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing                      Mid Ulster District Council

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor John McNamee Mid Ulster District Council; Raymond McGarvey, Chamber of Commerce; Andrew McConnell, Large Independent Retailer; Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise; Adrian McCreesh, Mid Ulster District Council; Fiona McKeown, Mid Ulster District Council, Annette McGahan, Mid Ulster District Council, Inspector Daniel Walsh, PSNI and Ursula Marshall, Cookstown Disability Forum.

Vice Chair, TP Sheehy, chaired the meeting due to Councillor McNamee's absence.

#### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by P Anderson and seconded by Councillor Hughes to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 May 2019.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from minutes.

### **4. TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS DRAFT RESPONSE TO BUSINESS RATES CONSULTATION**

M McCullagh advised that she had prepared a draft response which is to be returned to the Department of Finance by Monday 11 November 2019. The proposed response was circulated to members via email on 5 November 2019 for members to read prior to the meeting.

M McCullagh advised that Alan Bronte, Department of Finance, had conducted a presentation in Dungannon which was open to all retailers across the Mid Ulster District. M McCullagh was in attendance at the meeting and has drafted this response based on comments and observations made at the meeting. She stated that this is only in draft format at present and all comments will be taken on board and reviewed prior to the final version being submitted on behalf of Cookstown Town Centre Forum.

The floor was opened to members for discussion on the proposal.

S MacMahon commented on planning issues in terms of commercial property and noted that the Historical Buildings and Planning Department do not always work in tandem when taking into account certain issues with regards to listed buildings and having them delisted. Councillor Mallaghan advised that the Planning Department do not have authority to delist a building and stated that they are aware of issues and they try to take a flexible view on listed buildings where appropriate. He also stated that there other Departments and utilities which have to be liaised with prior to any decisions being taken on listed buildings.

T Jebb stated that commercial property is paying too much proportionally at present. TP Sheehy also stated that retail on the high street at present is at an all-time low. He stated that the retail parks at each end of the town have been detrimental to business and with the increase in internet sales the footfall is down with takings down by approximately ¼. He advised that rental and rates are a major concern for town centre businesses, stating that if he had to pay rent then the business would not survive.

Councillor Wilson commented that the meeting with Alan Bronte was a revelation and stated that all Mid Ulster Councillors are in agreement that something needs to be done to help local town centre businesses. He stated that there is no additional money to offset rates reduction. The meeting held in Belfast with high street retailers shows that people are starting to think outside the box with proposals to introduce mobile phone tax.

T Jebb agreed that the meeting was sympathetic with commercial property owners but stated that he did not agree with vacant property tax increase as if a tenant leaves it can be difficult to raise the money required to cover this. He stated that it is also a bad market for selling commercial property at present. S MacMahon concurred stating that rates can

cost more than rent. T Jebb stated that renting property to charities for free should enable them to remain rate free also. Councillor Wilson commented that there are many charity shops in the town centres at present – this is not a reflection on charity shops but he stated that there should be a balance.

P Beckett informed members that his business has also seen a decline in market due to online sales and agrees that online tax should be an option – online businesses are not paying rates or rent so should be taxed in other avenues. He stated that the internet is not only affecting small retailers but large retailers, providing an example of Mothercare going into administration. The ordering and service i.e. free delivery and returns make it hard to compete.

P Anderson also attended the meeting in Belfast called the Innovation Lab, and advised that they are recognising that town and city centres are being crippled by these issues across the board. A lot of discussion took place on rates, rent and online sales but they also discussed the possibility of car parking charges increasing to compensate against rates – or would this push people further away. He stated that should they receive further information on the issues he will report back with more information.

Members discussed online sales and possible tax options in detail as potential areas to be included in the response letter. The possibility of charging for car parking in each town centre was also discussed, with Councillor Wilson advising that this occurred in Belfast and traders noticed a drop in footfall.

M McCullagh advised that she will incorporate proposed suggestions but advised members that they can forward any further suggestions by 12 Noon on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MID ULSTER TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

M McCullagh provided an update on Mid Ulster Town Centre Projects as follows:

### **a) Marketing & Promotion**

#### **i) Marketing & Promotion across Mid Ulster Towns**

A comprehensive marketing and promotional campaign will be delivered for Christmas in Cookstown over a number of platforms i.e. bus rears/social media/billboards and local press. There are plans to run the Small Business Saturday competition in Cookstown for Saturday 7 December 2019 for every customer that spends £10 in town centre businesses that they are entered into a prize draw. Information will be distributed to town centre businesses in the next few days, asking for interested businesses to sign up.

#### **ii) Town Centre Branding**

Council have been successful in obtaining funding from the Department for Communities to upgrade the A29 Roundabout to reflect the newly refreshed brand of 'Cookstown Looking Good, Feeling Great'. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by 31 March 2020.

Tenders have been completed for branded merchandise for town centre, which will include branded shopping bags. Merchandise will be distributed in due course.

**b) Town Centre Events**

**i) Cookstown Christmas Lights 2019**

Cookstown Christmas lights switch on will take place on Friday 22 November 2019 commencing at 6pm with light switch on at approximately 7.15pm. Entertainment at the event will include a Lion King parade and musical entertainment on stage from Craft Crows, Stewartstown Panto, and Tullylagan Pipe Band. Other activities will include the gaming bus, Art Cart, Jumping Clay and various walkabouts.

Road diversions will be in place from 5pm – 9.15pm. Letters with all information will be hand delivered to traders next week.

**ii) Cookstown Continental Market 2020**

Marketplace Europe have been in contact to request that Cookstown host a Continental Market in 2020. The proposed dates are Saturday 30 May to Sunday 31 May 2020. M McCullagh advised that feedback received from the 2019 event has been generally positive with footfall to the town still large. While members acknowledged that not all local businesses do well during the event, they agreed that the increase in footfall and publicity for the town is good. TP Sheehy stated that his personal view is that it is good for the town and the diverse mix of traders at the event added to its success.

Councillor Wilson advised that this date may not coincide with the Pipe Band competition in 2020 but will advise as soon as possible when final dates are confirmed. It was noted that the 2 events worked well in tandem the past few years.

**c) Physical Regeneration/Improving Infrastructure**

**i) Rural Regeneration Projects**

There are 37 villages who will access funding to develop and deliver projects identified through their respective village plans. Assistance will be provided to the following villages within the former Cookstown District: Pomeroy; Ardboe; Stewartstown; Sandholes; Coagh/Drummullan; Rock; Ballyronan; Moortown' Churchtown/Lissan; and Orritor/Broughderg.

Meetings have taken place to finalise projects and move them to the next stage involving an appointed professional led design team. The following projects have been completed: Ardboe, Ballyronan, Orritor, Lissan and Coagh.

**ii) Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme**

Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements. The scheme was open to both occupied commercial premises and vacant/derelict units within the town centre boundary of each of the towns and

development limits of the eligible villages as per the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the draft Local Development Plan (2030).

Knox & Clayton Architects were appointed as independent consultants to assist in the delivery of the Scheme – which includes assessment of applications and management and monitoring of the successful projects.

The Scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and closed for applications at 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019. 12 business clinics were delivered during the open period across the Mid Ulster District Council area.

A report of recommended applications will be submitted to Development Committee on 14 November 2019. Members were advised that applicants will be notified on their outcome approximately 2 December 2019.

### **iii) Town Centre Enhancement**

A range of town centre enhancement proposals for Cookstown has been put forward which are due to be completed by 31 March 2020. These proposals will be subject to funding and are being prioritised. The list of proposals are as follows:

- Replacement hoarding and vinyl A29 Roundabout
- Powerwashing of main retail core (paved areas)
- Replacement of street banners
- Replacement hoarding and vinyl 40 Oldtown Street
- Replacement hoarding and vinyl 1 Killymoon Street

Councillor Wilson advised that the road at Broadfields Retail Park is not adopted and there is no street lighting which is also an issue. Members expressed their disappointment in landowners not carrying out remedial works themselves and stated that they should be held accountable in some regard.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

M McCullagh advised members on the Mid Ulster Enterprise Week which is the first time that the Council has delivered a high range of free events throughout the district in one week. A copy of the programme was distributed to members who were asked to spread the word. Registration for each of the events will take place on Eventbrite with links available on the Council website.

M McCullagh updated members that gas works are completed within the town at present. She is not aware of any other works taking place in the town centre at present.

## **7. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be arranged. Members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 1.10pm

**MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**  
**ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020 AT 12.30 PM**

**Present:**

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Hughes	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Ursula Marshall	Cookstown Disability Forum
Bernie Sonners	
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster PCSP
Andrew McConnell	Large Independent Retailer
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Sean MacMahon	
Mary McCullagh	Mid Ulster District Council
Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing                      Mid Ulster District Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor W Buchanan, Councillor M Glasgow, TP Sheehy, Peter Beckett, and Danny Walsh, PSNI.

Councillor J McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting has been organised as a one item agenda to discuss the actions contained within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan.

**2. TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PLAN**

Councillor J McNamee advised that the Town Regeneration Managers have been tasked with developing a Town Centre Recovery Plan for the towns of Mid Ulster. M McCullagh provided an overview of the key actions proposed to date:

The Council are working based on the Institute of Place Management Recovery Framework. This is a 4 stage approach:

**Crisis** – The first stage ‘crisis’ is where towns and cities have been in, with lockdowns and closures of all business premises apart from essential retail, and with the majority of the population working or learning from home, many town centres are currently deserted. The crisis stage focused on how town centres acted immediately, supporting and helping stakeholders through the initial stages of the crisis, with some businesses switching or offering online trading. This stage involved gathering evidence and signposting, meeting with key stakeholders and distributing relevant information.

**Pre-recovery** – The ‘pre-recovery’ stage is a crucial step towards planning for the recovery. It involves working together on good ideas and plans to encourage footfall back to the town with recovery dependent on building more local capacity for action and effective mechanisms for coordinating this. During and after lockdown, it is anticipated that town centres will undergo a period of change, and it is unlikely that businesses that do not have, at least, some online presence for communicating with customers can survive. At present approximately 75% of town businesses in Cookstown town centre boundary have at least one method of online presence.

**Recovery** – The ‘recovery’ stage aims to provide guidance on the tasks that should be undertaken once the lockdown measures start to be lifted in order to get businesses operational and to encourage footfall back to towns. There will be no one-size-fits-all solution, however learning how other towns and places across the UK and globally are recovering will be crucial for town centres to learn from each other and adopt suitable approaches or new remedial action. There will be an immediate need to react quickly in order to revise plans that do not work. Working together will ensure that the measures undertaken will hopefully drive footfall back to our town centres, safely i.e. outdoor spaces and how to support this through recovery to get to the transformation stage.

**Transformation** – Finally, the ‘transformation’ stage brings together lessons learnt from the three previous stages and will contribute to assisting town centres to improve the place – to do more than recover but to innovate and address new challenges, such as going digital, new social distancing measures etc. In many ways, the transformation stage will be about adapting to the ‘new normal’, which will reflect both the economic and social impact of coronavirus in our towns and cities and mitigating measures.

M McCullagh stated that Northern Ireland is now rapidly moving towards the recovery phase with changes to lockdown measures updating at an advanced pace than anticipated. Town Regeneration Managers have been reviewing good practice on how town centres are rebuilding and coming out of pre recovery and identifying what measures Council can assist with to encourage the recovery to our town centres.

As previously advised 75% of Cookstown town centre businesses have a minimum of 1 online presence i.e. website, Facebook page, twitter etc. She noted that A McConnell, Blacks Shoes, Adrian & Co Jewellers are examples of businesses who pushed forward during this difficult time with their digital presence.

Council are at present working on a proposal to Department for Communities to access funding towards assistance for the re-opening of town centres. Council are also lobbying

Government to access a similar scheme to those currently in England such as the Future High Street Fund and/or Reopening High Street Safely.

The proposals which Council are considering to assist town centres will potentially include:

- A small business grant which will be open to all town centre businesses for the purchase of PPE, awnings, customer signage, etc. potentially up to £5,000.
- Providing an covered area within the town centre to encourage pavement cafes – potentially located at the Burnavon.
- Webinars and digital support programmes for town centre businesses
- Social distancing measures – using 2 metre social distance at present and keeping in mind footpath space
- Intensive marketing programme.

A McCreesh stated that it was good to see the businesses and the town back up and running again. He advised members on the current situation with Council: over 300 staff on furlough until income generated premises are able to open again; over £700,000 is being lost per month due to loss of income and expenditure which will impact on what Council can do going ahead. He commended the essential staff who have worked throughout the pandemic and advised that during this time there were 3 Council meetings and 8/9 Committee meetings held.

Going forward he anticipates that the high streets will have to be substantially redesigned to make the town centre more attractive to new generations i.e. re-configuring buildings to enable them to be fit for purpose – knocking down 2 buildings to create a new version. The on-street café/cultural activity will be critical moving forward – this may include businesses moving out onto the main street. However, moving onto the street will involve legislation being correct and in place before any new measures can be put in place.

He commended A McConnell for his use of social media platforms during this time – going forward Council will propose to provide support programmes to help businesses increase their online presence.

F McKeown advised that the Mid Ulster Digital First Programme is currently open for applications. The programme provides assistance with online support to help build your businesses digital capacity, providing expertise to help adopt new technologies and strategies to grow online presence and sales.

U Marshall sought clarification on the opening of public toilets. She also stated that whilst she is in support of the café culture and street furniture outside to enable businesses to survive, Council must take into consideration the other street furniture already in place on the town centre as well as placing obstacles in the area which will hinder people with visibility, wheelchair users etc.

A McCreesh advised that public toilets are kept under review on a day to day basis. At present public toilets in each of the towns are not open which is based on the hygiene direction at present. The public toilets in some of the parks and open spaces have been re-opened at present which are kept under review.

He advised that he is aware businesses are requiring to utilize frontages to enable them to remain viable, however this will only be permitted after consultation with Disability Forum and when appropriate legislation has been put in place.

Councillor Hughes advised that she is aware of businesses using online videos to promote themselves at present. She recommended that town traders market their services via online shop windows which could send out mail shot offering discounts etc.

F McKeown advised that Councillor Hughes is correct and resilience videos are being conducted with local businesses at present. These are uploaded to Council's social media channels to encourage other businesses throughout the pandemic. She advised that it is Council's aspiration to have a platform, subject to funding, to develop and take forward which will enable each business to advertise their offers. Without a platform, Council cannot be seen to promote one business over another.

M McCullagh also advised that Council are investigating the possibility of a Mid Ulster Gift Card which will be open for businesses across Mid Ulster to sign up to.

T Jebb raised concerns on the 2 metre restriction for bars and restaurants advising that it is not practical. He proposed that he would utilize the car park at the rear of the bar to enable more customers and to accommodate restrictions but noted that there may be an issue with PSNI.

A McCreesh addressed the query raised by T Jebb advising that the NI Executive are currently deliberating on the 2 metre restriction and any updates will be notified. He advised that Environmental Health would monitor any of these types of request in conjunction with PSNI.

A McConnell advised that he had become vocal on social media towards the end of the lift of restrictions for retail businesses and expressed his opinion that Council did not utilise any grey areas that existed within the Executive announcement. He thanked everyone who had been in touch and assisted in lobbying for re-opening. He also expressed his concerns on the public toilets not being open in the town which is a major issue for visitors to the town and has to be a health and safety issue. This also results in people utilising other areas of the town as a toilet which is unhygienic and detrimental to the town.

He sought clarification on when traffic wardens would be back and visible in the town centres which will help dissuade abuse of parking restrictions on the main thoroughfare. He also welcomed the grant for PPE and advised that it cost approximately £3,000 to £4,000 to prepare his business for opening so any help would be appreciated by businesses. He requested that businesses are supported in completing applications and that the requirement for quotations especially in relation to PPE be reviewed.

Councillor J McNamee agreed that it is of key importance to open public toilets in the town centres, especially as no toilets are available due to closure of restaurants, cafes and bars. He also added that if Railway Park in Dungannon is being facilitated then so

should town centres. He also stated that the bureaucracy involved in small grants should be simplified to make the process easier for businesses.

A McCreesh agreed to take the concerns forward. He advised that DFI have advised that traffic wardens will be returning Thursday 18 June 2020 and that parking restrictions will be in place from this date forward. He also advised that the Government stipulates the grant criteria which Council are responsible to deliver effectively and efficiently. He advised that an urban response will be sent to the Minister raising any issues and stated that there is a 3 week window for the re-opening of the hospitality industry.

A McConnell requested that an update on any potential public utility works is provided for the summer periods and requested that they are kept to a minimum. Councillor T Wilson also advised that he had received several complaints with regards to works taking place in the Tullagh area. M McCullagh stated that NI Water are currently working on Westland Road but are expected to finish within the next few days. She advised that a Gas to the West meeting has been organised with Council for Wednesday 17 June 2020 but indications are that works will be within estates and not on any main roads. She will advise of the outcome in due course.

A McCreesh requested that if there are any significant public utility works issues raised in the future that the provider is invited to a Zoom meeting with members to discuss.

B Sonners sought clarification on when play parks would be open as there has been incidents of people climbing over fencing to use the facilities. A McCreesh advised that at present the guidance states not to open play parks due to touch points being unmanageable at present. Councillor J McNamee advised that this situation will be reported to relevant personnel within Council.

B Sonners also raised concerns on the vandilisation of public toilets in Drum Manor Forest and asked that this forwarded to the appropriate agency and fixed prior to opening.

### **3. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

A McCreesh suggested to keep the momentum meetings should take place on a regular basis, subject to agreement from members. Councillor J McNamee advised that an Annual General Meeting is due to take place in the near future and that future meetings will be discussed and agreed by Chair and Town Regeneration Managers. Members will be notified in due course.

The meeting ended at 1.35pm

## **Appendix 2**

### **Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting** **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 5.30pm** **Cornmill Heritage Centre** **Coalisland**

#### **Present**

Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council (arrived 5.45pm)
Melanie Campbell	Coalisland & District Development Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Wendy Lowe	Trader Representative

#### **In Attendance**

Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council
Gail Lees	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>																								
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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020</b></p> <p>Proposed by R O'Neill</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Doris and agreed: -</p>																								

	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Rates</b> C Fox stated that if anyone wanted to question their rates valuation to get in contact with LPS where updates are available from Dept. of Finance website.</p> <p><b>Brackaville Bus Shelter</b> Cllr Doris reported that discussion was ongoing as location of bus shelter has to be decided.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Coalisland Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</b></li> </ul> <p>M Leavey updated the Forum stating Fox Contracts were progressing well with developments.</p> <p>The Stop &amp; Go in situ at the Dungannon Road was an effective measure to manage traffic flow in area.</p> <p>R O'Neill stated the one-way system on the Stewartstown Road was still causing problems with traffic and queried who was accountable in relation to revenue loss. Members were informed DfI are responsible for the legislation of the one-way system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Events</b></li> </ul> <p>C Fox outlined all dates scheduled to take place in Coalisland 2020.</p> <p><b>Summer – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b> In reference to the Summer Bash 5/ 10k event Keep er Lit in association with Newell Stores are required to carry out a road traffic management plan. Colin stated the event had won an award at a recent ceremony.</p> <p>C Fox informed members that another event, organized by various GAA clubs locally was scheduled to take place on the same night and to be aware of it. Any club interested in availing of grants to run individual events should contact Philip Clarke in MUDC for further information.</p> <p><b>Halloween – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020</b> Forum requested a list of entertainers/entertainment be presented at next meeting. Cllr O'Neill queried training for stewarding. O Donnelly informed the Forum that all Council employees have been trained. Cllr Doris queried if PCSP could deliver training to Forum Members.</p> <p><b>Action: O Donnelly to liaise with PCSP regarding training.</b></p>

	<p>R O'Neill queried whether the Coalisland Connects Group could become constituted to be eligible to apply for funding, they are to liaise with Michael Callaghan from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce and arrange a meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: O Donnelly to arrange a meeting with Coalisland Connects and Michael Callaghan</b></p> <p><b>Christmas – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>  C Fox stated this will be the first year the event will be held on a Friday evening. R O'Neill will discuss at next Traders Meeting and ask for input to the event, which Council staff said, would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>C Fox to set up meeting with Community Development in Council to give guidance on becoming a constituted group to allow Traders to apply for funding.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment</b>  M Leavey updated that the project was proceeding as planned.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Town Centre Graffiti</b></p> <p>C Fox advised the Forum a contractor had been appointed and due to commence week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Due to the weather, it was not safe to commence any earlier.</p>
6.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>C Fox advised that the issue on recycling bins in Coalisland Town Centre, had been passed to Mark McAdoo Head of Environmental Services to liaise with Cllr O'Neill.</p> <p><b>Action: C Fox to liaise with Mark McAdoo</b></p> <p>Forum queried information available regarding business grants. C Fox encouraged all Traders to register through the business directory found on the MUDC website.</p> <p>Forum members discussed the starting time of summer meetings and it was proposed to include on Agenda at next meeting.</p>
7.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 @ 5.30pm.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Meeting Duration</b>  Meeting ended at 6.15pm</p>

**Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting**  
**Monday 15 June 2020 at 5.30pm**  
**Microsoft Teams**

**Present**

Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Dermot McGirr	Translink NI
Patrick Anderson	Dept for Communities
Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents Association
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union

**In Attendance**

Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council

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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020</b></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Doris  Seconded by U Marshall and agreed: -</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>																

3.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Rates</b> C Fox updated that the consultation on Rates Review was now complete.</p> <p><b>Brackaville Bus Shelter</b> Cllr Doris reported that discussion was ongoing as the location of bus shelter has yet to be decided.</p>
4.	<p><b>Coalisland Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Coalisland Events</b> M Browne (Head of Tourism MUDC) provided an update on the proposed new format of the Halloween and Christmas Events. With the current Covid-19 guidelines there is a need to organise events in an engaging format to include social distancing measures. The focus currently is to work up proposals that would be appropriate for the event and meeting current social distancing guidelines. It is suggested that the events group, that have worked closely with Council over the past number of years, is reconvened to look at possible options.</p> <p><b>Action: O Donnelly to organize a meeting with events group to look at possible options for Halloween and Christmas Events.</b></p> <p>R O'Neill asked if there is potential in holding a 'Bloom' style event where local residents work together and carry out planting of the town, possibly engaging with local businesses. This would be similar to other areas such as Donaghmore and Fivemiletown. O Donnelly updated that he had organised for Michael Callaghan, from Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce, to come and speak with the Coalisland Connects Group on the 31<sup>st</sup> March but due to the Covid -19 situation this was postponed. This could be revisited at a later stage once restrictions relax.</p> <p><b>Action: O Donnelly to organise for M Callaghan to speak to Coalisland Connects group once lockdown restrictions ease.</b></p> </li> <li> <p><b>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</b></p> <p>R O'Neill raised the issue that the current Coalisland Town Boundary would need addressed. It doesn't allow for certain businesses to be eligible for certain funding programmes as they fall outside the area. F McKeown updated that the issue has been raised and is currently being addressed in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <p>Cllr Quinn suggested two ideas to assist businesses once they re-open. The first one is a tailored social media/video campaign on what each individual shop offers and promote this via social media channels. Secondly, where local businesses could offer discount across an online platform, offering the consumer an alternative and greater options through local businesses.</p> <p>A McCreesh reiterated that there will be no mass gatherings at Council events as was the case in previous years. He also stated that the current Mid Ulster Council</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Plan is near finalised and that there is a need to resource this with Council submitting an application to DFC to facilitate this. There is an urgent need for this funding as retail premises are currently in process of reopening. All guidance was set out by the Department for Communities and Council adhered to the guidelines set. A McCreesh also advised that a submission had also been sent the DAERA Minister to support businesses in rural areas. P Anderson stated that Council had submitted an extensive Expression of Interest into the Department for consideration.</p> <p>F Molloy raised the issue of the land on the former Railway Line. There needs to be something done to bring this into use as there are local community and voluntary organisations who would be willing to do projects on this site. A McCreesh stated that there were previously well know issues on this land that had been found difficult to get around. Cllr Doris advised that Council was taking a report to the P &amp; R committee and suggested that Council write to the Housing Association once again to get a resolution to the matter.</p> <p><b>Action: A McCreesh to liaise with Community Development Team in Council in relation to lands on old Railway Line.</b></p> <p>M Leavey updated that the Public Realm Scheme is back up and going. Work will commence on Main Street and Lineside which will mean that there is a requirement for a one-way system along Main Street and Lineside. Works are also to commence on the area adjacent to Newell Stores as NIE need to upgrade their network in preparation for the Gortgonis project commencing.</p> <p>Fox Contracts are to carry out a letter drop to local businesses and residents to inform them of the work schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment</b></li> </ul> <p>M Leavey updated that due to Covid-19 this had an implication on planning and the discussions with DfI in regard to the road layout into the site for the school and Council projects. This will now be progressed as soon as possible.</p> <p>F Molloy raised the point that the delay in this project was holding other projects being developed.</p>
5.	<p><b>Covid-19 Town Centre Recovery Plan</b></p> <p>R O'Neill suggested that there is a need for guidance and support for businesses on what measures they need in place when opening up and adhering to social distancing measures.</p> <p>F McKeown updated that there will be a section on Council's website specifically for retailers to provide guidance on social distancing measures. There will also be sample posters for businesses to print off to put up in the shops. Guidance is being provided through Environmental Health on what business owners should have in place for their customers. There are also a number of Programmes that are currently open for businesses to apply in to, details of which are on Council's</p>

	<p>website. The Recovery plan is due to be presented to Council in July and there is a need to resource this via an application to DFC.</p> <p><b>Action: C Fox to forward details of Councils Business Support Programmes and information on the Business Directory to the Forum.</b></p> <p>U Marshall raised the issue that any works on streets should take into consideration wider needs such as those with disabilities when planning any works to pavements etc to cater for social distancing. Guidance had been sent to Councils Corporate Policy &amp; Equality Officer on this.</p> <p>F Molloy suggested a shop window competition could be rolled out. A similar competition was previously held during Christmas with the support of local newspapers.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Discussion took place with regard to times of meetings going forward. It was agreed the next meeting should be held earlier in the day such as 12.30pm.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 @ 12.30pm</b> via Microsoft Teams</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Meeting Duration</b></p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.55pm</p>

**Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting**  
**Monday 6 July 2020 at 12.30pm**  
**Microsoft Teams**

**Present**

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Dermot McGirr	Translink NI
Patrick Anderson	Dept. for Communities

**In Attendance**

Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
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<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Cllr Doris Vice Chair welcomed everyone the meeting and took the role of Chair.</p>																								
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 15 June 2020</b></p> <p>Proposed by U Marshall  Seconded by P Anderson and agreed: -</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>																								

4.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 15 June 2020</b></p> <p>P Anderson updated that there is interest in the site behind Torrent View with 2 parties. Due to staff being furloughed there will be no progress until end of July. There are plans to re-fence the entire site and to also remove the plant machinery that is currently located on the lands.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop a new Business Support Programme funded by DfC. Council have put in a request to move the normal red line boundary for DfC applications and await DfC response.</p>
5.	<p><b>Coalisland Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme – BT Phone box</b></p> <p>The phone box located at Landis is currently out of use and unsightly. Cllr Doris asked if there was any issue that it could be removed.</p> <p>Cllr Colvin updated that they had not heard anything from residents and perhaps a check could be done with Cllr Kerr and Cllr Quinn.</p> <p>O Donnelly read out an email sent in from Chair Raymond O Neill who was unable to attend the meeting. It stated that 3 businesses reported to Raymond that during the one-way system imposed on Main Street over the last 2 weeks that their sales are down approximately 33%. Raymond was concerned that this was an ominous signs of things to come.</p> <p>Cllr Colvin said that he felt it was a little early to say if traffic on a one-way system would cause a problem.</p> <p>Patrick Anderson said that in the future there would also be new parking with 12 extra spaces on Main Street.</p> <p>U Marshall asked for the dimensions of the disabled parking bays as in her experience some disabled bays are not big enough for some vehicles.</p> <p><b>Action: M Leavey is to confirm the size of the parking bays across the scheme and update at next meeting.</b></p> <p>M Leavey updated that the work is continuing on Main Street and on Barrack Street from 14 July 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked as to the construct of the seating on Lineside. M Leavey updated that the seating was made of granite.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment</b></p> <p>M Leavey updated that there is a meeting with DfI Roads Service with regard to the right run into the Gortgonis site. This meeting will be held 24<sup>th</sup> July and M Leavey will provide an update at the next town Centre Forum Meeting.</p> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Events – Halloween &amp; Christmas 2020</b></li> </ul> <p>M Browne said that a report is going to Council on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July with regard to proposals for the Halloween and Coalisland Events this year. The current guidance on mass gatherings is potentially going to be relaxed so the events will be reviewed on a continuous basis.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked about the budget allocated to the Newell 10K event and if this can be re allocated to the Halloween and Christmas Events. M Browne updated that that budget was re-allocated to a central Covid19 response from Council.</p>
6.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Cllr Doris mentioned that the Dungannon Herald had raised the possibility of Council sponsoring a shop front window competition. O Donnelly stated that in previous years a local newspaper drove this and was usually organized in conjunction with the local traders.</p> <p>M Leavey updated on a meeting regarding recent flooding in the town. NI Water and other agencies are in the process of investigating potential issues with their systems and a further meeting will be held in the next few weeks.</p> <p>C McKenna updated on the current programme of installation of the full fibre network for Coalisland town.</p> <p><b>Action: C McKenna to send on full details to Cllr Doris.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Meeting Duration</b></p> <p>Meeting ended at 13.35pm</p>

### Appendix 3

**MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM**  
**MONDAY 4 November 2019 AT 5:30PM**  
**MAGHERAFELT OFFICES,**  
**MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Present:**

Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Brown	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Robin Kennedy	Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce
Jack Keatley	Magherafelt Trustees
Gareth Thomas	Meadowlane Shopping Centre

**In Attendance:**

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
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**Apologies:**

Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Shauna McCloskey	Mid Ulster PCSP
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Sinead McAvoy	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME</b>  The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  <u>Car Parking Charges</u> D McCartney reported a pilot of pay on foot in Central Car Park, Magherafelt is to be carried out before any changes are made.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  Minutes of previous meeting 3 June 2019 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: Cllr Brown Seconded by Cllr Clarke	

<b>3.</b>	<b>2019 Review of Business Rates - Consultation</b>  Papers circulated previously on 2019 Review of Business Rates was discussed. One amendment was to reduce business rates and increase VAT to raise alternative income.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>TOWN CENTRE EVENTS UPDATE</b>  D McCartney provided an update on the Christmas Market and Lights Switch on events taking place on 23 & 24 November.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Enterprise Week 18-22 November 2019</b>  D McCartney provided an update on the Enterprise week events planned from 18 – 22 November 2019.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>REGENERATION MANAGER REPORT</b>  D McCartney updated on the previously circulated Regeneration Managers Report.  <b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b> A variety of branded promotional materials have been purchased and continue to be distributed as per the implementation plan at town centre events.  <b>Business Support / Attracting Investment</b> <u>Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project</u> The project aims to enhance the work being developed in Seamus Heaney HomePlace through the development of a series of experiences for visitors to Seamus Heaney HomeGround. FP McCann have been appointed to undertake the Capital works and Tandem to carry out the interpretative works.  <b>Town Centre Events</b> <u>Tafelta Festival</u> The Tafelta Festival took place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June.  <u>Magherafelt Christmas Market &amp; Christmas Lights Switch On</u> Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November 2019.  <b>Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure</b> <u>Rural Regeneration Projects</u> Work has been completed on all Phase 1 projects. Phase 2 projects in Ballymaguigan, Knockloughrim, Curran, Tamlaght O'Crilly, Culnady and Innisrush are underway.	

	<p><u>Public Art Piece – Castledawson Roundabout</u> Officers are continuing to work with Department of Infrastructure (Roads) on the installation of a Public Art Piece on the pedestrian bridge at the Castledawson Roundabout. An update on this was requested for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Magherafelt Revitalisation Project</u> Department for Communities awarded Mid Ulster District Council £160,706 to upgrade the Pedestrian Linkages from Union Road and Central Car Parks to Broad Street, Magherafelt. The project which included upgraded lighting, surfacing and graffiti removal is now complete..</p> <p><u>Mid Ulster Shop Front Scheme</u> Council has approved the provision of a new Business Spruce Up Scheme for towns and villages across the district, as classified within Mid Ulster's Draft Local Development Plan 2030. Applications have now closed and are being assessed.</p> <p><u>Town Centre Enhancement Schemes</u> A number of sites across the five towns that require intervention to address their physical appearance have been identified.</p> <p>Two projects in Magherafelt have been identified (Church Street &amp; Rainey Street). Officers are currently seeking permission from the Property Owners to carry out the works. If the Rainey Street project does not go ahead it was suggested the area where the toilets were removed could be tidied up.</p>	
6.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>R Kennedy stated he has been approached about the former Maghera High School site and the potential loss of 2 giant redwood's on the site.</p> <p>R Kennedy asked if the lights in Greenvale Leisure Centre could be changed to more energy efficient lights. R Kennedy stated there was in issue of parking at Greenvale Leisure Centre and enquired if enforcement could be investigated to stop people parking on the footpaths.</p> <p>W Brown highlighted there will be a part time taxi stand outside Bank of Ireland in the evenings.</p>	

<b>8.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	To be circulated.	

Meeting ended 6:20pm

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**MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM**  
**MONDAY 6 JULY 2020 AT 5:30PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Shauna McCloskey	Mid Ulster PCSP
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Marcus Finlay	PSNI
Mark Stewart	Vintners Representative

**In Attendance:**

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council

**Apologies:**

Councillor Brown	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Frances Bradley	Escape Beauty
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME</b>  The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  None	

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  Minutes of previous meeting 4 November 2019 were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: Cllr Brown Seconded by Cllr Clarke	<b>Note</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Draft Town Centre Recovery Plan</b>  D McCartney highlighted the 4 themes within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan and proposed actions subject to funding being secured from Department for Communities. U Marshall highlighted the need to be mindful of people who are visually impaired or who use walking aids when considering the Pavement Café applications and that traders need to be aware of their responsibilities. Meetings with Environmental Health have satisfied the Disability Forum that Council have mitigated against these concerns in a positive way.  U Marshall raised concerns about the fact public toilets were not open yet and this needs addressed.  P McLean stated as the civic space in Magherafelt was not a footpath there should be no issues with this area as a pavement café space.  P McLean stated the footpaths have a lot of chewing gum and requested the gum buster is used to remedy this.  P McLean highlighted the poor condition of the footpaths on Rainey Street. D McCartney to get an update from DfI Roads about proposed works.  Members stated there was full support for any grant scheme rolled out under the Town Centre Recovery Plan.	<b>Note</b>  <b>Note</b>  <b>Note</b>  <b>Note</b>  <b>MUDC</b>  <b>MUDC</b>  <b>Note</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  P McLean asked if there was any update on the proposed pilot scheme for Central Carpark. D McCartney to follow up with Property Services.	<b>MUDC</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  To be circulated.	

Meeting ended 6:10pm

## Appendix 4

### MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7PM WALSH'S HOTEL, MAGHERA

**Present:**

Cllr Brian McGuigan	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Jonathan Crawford	Crawford's
Una Morgan	The Dugout Bar
Cathy O'Neill	Walsh's Hotel
Kieran Bradley	Walsh's Hotel
James Armour	Maghera Heritage Association
Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council
Sandra Hyndman	Maghera Traders Association

**In Attendance:**

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council
Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council

**Apologies:**

Cllr Martin Kearney	Mid Ulster District Council
Kate Lagan	Maghera Development Association
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Colin McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Conor Molloy	Watty Graham's GAC
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Conal McKee	DfI Roads

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME</b> Cllr McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of Maghera Town Centre Forum.
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17 JUNE 2019</b> Proposed by Una Morgan Seconded by Cllr S McPeake and AGREED  That the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 June 2019 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b> None

<b>4.</b>	<p><b>MAGHERA PUBLIC REALM SCHEME</b></p> <p>M Leavey delivered a presentation on the most recent proposals for Maghera Public Realm Scheme. Discussion about the current proposals followed:</p> <p>Further discussions will be held with Translink as the project develops.  Impact of scheme on car parking numbers will be confirmed at design stage.  Need for parking restrictions to be imposed outside Chapel on Upper Main Street was highlighted.  Enhancements to alleyway fro St Lurachs Road will be completed as part of the scheme.  The finishes will be decided after the Economic Appraisal is completed and the funding package is secured.  Need for right hand turning lane on Coleraine Road into filling station was highlighted.  Vesting and demolishing buildings is not within the remit of theis scheme.  Focus of funding is on improving the pedestrian experience.  Need to look for other car parking solutions was highlighted.  Need to consider traffic calming at Primary School on Glen Road due to increased flows due to the proposed one way system.  Former PSNI Station is being developed as part of the leisure centre.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>2019 REVIEW OF BUSINESS RATES</b></p> <p>Previously circulates paper was discussed.  Include reference to need to take into account online sales / purchases.  Remove reference to sports clubs from response.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>MAGHERA CHRISTMAS EVENT</b></p> <p>D McCartney gave an update on the Christmas Lights Switch On event planned for Saturday 30 November 2019 from 3pm – 6pm.</p> <p>J Armour stated Maghera Heritage Association are planning to do a vintage parade through Maghera on 30 November also.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>ENTERPRISE WEEK 18 – 22 NOVEMBER 2019</b></p> <p>D McCartney provided an update on the Enterprise week events planned from 18 – 22 November 2019.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be the AGM of Maghera Town Centre Forum.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>To be circulated.</p>

**MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM**  
**WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020 AT 6PM**

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Present:**

Cllr Brian McGuigan	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Martin Kearney	Mid Ulster District Council
Jonathan Crawford	Crawford's
Una Morgan	The Dugout Bar
Cathy O'Neill	Walsh's Hotel
Gary Burns	Maghera Development Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

**In Attendance:**

Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council

**Apologies:**

Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
James Armour	Maghera Heritage Association
Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME</b> Cllr McGuigan welcomed everyone to the meeting of Maghera Town Centre Forum.
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 6 November 2019</b> Proposed by Cllr C Corry Seconded by Cllr S McPeake and AGREED  That the minutes of the previous meeting on 6 November 2019 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b> Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic Maghera Public Realm Scheme is on hold until further consultation can be carried out in line with Government Guidance.
<b>4.</b>	<b>DRAFT TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PLAN</b> D McCartney highlighted the 4 themes within the draft Town Centre Recovery Plan and proposed actions subject to funding being secured from Department for Communities.

	<p>U Marshall highlighted the need to be mindful of people who are visually impaired or who use walking aids when considering the Pavement Café applications and that traders need to be aware of their responsibilities. Meetings with Environmental Health have satisfied the Disability Forum that Council have mitigated against these concerns in a positive way.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan highlighted guidance had been agreed at Environment Committee on Tuesday 7 July regarding pavement café licencing and the need to maintain a minimum of 1.5m from the kerb. Each application will be looked at on a case by case basis.</p> <p>U Morgan highlighted there was very little space in Maghera to accommodate pavement cafes.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan stated this was being looked at by the Minister and the need to design town centres to accommodate pavement cafes in the future.</p> <p>U Marshall raised concerns about the fact public toilets were not open yet and this needs addressed.</p> <p>Cllr Kearney said there was some very positive news for the hospitality industry with the announcement of the voucher scheme.</p> <p>U Morgan stated this does not help all hospitality businesses only those with food and accommodation – wet bars do not yet have an opening date.</p> <p>Patrick Anderson highlighted the funding package that was being put together by Department for Communities. The package has not been fully agreed yet but it will consist of £10m over the 11 Councils for settlements over 5,000. DAERA are looking at contributing towards this package for the rural areas and DfC are awaiting this decision.</p> <p>G Burns asked if the grants would fund items retrospectively as a lot of businesses are open and have made adjustments already. D McCartney stated the grants are unlikely to cover items retrospectively.</p> <p>Members felt the local businesses who had supported the community during the pandemic should be rewarded and the gift card scheme was seen as a very positive way of doing this.</p>
7.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Cllr McPeake asked for an update on the Full Fibre Project. C McKenna stated the Project Stratum tender was currently being assessed and should be ready to begin roll out early autumn. The full Fibre project linking Council sites will be rolled out between September and March.</p> <p>D McCartney highlighted that Fibrus were going to begin works in late July to roll out fibre to the home in Maghera. Further information to be sent to members when it is available.</p>

	<p>Cllr McGuigan stated this is all very good news for Maghera.</p> <p>C O'Neill said she wanted to put on record her thanks for the Council's Tourism Section during the Covid 19 pandemic that the information and support provided had been invaluable.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>To be circulated.</p>

