



14 February 2019

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 14 February 2019 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation - Breakthru

Matters for Decision

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Matters for Information

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Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

20. Dungannon Leisure Centre Refurbishment Plan
21. Coalisland Town Centre Forum – Proposed Membership
22. Capital Discretionary Grant
23. Seamus Heaney HomePlace US visit update
24. Request for Support of NEST project Bellaghy Village
Regeneration

Matters for Information

25. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10
January 2019

Report on	1) Invest NI Letter of Offer - Gearing for Growth Programme 2) Invest NI Letter of Offer - Transform Programme 3) Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 4) Celebration of Mid Ulster's New Business Starts 5) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Final Evaluation Report on Phase 2 6) Magherafelt Town Centre Wi-Fi 7) Brexit Working Group Terms of Reference 8) Broadband Working Group Minutes 9) Strategic Review of Council's Economic Development Online Services to Businesses 10) Department of Finance re Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses 11) Department for Infrastructure re Sewerage Treatment Works 12) Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster - 'A New Deal for Northern Ireland' 13) City/Growth Deals
Date of Meeting	14 February 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Invest NI Letter of Offer: Gearing for Growth Programme</p> <p>In May 2018, Members approved the submission of 4 applications from Council to the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for the delivery of 4 business support programmes (2018-22). This included a 'Gearing for Growth Programme', at a total cost of up to £407,100 with potential grant aid of 80%.</p> <p>The Gearing for Growth Programme seeks to deliver a range of supports in key business areas to stimulate the growth of 250 micro and small businesses which could demonstrate the capacity for job creation. The application sought to contribute towards the creation of 375 jobs by the completion of the Programme in December 2022. A Seminar was also included as part of the Programme and will be available to all micro and small businesses across Mid Ulster.</p>

2.2	<p>Invest NI Letter of Offer: Transform Programme</p> <p>In May 2018, Members approved the submission of 4 applications from Council to the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for the delivery of 4 business support programmes (2018-2022). This included a 'Transform Programme', at a total cost of up to £264,200 with potential grant aid of 80%.</p> <p>The Transform Programme application sought to build the capacity of 130 micro and small businesses by December 2022 through the provision of a detailed Business Review and up to 5 days' support and contribute to the creation of 195 jobs. A Seminar was included as part of the Programme and will be available to all micro and small businesses across Mid Ulster.</p>
2.3	<p>Renewal of Membership with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a business network with a membership circ. 1,200 businesses representing over 100,000 employees. Mid Ulster District Council has been a member for the last two years.</p>
2.4	<p>Celebration of Mid Ulster Business Starts</p> <p>Officers, in conjunction with local enterprise partners, are organising an event on Tuesday 19 March 2019 which will provide a unique opportunity for Mid Ulster's new business starts who received assistance from the 'Go for It' Programme to showcase their products / services, and also to profile the support on offer from the 'Go for It' Programme to those considering self-employment.</p>
2.5	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Final Evaluation Report on Phase 2</p> <p>In March 2018, Council approval was granted to deliver Phase 2 (the reserve list) of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme. The scheme offered businesses/commercial properties grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. The villages eligible to apply are based upon the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'strategic settlement evaluation – position paper', with the additional village of Moygashel. In total, the delivery of Phase 2 of the scheme is £156,000 which is inclusive of the grant aid and the services of a Chartered Architect to manage the overall delivery of the scheme.</p>
2.6	<p>Magherafelt Town Centre Wi-Fi</p> <p>The provision of a free Wi-Fi service is in place across the five towns in the district. In Magherafelt free Wi-Fi was provided in 2013 within the town centre boundary of Magherafelt. This facility has been widely utilised by various clientele including businesses, visitors and students etc. The Wi-Fi project implemented a wireless network in the main retail core, providing web access for 'on the go' users.</p>
2.7	<p>Brexit Working Group</p> <p>At the Development Committee in September 2018, it was recommended that 10 Members be nominated to serve on the Brexit Working Group, based on the D'hondt system as follows; 10 Members – 5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP. This recommendation was subsequently ratified by Council in September 2018 and Members were asked to forward their nominations to the Head of Economic Development by the end of September 2018.</p>

2.8	<p>Broadband Working Group</p> <p>A new Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group has been established to deal with all matters related to improving Broadband provision in the Mid Ulster area.</p>
2.9	<p>Strategic Review of Council's Economic Development Online Services to Businesses</p> <p>In 2017/2018 a scoping study was completed by OLI (Outside Looking In) of economic development online services. The scoping study contained a range of recommendations for consideration to improve online services to businesses.</p>
2.10	<p>Department of Finance re Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses</p> <p>At the Development Committee in December 2018, it was recommended that Council write to the Permanent Secretary for Finance and ask if there is any intention to bring in rates relief for town centre businesses, similar to the model in England, Scotland and Wales, recently announced by the Chancellor.</p>
2.11	<p>Department for Infrastructure re Water and Sewerage Issues</p> <p>At the Development Committee in December 2018, it was recommended that Council write to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Infrastructure and ask that a meeting be arranged with Council representatives to discuss concerns regarding funding initiatives regarding water and sewerage.</p>
2.12	<p>Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster - A New Deal for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Correspondence received in the form of a joint letter from the CEO's of Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster, dated 17 December 2018, enclosing report entitled 'A New Deal for Northern Ireland' available at https://bit.ly/2B9Cf21</p>
2.13	<p>City/Growth Deals</p> <p>At the January 2019 meeting, Members were advised that research being undertaken by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre was nearing completion and the Report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee, when finalised.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Invest NI Letter of Offer - Gearing for Growth Programme</p> <p>Invest NI has approved Council's application (at a slightly reduced figure) and issued a Letter of Offer to Council for 80% (ie, £316,160) of the total value of £395,200.</p> <p>The Programme's performance indicators outlined in the Letter of Offer (Appendix 1) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council will use all reasonable endeavours to create at least 250 jobs by November 2023 ▪ Council will use all reasonable endeavours to generate at least 25 quality referrals to Invest NI <p>Due to the Programme's value it will be advertised in the OJEU and, as required by Invest NI, the procurement process will be managed by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), who will provide advice and guidance to Council Officers during the process.</p>

3.2

Invest NI Letter of Offer - Transform Programme

Invest NI has approved the Council's application (at a slightly reduced figure), with enhanced targets of 160 businesses to be supported and 230 jobs to be created, and issued a Letter of Offer to Council for 80% (ie, £210,400) of the new total value of £263,000.

The Programme's performance indicators outlined in the Letter of Offer (**Appendix 2**) include:

- Council will use all reasonable endeavours to create at least 230 jobs by November 2023
- Council will use all reasonable endeavours to generate at least 15 quality referrals to Invest NI

Due to the Programme's value it will be advertised in the OJEU and, as required by Invest NI, the procurement process will be managed by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), who will provide advice and guidance to Council Officers during the process.

In summary, the value of Letters of Offer now received for the four business programmes to be delivered by Council by December 2022, with match funding from Invest NI and ERDF are as follows:

Programme	Total Programme Cost (100%)	Council Funding (20%)	ERDF / Invest NI Funding (80%)
Tender Ready	261,200	52,240	208,960
Digital First	268,500	53,700	214,800
Gearing for Growth	395,200	79,040	316,160
Transform	263,000	52,600	210,400
Total	£1,187,900	£237,580	£950,320

This suite of business programmes valued at £1,187,900 will provide a support package to 690 micro/small businesses throughout Mid Ulster until 2022.

3.3

Renewal of Membership with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce

Membership renewal is now due (**Appendix 3**) for the period of January 2019 – December 2019 at a cost of £2,500+Vat.

The benefits for the Council are:

- Chamber has a global network, links into UK Chamber & its business membership of circ. 1200 businesses.
- Actively represents members' interests at the highest political level
- Provides a quarterly magazine of current business affairs
- Monthly newsletter update on what's happening in business in NI
- Organises monthly Business events throughout NI

Benefits specific to Mid Ulster during 2018/19:

- Editorial promoting Mid Ulster Skills Forum included in Spring 2018 edition of Chamber's 'Ambition' magazine.
- Chamber held a successful networking business event at the Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon on 6 June 2018. There were over 90 businesses from across NI represented.
- MUDC attended Heathrow Business Summit (NI) event on 20 June 2018.

	<p>Heathrow had collaborated with NI Chamber to deliver this in Northern Ireland. Post event there has been ongoing engagement with all Councils to grow a network of SMEs and provide the local SMEs with an opportunity to connect and trade face-to-face with Heathrow's supply chain, forging links with some of the UK's largest organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber has been a regular source for information, advice and support when needed throughout the year, eg, brexit, skills, etc.
3.4	<p>Celebration of Mid Ulster's Business Starts</p> <p>Mid Ulster is currently the most entrepreneurial region in NI. It is essential that we support our new business starts and encourage others to consider self-employment as a viable career option. To this end, Mid Ulster District Council in association with the local enterprise agency network will host a 'Celebration Event' to showcase a cross section of Mid Ulster's recent business starts. In addition to this, providers will be on-hand to lend practical support to those considering setting up a new business and of course promote the free services available on Council's 'Go for It' Programme.</p> <p>The event will take place on <i>Tuesday 19 March 2019 from 3pm – 8pm in the Burnavon Theatre, Burn Road, Cookstown</i>. Event arrangements are being worked up and further details will be circulated to Members when finalised.</p>
3.5	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Final Evaluation Report on Phase 2</p> <p>To receive Final Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 2 (Reserve List) (Appendix 4)</p>
3.6	<p>Magherafelt Town Centre Wi-Fi</p> <p>The infrastructure for the provision of a free Wi-Fi Service has been in-situ in Magherafelt town centre for a period of five years. It is now an opportune time to review and upgrade the provision of a free Wi-Fi service in Magherafelt town centre.</p> <p>Quotations are being sought to appoint a company to review, deliver, implement and provide on-going management for a period of 5 years from suitably qualified suppliers. A budget of up to £25,000 has been earmarked for the project from within Council's economic development budget.</p>
3.7	<p>Brexit Working Group</p> <p>In September 2018, Council agreed to establish a Brexit Working Group and nominations be sought for 10 Members to serve on the Group, based on the D'Hondt system, which equates to the following membership from each party (5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP). Nominations were received as follows;</p> <p>SF Cllr C Elatter Cllr M Gillespie Cllr S McGuigan Cllr S McPeake Cllr D Molloy</p> <p>DUP Cllr P McLean Cllr W Robinson</p>

	<p>UUP Cllr W Cuddy Cllr T Wilson</p> <p>SDLP Cllr M Kearney</p> <p>The new Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group met for the first time on Monday 26 November 2018. A Terms of Reference for the group was agreed by those present at the meeting, and is attached on Appendix 5, and approval is sought for same.</p> <p>Members of the Development Committee will be kept updated on progress, by sharing the minutes of meetings from the Brexit Working Group.</p>
3.8	<p>Broadband Working Group Initial meetings have taken place of the Broadband Working Group on Monday 10 September 2018 and Thursday 18 October 2018. Minutes of the meetings are attached for information on Appendices 6 and 7.</p>
3.9	<p>Strategic Review of Council's Economic Development Online Services to Businesses Work is well advanced with the Communications team in creating a new section on Council's website to make it more engaging, user friendly and meet customer needs. Costings have been obtained for professional support for this work and provision of £15,000 has been made in the economic development budget in the 2018/19 financial year to complete the project by 31 March 2019.</p>
3.10	<p>Department of Finance re Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses As requested at a previous meeting, Council has written to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance to ask if there is any intention to bring in rates relief for town centre businesses, similar to the model in England, Scotland and Wales, recently announced by the Chancellor (Appendix 8). A response from the Permanent Secretary dated 23 January 2019 is attached (Appendix 9) advising that;</p> <p><i>"On foot of the Chancellor's position, Northern Ireland has been allocated funds through Barnett Consequentials. The additional revenue received as part of that process will be unhypothecated within the budgetary process. Any decisions in relation to Northern Ireland will be taken in the context of the wider public finance and policy position.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to wider business rating policy, the Department is planning to go out to consultation later this year. That process will seek views on potential future options available for longer-term small business rate relief policy. The findings of that consultation will inform advice to be provided to incoming Ministers on this issue".</i></p>
3.11	<p>Department for Infrastructure re Sewerage Treatment Works As requested at a previous meeting, Council has written to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure, asking that a meeting be arranged with Council representatives to discuss concerns regarding funding initiatives regarding Water and Sewerage (Appendix 10). An email acknowledgement from the Permanent Secretary's office, dated 14 January 2019 is attached (Appendix 11) advising <i>"the issues raised are being considered and a reply will issue shortly"</i>.</p>

3.12	<p>Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster – ‘A New Deal for Northern Ireland’</p> <p>A joint letter from the CEO’s of Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster was received, dated 17 December 2018, enclosing Report entitled ‘A New Deal for Northern Ireland’. Letter enclosed on Appendix 12 and Report accessible at https://bit.ly/2B9Cf21</p> <p>The letter asks Council to freeze or consider reducing the district rate on non-domestic properties. The CEO’s, Messrs Roberts, Kelly and Neill, advise their members are experiencing huge uncertainty with Brexit, combined with slow economic growth and rising running costs and call upon Council not to add to their members’ financial burdens by increasing business rates.</p>
3.13	<p>City/Growth Deals</p> <p>As discussed at the January 2019 meeting, Members are advised the Report prepared by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre on the City Deal Regional Analysis, entitled “Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baselines and Outlook” has now been completed and the final report is enclosed (Appendix 13) for information.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Invest NI Letter of Offer: Gearing for Growth Programme Total programme cost £395,200. This includes 80% grant aid (£316,160) from Invest NI / ERDF and 20% Council match funding (£79,040) over the period to March 2023 approved by Council in June 2018</p> <p>Invest NI Letter of Offer: Transform Programme Total programme cost £263,000. This includes 80% grant aid (£210,400) from Invest NI / ERDF and 20% Council match funding (£52,600) over the period to March 2023 approved by Council in June 2018</p> <p>Renewal of Membership with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce NI Chamber of Commerce Membership Renewal costs (for period 1 Jan 2019-31 Dec 2019) is £2,500+Vat, provision made from within economic development budget.</p> <p>Magherafelt Wi-Fi An estimated budget of up to £25,000 has been set aside within the economic development budget until the quotations are returned and assessed and the exact cost known.</p> <p>Strategic Review of Council’s Economic Development Online Services to Businesses- A single tender action was approved to allow an existing supplier to carry out this work at a cost of £15,000 (excl. Vat) to be paid from Council’s Economic Development Budget.</p> <p>Human: Officer time.</p>

	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Invest NI Letters of Offer: Gearing for Growth and Transform Programmes Both the Gearing for Growth Programme and the Transform Programme are scheduled to deliver support to 250 and 160 businesses respectively, until December 2022 and contribute to the creation of 480 jobs. While Invest NI's Letters of Offer commits funding of up to 80% towards each, this offer has been issued in line with existing legislation at time of issue. The relevant legislation which will apply post-Brexit is currently not known. Given the potential risks surrounding future EU funding, the Council will include a Clause in the Contract documentation to enable the Contract delivery to be reviewed/ended (if necessary), should funding be withdrawn or reduced, in a way which will minimise impact on programme beneficiaries,</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>5.1 Invest NI Letter of Offer: Gearing for Growth Programme a) Accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 8 January 2019) for the Gearing for Growth Programme offering up to £316,160 (80%) grant towards total programme costs of £395,200 (including expenses and excluding vat), following which the Letter of Offer will be presented for sealing at the next Statutory Council meeting.</p> <p>b) Approve Officers to work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Gearing for Growth Programme.</p> <p>5.2 Invest NI Letter of Offer: Transform Programme a) Accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 8 January 2019) for the Transform Programme offering up to £210,400 (80%) grant towards total programme costs of £263,000 (including expenses and excluding vat), following which the Letter of Offer will be presented for sealing at the next Statutory Council meeting.</p> <p>b) Approve Officers to work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Transform Programme.</p> <p>5.3 Renewal of Membership with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce Approve Corporate Membership of NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry costing £2,500+Vat for the period of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.</p> <p>5.4 Celebration of Mid Ulster Business Starts Note event on 19 March 2019 from 3pm to 8pm in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown.</p> <p>5.5 Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Final Evaluation Report on Phase 2 Note Final Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Phase 2 (the Reserve List).</p>

5.6	Magherafelt Town Centre Wi-Fi Note progress.
5.7	Brexit Working Group Approve the Brexit Working Group - Terms of Reference and the membership therein.
5.8	Broadband Working Group Note progress.
5.9	Strategic Review of Council's Economic Development Online Services to Businesses Note progress.
5.10	Department of Finance re Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses Consider response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance re Rates Relief for town centre businesses.
5.11	Department for Infrastructure re Sewerage Treatment Works Note response.
5.12	Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster - A New Deal for Northern Ireland Consider request from Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster to meet with Members to discuss concerns regarding business rates.
5.13	City/Growth Deals Final Report on City Deal Regional Analysis entitled "Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baselines and Outlook" enclosed for information.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Invest NI Letter of Offer - Gearing for Growth Programme (21.1.19)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Invest NI Letter of Offer - Transform Programme (18.1.19)</p> <p>Appendix 3 – NI Chamber of Commerce - Membership Invoice</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme - Final Evaluation Report (Phase 2)</p> <p>Appendix 5 - Brexit Working Group - Terms of Reference</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Minutes of Broadband Working Group – 10.9.18</p> <p>Appendix 7 – Minutes of Broadband Working Group – 18.10.18</p> <p>Appendix 8 – Letter to Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance - Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses</p> <p>Appendix 9 – Response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance - Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses</p> <p>Appendix 10 – Letter to Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure – Sewerage Treatment Works</p>

	<p>Appendix 11 – Acknowledgement Response from Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure – Sewerage Treatment Works</p> <p>Appendix 12 – Letter from Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster – ‘A New Deal for Northern Ireland’</p> <p>Appendix 13 - Final Report on City Deal Regional Analysis entitled “Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baselines and Outlook”</p>
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21 January 2019

Ref: 101000356513

LoO Ref No: 1901/130175490

Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT
Northern Ireland

For the attention of Anthony Tohill

Dear Sir,

Re: Letter of Offer 1901/130175490 issued 21 January 2019

Please find enclosed two originals of a Letter of Offer for your consideration.

If you wish to accept the offer, you should **sign** the letter where indicated and return **one complete original Letter of Offer** to Invest NI's Financial Letters of Offer Branch, 5th Floor, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES within **THREE CALENDAR MONTHS** from the date of issue, otherwise the letter will be deemed to have been withdrawn.

It is important to note the execution requirements for the form of acceptance found on page 6 of our 'Letter of Offer'. This **must** be signed by either of the following:

A Director of the company, the Company Secretary or if you are an LLP this will be by a Member of the Company.

Definitions

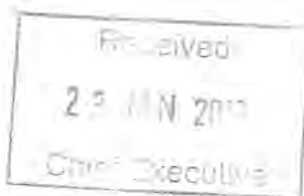
"Director" a person validly appointed as a Director of the company, who is registered as a Director of the company with Companies House. If the signatory is not a Director registered at Companies House then evidence should be provided that the signatory is an authorised person, for example, by way of a Power of Attorney or board minutes.

"Company Secretary" may be an individual or a corporate secretary as registered at Companies House. If the signatory is not a Company Secretary registered at Companies House then evidence should be provided that the signatory is an authorised person, for example, by way of a Power of Attorney or board minutes.

"Member" is a person who has been entered in the LLP company's register of members.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND



21 January 2019

Ref: 101000356513
LoO Ref No: 1901/130175490

Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT
Northern Ireland

For the attention of Anthony Tohill

Dear Sir,

PROJECT TITLE: Council EUIGJ - LED2 - Mid Ulster Gearing for Growth Programme

1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In consideration of Mid Ulster District Council ("**the Council**") entering into the agreement set out in this letter, Invest Northern Ireland ("**Invest NI**") is prepared, subject to the terms and conditions set out in this letter to make available to the Council the following Financial Assistance which may be part funded from the European Regional Development Fund ("**ERDF**") to enable the Council to implement and complete the Project (as defined in **paragraph 2** below).

- 1.1 A Local Economic Development (**LED**) resource grant (not exceeding £316,160) at a rate of 80% of vouched and approved expenditure as per the provisions in the Local Economic Development Resource Grant Annex.

2 DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS LETTER

Expressions in this letter (including the annexes) shall have the meanings set out in the Definitions Annex.

3 REFERENCES AND INCORPORATION AND INTERPRETATION OF ANNEXES

- 3.1 References to any paragraphs or sub-divisions of a paragraph are references to paragraphs and subdivisions of paragraphs in this letter. References to any enactment, including any subordinate legislation made pursuant to any enactment, are to be construed as referring also to any amendment or re-enactment thereof.
- 3.2 Any annexes to this letter shall be deemed to be incorporated in and form part of this letter and references in this letter to any provisions of this letter shall be deemed to include, where the context so admits or requires, references to provisions of the annexes.
- 3.3 For the purposes of the grant annex (or annexes) to this letter, reference to any date specified in or derived from the terms of that annex (including those specified in or derived from the definition of End Date and the definition of Completion Date) shall in each case be deemed to be a reference to the date so specified or so derived or to such later date as Invest NI may consent to in writing.

4 PRE-CONDITIONS

There are no pre-conditions relating to this letter.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

5.1 The Project

The Council shall diligently implement and complete the Project and ensure that the Financial Assistance shall be applied to the Project in accordance with the **Application**.

5.2 Financial and other information

The Council shall furnish Invest NI with the following (each to be satisfactory to Invest):

- 5.2.1 a report of progress against the Performance Indicators as set out in the Project Performance Indicators Annex, within 4 weeks of the end of each quarter;
- 5.2.2 a report of progress against the Key Actions as set out in the Project Key Actions Annex, within 4 weeks of the end of each quarter;
- 5.2.3 progress reports on the Project as and when required by Invest NI, and a final progress report on the project within 3 months after the end of the Project, such reports to be satisfactory to Invest NI;
- 5.2.4 such additional financial and other information as Invest NI may from time to time reasonably require;
- 5.2.5 such information as may be required by the Commission.

5.3 Matters Requiring Consent of Invest NI

The Council shall not, without the prior written consent of Invest NI, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld:

- 5.3.1 change the activities described in the Application Form or;
- 5.3.2 make any significant changes over the lifetime of the Project to the individual categories of expenditure, or expenditure profile or quantifiable targets; or
- 5.3.3 make any change to the Project's use, its financing or ownership; or
- 5.3.4 assign or in any way encumber any rights to receive Financial Assistance or other benefit or entitlement under this letter; or
- 5.3.5 allow any other person or company, other than the Council, to be entitled to participate in or have the benefit of the Financial Assistance or permit any commission, profit sharing or other arrangements under which any other person or company shall benefit from the Financial Assistance.

5.4 Project Manager

If a Project Manager is not already in position the Council shall appoint a Project Manager within six months from the date of issue of this letter, such Project Manager to be satisfactory to Invest NI.

5.5 State Aid

The Council shall ensure that financial or other assistance awarded to undertakings as part of the Project is done so in accordance with the European Commission's State aid regulations including, but not limited to, Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (the General Block Exemption Regulation) and Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. The Council shall comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in respect of the Project.

5.6 CPD Procurement Advice

The Council agrees to co-operate and comply with Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), in connection with the procurement process and shall adhere to Northern Ireland public procurement policy in delivering the Project. The Council shall comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in respect of the Project

5.7 Publicity

5.7.1 From the date on which this offer is accepted and throughout implementation of the Project the Client shall (a) provide on its website, a short description of the Project including its aims and results, highlighting the financial support from the EU, (b) ensure the EU logo is visible on at least one electronic platform without scrolling and with the device at optimal resolution, on either a page specific to the Project or on the home page of the Client, and (c) place an A3 poster with information about the Project at a location readily visible to the public, such as the entrance of the building in which the Project is undertaken. In addition, the Client shall ensure that those taking part in the Project shall be informed of this funding.

5.7.2 From the date on which this offer is accepted and throughout implementation of the Project, any information and communication measures or documents provided by the Client to the public in respect of the Project shall display (a) the emblem of the European Union together with a reference to the Union and (b) a reference to the European Regional Development Fund.

6 DEFAULT

Any of the following circumstances shall constitute an Event of Default:

- 6.1 in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI, the Project has been abandoned;
- 6.2 any information provided by the Council or any staff of the Council to Invest NI in support of the Council's Application for the Financial Assistance, or otherwise in connection with the purposes or conditions of this letter, is misleading, incomplete or incorrect in any respect which is Material to Invest NI;
- 6.3 the Council fails to pay or repay to Invest NI any sum due to Invest NI when it becomes due under this letter or otherwise;
- 6.4 any Financial Assistance paid to the Council under the terms and conditions of this letter is used by the Council for any purpose other than eligible expenditure in relation to implementation of the Project;
- 6.5 it appears to Invest NI that the Project is unlikely to be completed, that the Project has not been implemented as per the Application, the Project Key Actions have not been achieved;
- 6.6 the Council is in breach of any of its obligations under this letter and such breach is incapable of remedy or, if capable of remedy, remains unremedied for a period of 30 days after written notice by Invest NI. (For the purposes of this provision, where an obligation specifies a time within which or by which a thing is to be done, a breach of that obligation shall not be treated as incapable of remedy for the reason only that the thing is not done within or by the specified time);
- 6.7 a receiver is appointed of any of the Council's assets or undertaking or if circumstances arise which entitle a court of competent jurisdiction or a creditor to appoint a receiver or manager of the Council or if any other person takes possession of or sells the Council's assets;
- 6.8 the Council proposes or enters into a voluntary arrangement or composition with its creditors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors or makes an Application Form to a court of competent jurisdiction for a moratorium seeking protection from its creditors in any way and/or a distress or execution order is levied or if Enforcement of Judgments Office proceedings are commenced against any of the property of the Council or any similar proceedings are commenced in another jurisdiction;

6.9 the Council ceases to carry on its business or substantially the whole of its business otherwise than in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI by way of temporary cessation of business;

6.10 the Council ceases to be a legal entity.

7 STOPPING OF PAYMENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

7.1 Without prejudice to any other rights of Invest NI under this letter Invest NI shall be under no obligation to make any payment(s) or any further payment(s) of the Financial Assistance to the Council if:

7.1.1 an Event of Default has occurred;

7.1.2 the Council is in breach of any of its obligations under this letter (whether or not constituting an Event of Default), including without limitation any failure to furnish financial reports or other information within the time limits specified in **paragraph 5**; or

7.1.3 in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI there has been Material and adverse change in the business, assets or other circumstances of the Council.

7.2 In any case where a breach by the Council of its obligations under this letter is capable of remedy and is remedied within 30 days of written notice by Invest NI; and such breach is the sole reason for the exercise of Invest NI's right to cease making payments of the Financial Assistance; Invest NI shall reinstate the making of payment of the Financial Assistance.

8 REPAYMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If an Event of Default occurs the Council shall on written demand by Invest NI repay to Invest NI the aggregate of all payments of Financial Assistance made to the Council ("**the aggregate sum**") prior to such event, less any part of the aggregate sum which may have been repaid under any other provision of this letter, or such lesser amount as Invest NI may determine.

9 DURATION

This letter other than **paragraphs B, G and H of the Terms and Conditions Annex** shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of the last payment of Financial Assistance ("**the termination date**") but without prejudice to any claim or right arising out of any breach of any obligation under this letter occurring before the termination date.

10 FAILURE TO INITIATE THE PROJECT

If by the end of the period of 6 months from the date of this letter the Council has not Initiated the Project then the offer of Financial Assistance may be withdrawn by Invest NI and after which shall cease to have any obligations under this letter.

11 ACCEPTANCE

This letter is issued in duplicate and if the Council is prepared to accept the offer on the terms and conditions set out in this letter, acceptance should be indicated below, **and one complete letter** returned to Invest NI, Financial Letters of Offer Team Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES.

12 AVAILABILITY

The foregoing offer shall remain open for a period of three calendar months from the date of this letter and if not accepted in the manner referred to above and received by Invest NI, within that time, it shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

13 **CONTACTS IN INVEST NI**

Although the Stakeholder Executive controlling this case is Katherine Spratt at our Omagh office, any initial queries regarding the terms and conditions of this letter should be addressed to the undersigned. Queries relating to claims and payments should be addressed to Invest NI's Claims Team at 5TH Floor, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES contact us on claims@investni.com.

Yours faithfully
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND



FORM OF ACCEPTANCE - LoO: 1901/130175490

REF: 101000356513

This offer of Financial Assistance is hereby accepted by the Council on the terms and conditions set out in this letter and on the understanding that the Council is responsible for providing or generating any further finance needed for the Project after taking into account the funding as set out in this letter.

Signed by the Council on this _____ day of _____ 20

PRESENT when the COMMON SEAL of
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

[Duly Authorised Officer]

[Duly Authorised Officer]

NOTE

Please do not detach this form of acceptance from the letter (one complete original letter should be signed and dated and returned to Invest NI).

Please quote your reference number and letter number on all correspondence to Invest NI.

DEFINITIONS ANNEX

The following definitions shall apply throughout this letter:

“Application” means the Application Form and/or Business Case dated 20 June 2018 and submitted to Invest NI by the Council and approved by Invest NI in support of the Council's Application for the Financial Assistance setting out details of the Project and its implementation and completion and includes any variation or amendments approved by Invest NI and the Council;

“Approved Conversion Formula” means the conversion formula agreed with Invest NI in relation to the Project;

“Business Premises” means the premises occupied/to be occupied by the Council at Circular Road Dungannon, County Tyrone, BT71 6DT, Northern Ireland and any other Northern Ireland premises deemed acceptable to Invest NI, including any additions, extensions or modifications thereto;

“Commission” means the Commission of the European Union;

“Completion Date” means the date by which the Project must be completed as specified in the Local Economic Development Resource (LED) Grant Annex;

“E-Cohesion” means the exchange of information, after signing this letter, between the Council and Invest NI by means of electronic data transfer that is intended to reduce the administrative burden and allow provision of information only once for requirements including (but not limited to) claims, inspection, audit, disclosure and retention as described in this letter;

“End Date” has the meaning given to it in the grant annex(es);

“Event of Default” means any of the events specified in **paragraph 6**;

“Invest NI Quality Business Referral” means a business being referred from Mid Ulster Gearing for Growth Programme that is capable of accessing financial support from Invest NI. Financial support may include but not be limited to Invest NI mainstream financial support, R&D funding, Innovation Vouchers and Trade support. Referrals from Mid Ulster Gearing for Growth Programme to Invest NI must be submitted using a standard proforma satisfactory to Invest NI and each referral must be ‘accepted’ by Invest NI;

“Job(s)” means a job role in which a person who is employed full-time, i.e. for 30 or more hours per week, or a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) i.e. a combination of two or more persons who are employed for the combined equivalent of 30 hours or more per week, as evidenced in a written contract of employment;

“Job Creation” means the calculation of Jobs in relation to this Project based on a before / after indicator to capture the employment increase that is attributed to the Project. Safeguarded jobs cannot be counted;

“Financial Assistance” means the Financial Assistance specified in **paragraph 1** or any such part or parts thereof as the context requires;

“Initiated the Project” means commencement of activities as per the annexes of this letter;

“Local Economic Development (LED)” means the programme under which Invest NI provides Financial Assistance to Councils to deliver programmes to businesses and individuals within their Council areas to increase job creation;

“Material” means where the context permits, anything which in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI, might have a significant or serious effect on the Project;

“Project” means the introduction, maintenance and completion of actions of the nature described in the Application key actions specified in the Project Key Actions Annex in respect of the Clients business of providing local government authority at/from the Business Premises (**“business activities”**);

“Project Manager” means the individual appointed by the Council to be in charge of managing the Project and the contact for Invest NI on matters relating to the Project;

“Stakeholder Executive” means the official within Invest NI responsible for administering the provision of Financial Assistance to the Project and the prime contact within Invest NI in respect of the Project.

PROJECT KEY ACTIONS ANNEX

1. Council to commence procurement for a delivery agent to manage and deliver the Mid Ulster tender ready programme by 31 March 2019.
2. Deliver an enterprise growth themed seminar (minimum of 30 participants at the seminar) by 31 December 2021.
3. Recruit at least 250 businesses to progress onto programme support by 30 June 2022.
4. Deliver a minimum of 1,080 days mentoring support to at least 250 programme participants, with no participant receiving more than 5 days, by 31 December 2022.
5. To produce a mid-term evaluation twenty four months after programme commencement.
6. To produce a final evaluation report by 30 September 2023.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ANNEX

1. Progress against the Project Key Actions Annex as listed above.
2. Council will use all reasonable endeavours to refer at least 25 participants to Invest NI by 31 December 2022.
3. Council will use all reasonable endeavours to create at least 250 new jobs as a result of support provided by the Mid Ulster gearing for growth programme support by 30 September 2023.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) RESOURCE GRANT ANNEX

Claims

- 1.1 The grant shall be available from the date of this letter against written claims in Invest NI's standard form received no later than 30 June 2023.
- 1.2 All claims must be accompanied by a written progress report on the Project, unless otherwise agreed with Invest NI, such report(s) to be satisfactory to Invest NI.
- 1.3 The start date of any claim submitted, excluding the first claim, must be after the end date for all previous claims submitted under this letter unless otherwise agreed with Invest NI. All expenditure included within a claim must have been paid between the start and end dates of that claim.
- 1.4 Claims and supporting documentation shall be submitted to Invest NI at intervals of not less than 3 months unless otherwise agreed in writing with Invest NI. All claims and supporting documentation must be completed electronically and submitted via email claims@investni.com.
- 1.5 All claims will be vouched and approved to the satisfaction of Invest NI.

2 Payment

- 2.1 To be considered for grant purposes, expenditure must be incurred and paid by the Council on or after the start date of 20 December 2018 and paid on or before the End Date of 31 March 2023.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding **paragraph 2.1** above, to be considered for grant purposes the Project, and expenditure for all activities in relation to the Project, as set out in the Application Form and Business Case, must be completed by 31 December 2022 (the "**Completion Date**").
- 2.3 The grant shall be payable as per **paragraph 1** above against eligible expenditure, vouched and approved by Invest NI on the costs agreed with Invest NI primarily on the costs below.

Expenditure Type	Eligible Costs
Consultancy Costs – Service Delivery	£384,000
Marketing Costs	£11,200
Grant totalling £316,160 @ 80% on maximum expenditure of £395,200	

3 Repayment of Grant

The Council shall immediately inform Invest NI's Claims Team of the occurrence of any Event of Default, as defined in this letter, which may result in a liability to repay grant.

A STANDARD GENERAL CONDITIONS

A1 Accountancy System

The Council shall:

A1.1 at all times accurately maintain all books, accounts and records required by law (whether in the United Kingdom or otherwise) to be maintained by it: and

A1.2 implement a process for adequate codification of all income and expenditure associated with the Project through one of the following methods: EITHER (I) amend an existing financial accounting system or set up a new financial system to ensure every part funded Project has a unique code assigned and record this for all transactions related to the Project; OR (II) set up a separate bank account for each part funded Project; and

A1.3 inform Invest NI of any irregularities, fraud and theft or of any circumstance which has caused or is likely to cause a loss or misuse of funding and provide a full and detailed report in writing to Invest NI.

A2 Inspection Rights

The Council shall permit Invest NI, the Department for the Economy ("DfE") and its agents, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Commission and the European Court of Auditors from time to time upon giving reasonable notice to enter the business premises and any other premises of the Council during normal working hours (unless a statutory or regulatory obligation requires entry outside of these hours) to inspect any asset and any accounting or other record in respect of any Financial Assistance which has been paid or may become payable under the terms of this letter and to review and, if applicable, copy same or to comply with any statutory or regulatory obligation of Invest NI, DfE and its agents, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Commission or the European Court of Auditors, subject always to the provisions of **paragraph B**.

A3 Interruption

The Council shall advise Invest NI immediately of any major interruption of business activities or employment at the business premises of more than 15 successive days, except for normal holiday periods, or of the introduction of any short time working arrangements, or of circumstances likely to lead to such interruption or short time working arrangements.

A4 Environmental Impact

The Council shall ensure that all aspects of the Project which might result in a negative impact on the environment are subject to an environmental impact assessment. The Council must also use all reasonable endeavours to adopt and implement an environmental policy in relation to all aspects of the Project.

A5 Equality

The Council shall comply with the relevant statutory provisions from time to time in force in Northern Ireland imposing obligations on the Council in relation to discrimination on the grounds of religious belief, political opinion (including in relation to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998), racial group, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender, disability and having dependants.

A6 Third Parties

Save as provided in **paragraphs A2 and B1**, no term of this letter shall be enforceable by a third party (being any person other than the parties hereto) under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

A7 Insurance

The Council shall from the date of acceptance of this letter, at its own expense insure with a reputable firm of insurers, any of its property, assets and effects of an insurable nature, including (without limitation) its buildings, plant, machinery and equipment against all and any loss, damage, risk, contingency or public liability as may from time to time be reasonably requested by Invest NI (or, if no such request is made, against such loss, damage, risk, contingency or public liability as a prudent company or firm in the same business as the Council would insure against) to the full replacement value thereof and shall produce the policy or policies of insurance together with proof of payment of the necessary premiums to Invest NI on request.

A8 Changes to the Project

In the event of any major change in the Project or any change in circumstances which makes it unlikely that the broad objective of the proposals will be achieved, revised proposals **must** be submitted to Invest NI, for which Invest NI may be prepared to make a new offer of Financial Assistance in place of the existing Financial Assistance or may decide to retain or cancel the existing offer of assistance. If the existing Financial Assistance is terminated, no redundancy or any other compensatory payment will be accepted by Invest NI for dismissal of staff, but negotiations may be entered into in regard to other contractual commitments and in regard to disposal of assets acquired under the Financial Assistance.

A9 Keeping Records

The Council shall maintain records for all expenditure under the headings contained in the Annexes of this letter so that all such expenditure can be clearly identified as applicable to the Project.

In the case of labour costs, these records should take the form of up to date time sheets recording the hours that each named individual worked on the Project. Managers and/or directors must also maintain a record of time spent by them on the Project. The Council shall take appropriate technical and organisational security measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against

accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal and business information created or accessed through the Project. Records of Project delivery held or stored by the Council may only be considered for disposal after a period of time set out in Invest NI's Retention and Disposal Schedule. Records related to the of delivery of the Project can only be disposed of following appropriate review by the Council in line with Invest NI's review process.

A10 Responsibility

A10.1 Invest NI accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or liability arising out of the Project, including that arising as a result of the purchase of equipment and/or consumable items.

A10.2 The Council shall ensure that Intellectual Property Rights ("IPR") will not be infringed as a result of undertaking the Project to which the grant applies and indemnifies Invest NI against any liability in relation to infringement of IPR.

A11 Procurement

The Council shall at all times comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy in relation to the Project. Where the value of procurement is above the EU Procurement Threshold the Council shall also comply with the EU Procurement Directives and UK Public/Utilities/Concessions Contract Regulations. The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has published a number of procurement guidance notes (available on Department of Finance's website) which provide guidance on the procedures to be adhered to in order to comply with the above legal and procurement policy frameworks. The Council shall at all times comply with these procedures in relation to the Project. Contracts for similar goods or services must not be disaggregated for the purposes of avoiding the appropriate EU Procurement Threshold. The Council indemnifies Invest NI against any liability in relation to any procurement breach in respect of the Project.

B DISCLOSURE, PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY

B1 Invest NI shall be entitled to publish details of the amounts and types of assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as Invest NI or the Commission may decide.

B2 The Council shall render Invest NI such assistance as Invest NI may reasonably request in connection with any publicity which Invest NI may deem appropriate in respect of the Project.

B3 Invest NI shall be entitled to disclose details of the Council to other government agencies and departments, and bodies engaged in economic

development (subject to the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and any other applicable legal

restrictions which prevent the disclosure of such information) where Invest NI considers that disclosure is in the Council's interest.

B4 Invest NI may include any information which it receives in relation to the Council in a database of economic, financial and statistical information and may publish or disseminate reports derived from such database provided that such reports do not specifically identify the Council.

B5 Invest NI shall be entitled to disclose information on the Council to Invest NI's professional advisers who are subject to obligations of confidence or to consultants working on Invest NI's behalf provided such disclosure is made for the specific purpose for which the consultants are engaged.

B6 This letter and the terms and conditions contained herein shall be treated by the Council as confidential and accordingly shall not be disclosed to any other person or entity other than to its professional advisers who are subject to obligations of confidence, for the purpose of negotiating funding for the Council or as required by law, without the prior written consent of Invest NI, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

B7 Subject to **paragraph B1** Invest NI shall treat all information received from the Council in pursuance of this letter as confidential and shall not disclose such information to any third party other than those referred to at **paragraphs B3 and B5**, without the consent of the Council, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, except as may be required by law (including without limitation Freedom of Information legislation) or for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or for the purposes of any parliamentary or governmental enquiry into the activities of Invest NI.

B8 The Council shall give due recognition to EU funding on any brochures, leaflets and in any publicity of the Project and will consult with Invest NI about any publicity or public announcements associated with the Project.

C INVEST NI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This letter and any subsequent payments pursuant hereto shall not be taken to imply that Invest NI shall or be under any obligation to provide any further financial assistance in the future. Invest NI may also offset any of the financial assistance under this letter against any obligation owed at any time by the Council to Invest NI.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNEX

D REPAYMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

D1 Where any sums are repayable to Invest NI under the provisions of **paragraph 8** of this letter, Invest NI shall be entitled to recover from the Council the costs

of Invest NI in establishing the Council's repayment liability and in recovering the sums due.

D2 No failure to exercise, nor delay in exercising nor partial exercise of any right, power, privilege, or remedy under this letter shall in any way impair, affect any further or other exercise thereof or operate as a waiver in whole or in part.

E OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council shall not be eligible for any other government assistance in respect of any expenditure coming within the scope of this letter without the prior written consent of Invest NI.

F UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

The Financial Assistance made available under this letter must not be used in, or paid to, any business or organisation which is illegal, or which Invest NI in its absolute discretion considers may bring disrepute to Invest NI or to the specific scheme under which the financial assistance is made available.

G RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Notwithstanding any other provision of this letter, Invest NI may, if required as a result of a decision of the Commission, or as a result of any other obligation under European Union law, at any time: (i) withhold payment of any or all of the Financial Assistance; and/or (ii) require repayment of any or all of the Financial Assistance, together with interest from the date on which the Financial Assistance was paid at the rate from time to time as required by the Commission. The Client shall on demand by Invest NI repay such Financial Assistance together with interest.

H DOCUMENTATION

The Council shall retain all original records concerning the Project and implementation of the Project and make records available for inspection for 10 years from the date of this Letter or such later date as may be required due to legal proceedings or by request of the European Commission. In the event of the Project ceasing for any reason, all documentation must be returned to Invest NI. The council shall not, without the prior consent of Invest NI, dispose of or destroy

Page 13 of 14

any original documentation associated with the Project. The Council undertakes to provide to Invest NI such information and documentation as is required by Invest NI on an ongoing basis or to facilitate Project handover or termination. The Council shall

provide the information promptly upon request from Invest NI and in such format as Invest NI requires. The Council shall notify Invest NI of any material changes to this information as and when they occur.

I SERVICE OF NOTICES BY INVEST NI

Any written notice to be served by Invest NI on the Council under the terms and conditions of this letter may be served by ordinary first class post, e-mail or facsimile transmission at the address referred to in this letter or the Council's registered office address. The Council will be deemed to have been duly served with the notice on the day it is sent if sent by e-mail or facsimile transmission or on the following day if sent by first class post.

J GOVERNING LAW

This letter shall be governed in all respects by the laws of Northern Ireland and the Council hereby irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Courts for all purposes in connection with this letter.

K LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Council shall:

K1 ensure that its business is operated in compliance with all applicable laws or regulations for the time being and shall not do or omit or suffer to be done anything whereby any Act, Order or Regulation from time to time affecting its business is infringed;

K2 The Council shall comply with all applicable laws, statutes, regulations related to anti-bribery, anti-fraud and anti-corruption, including but not limited to the Bribery Act 2010; and

K3 cooperate with Invest NI, Northern Ireland Government departments and the Government of the United Kingdom in allowing them to fulfil their respective obligations under European Regulations and these Regulations shall also be applied by Invest NI in assessing the eligibility of expenditure included in the grant claims submitted under this letter, particularly all the regulations and acts governing the European Regional Development Fund.

L FINAL DATE FOR CLAIMING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Invest NI shall be under no obligation to make any payment or payments of the Financial Assistance in respect of any claim received by Invest NI after the End Date set out in the attached Annexes.

THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT

M1 Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (**MSA**), any commercial organisation (defined by the MSA as any commercial organisation in any sector that supplies goods or services that carries on its business (or part of its business) in the United Kingdom and has an annual global turnover, or Group global turnover, of not less than the amount prescribed in accordance with the MSA from time to time (currently, £36 million)) must publish an annual Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for each financial year ending on or after 31 March 2016, setting out, inter alia, the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or in any part of its business.

M2 To the extent that the Council qualifies as a commercial organisation for the purposes of the MSA, the Council shall, and shall procure that its suppliers, sub-Councils and other participants in its or their supply chain(s) shall, comply in full with its or their obligations under the MSA, and shall indemnify Invest NI against any losses, liabilities, damages, costs (including but not limited to legal fees) and expenses incurred by, or awarded against, Invest NI as a result of any delay or failure on the part of any of the foregoing to so comply.

**N EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING**

N1 The funding of the Project under this letter is dependent on funding being received from the European Regional Development Fund of the EU. In the event of such funding not being received or being discontinued for whatever reason then no liability will exist for Invest NI, the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland or any other Government Departments or Agencies in Northern Ireland to provide funding to the Council.

N2 Invest NI is committed to the principle of E-Cohesion. The Council has the option to submit all claim documentation in line with Invest NI's E-Cohesion procedures **but the Council must inform Invest NI of its intention to do so prior to the submission of the first claim and must conform with these procedures for all subsequent claims**

18 January 2019

Ref: 101000356513

Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT
Northern Ireland



For the attention of Anthony Tohill

Dear Sir

Re: Letter of Offer 1901/130176869 issued 18 January 2019

Please find enclosed two originals of a Letter of Offer for your consideration.

If you wish to accept the offer, you should **sign** the letter where indicated and return **one complete original Letter of Offer** to Invest NI's Financial Letters of Offer Branch, 5th Floor, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES within **THREE CALENDAR MONTHS** from the date of issue, otherwise the letter will be deemed to have been withdrawn.

It is important to note the execution requirements for the form of acceptance found on page 6 of our 'Letter of Offer'.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND

18 January 2019

Ref: 101000356513
LoO Ref No: 1901/130176869

Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT
Northern Ireland

For the attention of Anthony Tohill

Dear Sir,

PROJECT TITLE: Council EUIGJ - LED2 - Transform Programme

1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In consideration of Mid Ulster District Council ("**the Council**") entering into the agreement set out in this letter, Invest Northern Ireland ("**Invest NI**") is prepared, subject to the terms and conditions set out in this letter to make available to the Council the following Financial Assistance which may be part funded from the European Regional Development Fund ("**ERDF**") to enable the Council to implement and complete the Project (as defined in **paragraph 2** below).

- 1.1 A Local Economic Development (**LED**) resource grant (not exceeding £210,400) at a rate of 80% of vouched and approved expenditure as per the provisions in the Local Economic Development Resource Grant Annex.

2 DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS LETTER

Expressions in this letter (including the annexes) shall have the meanings set out in the Definitions Annex.

3 REFERENCES AND INCORPORATION AND INTERPRETATION OF ANNEXES

- 3.1 References to any paragraphs or sub-divisions of a paragraph are references to paragraphs and subdivisions of paragraphs in this letter. References to any enactment, including any subordinate legislation made pursuant to any enactment, are to be construed as referring also to any amendment or re-enactment thereof.
- 3.2 Any annexes to this letter shall be deemed to be incorporated in and form part of this letter and references in this letter to any provisions of this letter shall be deemed to include, where the context so admits or requires, references to provisions of the annexes.
- 3.3 For the purposes of the grant annex (or annexes) to this letter, reference to any date specified in or derived from the terms of that annex (including those specified in or derived from the definition of End Date and the definition of Completion Date) shall in each case be deemed to be a reference to the date so specified or so derived or to such later date as Invest NI may consent to in writing.

4 PRE-CONDITIONS

There are no pre-conditions relating to this letter.

5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

5.1 The Project

The Council shall diligently implement and complete the Project and ensure that the Financial Assistance shall be applied to the Project in accordance with the **Application**.

5.2 Financial and other information

The Council shall furnish Invest NI with the following (each to be satisfactory to Invest):

- 5.2.1 a report of progress against the Performance Indicators as set out in the Project Performance Indicators Annex, within 4 weeks of the end of each quarter;
- 5.2.2 a report of progress against the Key Actions as set out in the Project Key Actions Annex, within 4 weeks of the end of each quarter;
- 5.2.3 progress reports on the Project as and when required by Invest NI, and a final progress report on the project within 3 months after the end of the Project, such reports to be satisfactory to Invest NI;
- 5.2.4 such additional financial and other information as Invest NI may from time to time reasonably require;
- 5.2.5 such information as may be required by the Commission.

5.3 Matters Requiring Consent of Invest NI

The Council shall not, without the prior written consent of Invest NI, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld:

- 5.3.1 change the activities described in the Application Form or;
- 5.3.2 make any significant changes over the lifetime of the Project to the individual categories of expenditure, or expenditure profile or quantifiable targets; or
- 5.3.3 make any change to the Project's use, its financing or ownership; or
- 5.3.4 assign or in any way encumber any rights to receive Financial Assistance or other benefit or entitlement under this letter; or
- 5.3.5 allow any other person or company, other than the Council, to be entitled to participate in or have the benefit of the Financial Assistance or permit any commission, profit sharing or other arrangements under which any other person or company shall benefit from the Financial Assistance.

5.4 Project Manager

If a Project Manager is not already in position the Council shall appoint a Project Manager within six months from the date of issue of this letter, such Project Manager to be satisfactory to Invest NI.

5.5 State Aid

The Council shall ensure that financial or other assistance awarded to undertakings as part of the Project is done so in accordance with the European Commission's State aid regulations including, but not limited to, Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (the General Block Exemption Regulation) and Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. The Council shall comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in respect of the Project.

5.6 CPD Procurement Advice

The Council agrees to co-operate and comply with Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), in connection with the procurement process and shall adhere to Northern Ireland public procurement policy in delivering the Project. The Council shall comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in respect of the Project

5.7 Publicity

5.7.1 From the date on which this offer is accepted and throughout implementation of the Project the Client shall (a) provide on its website, a short description of the Project including its aims and results, highlighting the financial support from the EU, (b) ensure the EU logo is visible on at least one electronic platform without scrolling and with the device at optimal resolution, on either a page specific to the Project or on the home page of the Client, and (c) place an A3 poster with information about the Project at a location readily visible to the public, such as the entrance of the building in which the Project is undertaken. In addition, the Client shall ensure that those taking part in the Project shall be informed of this funding.

5.7.2 From the date on which this offer is accepted and throughout implementation of the Project, any information and communication measures or documents provided by the Client to the public in respect of the Project shall display (a) the emblem of the European Union together with a reference to the Union and (b) a reference to the European Regional Development Fund.

6 DEFAULT

Any of the following circumstances shall constitute an Event of Default:

- 6.1 in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI, the Project has been abandoned;
- 6.2 any information provided by the Council or any staff of the Council to Invest NI in support of the Council's Application for the Financial Assistance, or otherwise in connection with the purposes or conditions of this letter, is misleading, incomplete or incorrect in any respect which is Material to Invest NI;
- 6.3 the Council fails to pay or repay to Invest NI any sum due to Invest NI when it becomes due under this letter or otherwise;
- 6.4 any Financial Assistance paid to the Council under the terms and conditions of this letter is used by the Council for any purpose other than eligible expenditure in relation to implementation of the Project;
- 6.5 it appears to Invest NI that the Project is unlikely to be completed, that the Project has not been implemented as per the Application, the Project Key Actions have not been achieved;
- 6.6 the Council is in breach of any of its obligations under this letter and such breach is incapable of remedy or, if capable of remedy, remains unremedied for a period of 30 days after written notice by Invest NI. (For the purposes of this provision, where an obligation specifies a time within which or by which a thing is to be done, a breach of that obligation shall not be treated as incapable of remedy for the reason only that the thing is not done within or by the specified time);
- 6.7 a receiver is appointed of any of the Council's assets or undertaking or if circumstances arise which entitle a court of competent jurisdiction or a creditor to appoint a receiver or manager of the Council or if any other person takes possession of or sells the Council's assets;
- 6.8 the Council proposes or enters into a voluntary arrangement or composition with its creditors or makes any arrangement or composition with its creditors or makes an Application Form to a court of competent jurisdiction for a moratorium seeking protection from its creditors in any way and/or a distress or execution order is levied or if Enforcement of Judgments Office proceedings are commenced against any of the property of the Council or any similar proceedings are commenced in another jurisdiction;

6.9 the Council ceases to carry on its business or substantially the whole of its business otherwise than in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI by way of temporary cessation of business;

6.10 the Council ceases to be a legal entity.

7 **STOPPING OF PAYMENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

7.1 Without prejudice to any other rights of Invest NI under this letter Invest NI shall be under no obligation to make any payment(s) or any further payment(s) of the Financial Assistance to the Council if:

7.1.1 an Event of Default has occurred;

7.1.2 the Council is in breach of any of its obligations under this letter (whether or not constituting an Event of Default), including without limitation any failure to furnish financial reports or other information within the time limits specified in **paragraph 5**; or

7.1.3 in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI there has been Material and adverse change in the business, assets or other circumstances of the Council.

7.2 In any case where a breach by the Council of its obligations under this letter is capable of remedy and is remedied within 30 days of written notice by Invest NI; and such breach is the sole reason for the exercise of Invest NI's right to cease making payments of the Financial Assistance; Invest NI shall reinstate the making of payment of the Financial Assistance.

8 **REPAYMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

If an Event of Default occurs the Council shall on written demand by Invest NI repay to Invest NI the aggregate of all payments of Financial Assistance made to the Council ("**the aggregate sum**") prior to such event, less any part of the aggregate sum which may have been repaid under any other provision of this letter, or such lesser amount as Invest NI may determine.

9 **DURATION**

This letter other than **paragraphs B, G and H of the Terms and Conditions Annex** shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of the last payment of Financial Assistance ("**the termination date**") but without prejudice to any claim or right arising out of any breach of any obligation under this letter occurring before the termination date.

10 **FAILURE TO INITIATE THE PROJECT**

If by the end of the period of 6 months from the date of this letter the Council has not Initiated the Project then the offer of Financial Assistance may be withdrawn by Invest NI and after which shall cease to have any obligations under this letter.

11 **ACCEPTANCE**

This letter is issued in duplicate and if the Council is prepared to accept the offer on the terms and conditions set out in this letter, acceptance should be indicated below, **and one complete letter** returned to Invest NI, Financial Letters of Offer Team Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES.

12 **AVAILABILITY**

The foregoing offer shall remain open for a period of three calendar months from the date of this letter and if not accepted in the manner referred to above and received by Invest NI, within that time, it shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

13 **CONTACTS IN INVEST NI**

Although the Stakeholder Executive controlling this case is Ciara Kilpatrick at our Omagh office, any initial queries regarding the terms and conditions of this letter should be addressed to the undersigned. Queries relating to claims and payments should be addressed to Invest NI's Claims Team at 5TH Floor, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES contact us on claims@investni.com.

Yours faithfully
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND



FORM OF ACCEPTANCE - LoO: 1901/130176869

REF: 101000356513

This offer of Financial Assistance is hereby accepted by the Council on the terms and conditions set out in this letter and on the understanding that the Council is responsible for providing or generating any further finance needed for the Project after taking into account the funding as set out in this letter.

Signed by the Council on this _____ day of _____ 20

PRESENT when the COMMON SEAL of
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

[Duly Authorised Officer]

[Duly Authorised Officer]

NOTE

Please do not detach this form of acceptance from the letter (one complete original letter should be signed and dated and returned to Invest NI).

Please quote your reference number and letter number on all correspondence to Invest NI.

DEFINITIONS ANNEX

The following definitions shall apply throughout this letter:

“Application” means the Application Form and/or Business Case dated 20 June 2018 and submitted to Invest NI by the Council and approved by Invest NI in support of the Council's Application for the Financial Assistance setting out details of the Project and its implementation and completion and includes any variation or amendments approved by Invest NI and the Council;

“Business Premises” means the premises occupied/to be occupied by the Council at Circular Road, Dungannon, County Tyrone, BT71 6DT, Northern Ireland and any other Northern Ireland premises deemed acceptable to Invest NI, including any additions, extensions or modifications thereto;

“Commission” means the Commission of the European Union;

“Completion Date” means the date by which the Project must be completed as specified in the Local Economic Development Resource (LED) Grant Annex;

“E-Cohesion” means the exchange of information, after signing this letter, between the Council and Invest NI by means of electronic data transfer that is intended to reduce the administrative burden and allow provision of information only once for requirements including (but not limited to) claims, inspection, audit, disclosure and retention as described in this letter;

“End Date” has the meaning given to it in the grant annex(es);

“Event of Default” means any of the events specified in **paragraph 6**;

“Invest NI Quality Business Referral” means a business being referred from Transform Programme that is capable of accessing financial support from Invest NI. Financial support may include but not be limited to Invest NI mainstream financial support, R&D funding, Innovation Vouchers and Trade support. Referrals from Transform Programme to Invest NI must be submitted using a standard proforma satisfactory to Invest NI and each referral must be ‘accepted’ by Invest NI;

“Job(s)” means a job role in which a person who is employed full-time, i.e. for 30 or more hours per week, or a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) i.e. a combination of two or more persons who are employed for the combined equivalent of 30 hours or more per week, as evidenced in a written contract of employment;

“Job Creation” means the calculation of Jobs in relation to this Project based on a before / after indicator to capture the employment increase that is attributed to the Project. Safeguarded jobs cannot be counted;

“Financial Assistance” means the Financial Assistance specified in **paragraph 1** or any such part or parts thereof as the context requires;

“Initiated the Project” means commencement of activities as per the annexes of this letter;

“Local Economic Development (LED)” means the programme under which Invest NI provides Financial Assistance to Councils to deliver programmes to businesses and individuals within their Council areas to increase job creation;

“Material” means where the context permits, anything which in the reasonable opinion of Invest NI, might have a significant or serious effect on the Project;

“Project” means the introduction, maintenance and completion of actions of the nature described in the Application key actions specified in the Project Key Actions Annex in respect of the Clients business of providing local government authority at/from the Business Premises (**“business activities”**);

“Project Manager” means the individual appointed by the Council to be in charge of managing the Project and the contact for Invest NI on matters relating to the Project;

“Stakeholder Executive” means the official within Invest NI responsible for administering the provision of Financial Assistance to the Project and the prime contact within Invest NI in respect of the Project.

PROJECT KEY ACTIONS ANNEX

1. Council to commence procurement for a delivery agent to deliver and manage the Transform Programme by 31 May 2019.
2. Deliver a "business attractiveness" seminar by 30 November 2021 with a minimum of 50 participants.
3. Recruit at least 160 businesses to progress onto programme support by 30 April 2022.
4. 160 attractiveness audits to be completed by 31 August 2022.
5. Deliver a minimum of 650 days mentoring to at least 160 programme participants by 31 December 2022.
6. To produce a mid-term evaluation eighteen months after programme commencement.
7. To produce a final evaluation report by 30 November 2023.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ANNEX

1. Progress against the Project Key Actions Annex as listed above.
2. Council to use all reasonable endeavours to generate at least 15 Invest NI quality business referrals by 31 December 2022.
3. Council to use all reasonable endeavours to create at least 230 new jobs as a result of Transform Programme support by 30 November 2023.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) RESOURCE GRANT ANNEX

Claims

- 1.1 The grant shall be available from the date of this letter against written claims in Invest NI's standard form received no later than 30 June 2023.
- 1.2 All claims must be accompanied by a written progress report on the Project, unless otherwise agreed with Invest NI, such report(s) to be satisfactory to Invest NI.
- 1.3 The start date of any claim submitted, excluding the first claim, must be after the end date for all previous claims submitted under this letter unless otherwise agreed with Invest NI. All expenditure included within a claim must have been paid between the start and end dates of that claim.
- 1.4 Claims and supporting documentation shall be submitted to Invest NI at intervals of not less than 3 months unless otherwise agreed in writing with Invest NI. All claims and supporting documentation must be completed electronically and submitted via email claims@investni.com.
- 1.5 All claims will be vouched and approved to the satisfaction of Invest NI.

2 Payment

- 2.1 To be considered for grant purposes, expenditure must be incurred and paid by the Council on or after the start date of 20 December 2018 and paid on or before the End Date of 31 March 2023.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding **paragraph 2.1** above, to be considered for grant purposes the Project, and expenditure for all activities in relation to the Project, as set out in the Application Form and Business Case, must be completed by 31 December 2022 (**the "Completion Date"**).
- 2.3 The grant shall be payable as per **paragraph 1** above against eligible expenditure, vouched and approved by Invest NI on the costs agreed with Invest NI primarily on the costs below.

Expenditure Type	Eligible Costs
Consultancy Costs – Service Delivery	£255,500
Marketing Costs	£7,500
Grant totalling £210,400 @ 80% on maximum expenditure of £263,000	

3 Repayment of Grant

The Council shall immediately inform Invest NI's Claims Team of the occurrence of any Event of Default, as defined in this letter, which may result in a liability to repay grant.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNEX

A STANDARD GENERAL CONDITIONS

A1 Accountancy System

The Council shall:

A1.1 at all times accurately maintain all books, accounts and records required by law (whether in the United Kingdom or otherwise) to be maintained by it; and

A1.2 implement a process for adequate codification of all income and expenditure associated with the Project through one of the following methods: EITHER (I) amend an existing financial accounting system or set up a new financial system to ensure every part funded Project has a unique code assigned and record this for all transactions related to the Project; OR (II) set up a separate bank account for each part funded Project; and

A1.3 inform Invest NI of any irregularities, fraud and theft or of any circumstance which has caused or is likely to cause a loss or misuse of funding and provide a full and detailed report in writing to Invest NI.

A2 Inspection Rights

The Council shall permit Invest NI, the Department for the Economy ("DfE") and its agents, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Commission and the European Court of Auditors from time to time upon giving reasonable notice to enter the business premises and any other premises of the Council during normal working hours (unless a statutory or regulatory obligation requires entry outside of these hours) to inspect any asset and any accounting or other record in respect of any Financial Assistance which has been paid or may become payable under the terms of this letter and to review and, if applicable, copy same or to comply with any statutory or regulatory obligation of Invest NI, DfE and its agents, the Northern Ireland Audit Office, the Commission or the European Court of Auditors, subject always to the provisions of **paragraph B**.

A3 Interruption

The Council shall advise Invest NI immediately of any major interruption of business activities or employment at the business premises of more than 15 successive days, except for normal holiday periods, or of the introduction of any short time working arrangements, or of circumstances likely to lead to such interruption or short time working arrangements.

A4 Environmental Impact

The Council shall ensure that all aspects of the Project which might result in a negative impact on the environment are subject to an environmental impact assessment. The Council must also use all reasonable endeavours to adopt and implement an environmental policy in relation to all aspects of the Project.

A5 Equality

The Council shall comply with the relevant statutory provisions from time to time in force in Northern Ireland imposing obligations on the Council in relation to discrimination on the grounds of religious belief, political opinion (including in relation to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998), racial group, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender, disability and having dependants.

A6 Third Parties

Save as provided in **paragraphs A2 and B1**, no term of this letter shall be enforceable by a third party (being any person other than the parties hereto) under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

A7 Insurance

The Council shall from the date of acceptance of this letter, at its own expense insure with a reputable firm of insurers, any of its property, assets and effects of an insurable nature, including (without limitation) its buildings, plant, machinery and equipment against all and any loss, damage, risk, contingency or public liability as may from time to time be reasonably requested by Invest NI (or, if no such request is made, against such loss, damage, risk, contingency or public liability as a prudent company or firm in the same business as the Council would insure against) to the full replacement value thereof and shall produce the policy or policies of insurance together with proof of payment of the necessary premiums to Invest NI on request.

A8 Changes to the Project

In the event of any major change in the Project or any change in circumstances which makes it unlikely that the broad objective of the proposals will be achieved, revised proposals **must** be submitted to Invest NI, for which Invest NI may be prepared to make a new offer of Financial Assistance in place of the existing Financial Assistance or may decide to retain or cancel the existing offer of assistance. If the existing Financial Assistance is terminated, no redundancy or any other compensatory payment will be accepted by Invest NI for dismissal of staff, but negotiations may be entered into in regard to other contractual commitments and in regard to disposal of assets acquired under the Financial Assistance.

A9 Keeping Records

The Council shall maintain records for all expenditure under the headings contained in the Annexes of this letter so that all such expenditure can be clearly identified as applicable to the Project.

In the case of labour costs, these records should take the form of up to date time sheets recording the hours that each named individual worked on the Project. Managers and/or directors must also maintain a record of time spent by them on the Project. The Council shall take appropriate technical and organisational security measures against

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNEX

unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal and business information created or accessed through the Project. Records of Project delivery held or stored by the Council may only be considered for disposal after a period of time set out in Invest NI's Retention and Disposal Schedule. Records related to the of delivery of the Project can only be disposed of following appropriate review by the Council in line with Invest NI's review process.

A10 Responsibility

A10.1 Invest NI accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or liability arising out of the Project, including that arising as a result of the purchase of equipment and/or consumable items.

A10.2 The Council shall ensure that Intellectual Property Rights ("IPR") will not be infringed as a result of undertaking the Project to which the grant applies and indemnifies Invest NI against any liability in relation to infringement of IPR.

A11 Procurement

The Council shall at all times comply with the EU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy in relation to the Project. Where the value of procurement is above the EU Procurement Threshold the Council shall also comply with the EU Procurement Directives and UK Public/Utilities/Concessions Contract Regulations. The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has published a number of procurement guidance notes (available on Department of Finance's website) which provide guidance on the procedures to be adhered to in order to comply with the above legal and procurement policy frameworks. The Council shall at all times comply with these procedures in relation to the Project. Contracts for similar goods or services must not be disaggregated for the purposes of avoiding the appropriate EU Procurement Threshold. The Council indemnifies Invest NI against any liability in relation to any procurement breach in respect of the Project.

B DISCLOSURE, PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY

B1 Invest NI shall be entitled to publish details of the amounts and types of assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as Invest NI or the Commission may decide.

B2 The Council shall render Invest NI such assistance as Invest NI may reasonably request in connection with any publicity which Invest NI may deem appropriate in respect of the Project.

B3 Invest NI shall be entitled to disclose details of the Council to other government agencies and departments, and bodies engaged in economic

development (subject to the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and any other applicable legal

restrictions which prevent the disclosure of such information) where Invest NI considers that disclosure is in the Council's interest.

B4 Invest NI may include any information which it receives in relation to the Council in a database of economic, financial and statistical information and may publish or disseminate reports derived from such database provided that such reports do not specifically identify the Council.

B5 Invest NI shall be entitled to disclose information on the Council to Invest NI's professional advisers who are subject to obligations of confidence or to consultants working on Invest NI's behalf provided such disclosure is made for the specific purpose for which the consultants are engaged.

B6 This letter and the terms and conditions contained herein shall be treated by the Council as confidential and accordingly shall not be disclosed to any other person or entity other than to its professional advisors who are subject to obligations of confidence, for the purpose of negotiating funding for the Council or as required by law, without the prior written consent of Invest NI, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

B7 Subject to **paragraph B1** Invest NI shall treat all information received from the Council in pursuance of this letter as confidential and shall not disclose such information to any third party other than those referred to at **paragraphs B3 and B5**, without the consent of the Council, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, except as may be required by law (including without limitation Freedom of Information legislation) or for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or for the purposes of any parliamentary or governmental enquiry into the activities of Invest NI.

B8 The Council shall give due recognition to EU funding on any brochures, leaflets and in any publicity of the Project and will consult with Invest NI about any publicity or public announcements associated with the Project.

C INVEST NI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This letter and any subsequent payments pursuant hereto shall not be taken to imply that Invest NI shall or be under any obligation to provide any further financial assistance in the future. Invest NI may also offset any of the financial assistance under this letter against any obligation owed at any time by the Council to Invest NI.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNEX



D REPAYMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

D1 Where any sums are repayable to Invest NI under the provisions of **paragraph 8** of this letter, Invest NI shall be entitled to recover from the Council the costs

of Invest NI in establishing the Council's repayment liability and in recovering the sums due.

D2 No failure to exercise, nor delay in exercising nor partial exercise of any right, power, privilege, or remedy under this letter shall in any way impair, affect any further or other exercise thereof or operate as a waiver in whole or in part.

E OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council shall not be eligible for any other government assistance in respect of any expenditure coming within the scope of this letter without the prior written consent of Invest NI.

F UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

The Financial Assistance made available under this letter must not be used in, or paid to, any business or organisation which is illegal, or which Invest NI in its absolute discretion considers may bring disrepute to Invest NI or to the specific scheme under which the financial assistance is made available.

G RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Notwithstanding any other provision of this letter, Invest NI may, if required as a result of a decision of the Commission, or as a result of any other obligation under European Union law, at any time: (i) withhold payment of any or all of the Financial Assistance; and/or (ii) require repayment of any or all of the Financial Assistance, together with interest from the date on which the Financial Assistance was paid at the rate from time to time as required by the Commission. The Client shall on demand by Invest NI repay such Financial Assistance together with interest.

H DOCUMENTATION

The Council shall retain all original records concerning the Project and implementation of the Project and make records available for inspection for 10 years from the date of this Letter or such later date as may be required due to legal proceedings or by request of the European Commission. In the event of the Project ceasing for any reason, all documentation must be returned to Invest NI. The council shall not, without the prior consent of Invest NI, dispose of or destroy any original documentation associated with the

Project. The Council undertakes to provide to Invest NI such information and documentation as is required by Invest NI on an ongoing basis or to facilitate Project handover or termination. The Council shall

provide the information promptly upon request from Invest NI and in such format as Invest NI requires. The Council shall notify Invest NI of any material changes to this information as and when they occur.

I SERVICE OF NOTICES BY INVEST NI

Any written notice to be served by Invest NI on the Council under the terms and conditions of this letter may be served by ordinary first class post, e-mail or facsimile transmission at the address referred to in this letter or the Council's registered office address. The Council will be deemed to have been duly served with the notice on the day it is sent if sent by e-mail or facsimile transmission or on the following day if sent by first class post.

J GOVERNING LAW

This letter shall be governed in all respects by the laws of Northern Ireland and the Council hereby irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Courts for all purposes in connection with this letter.

K LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Council shall:

K1 ensure that its business is operated in compliance with all applicable laws or regulations for the time being and shall not do or omit or suffer to be done anything whereby any Act, Order or Regulation from time to time affecting its business is infringed;

K2 The Council shall comply with all applicable laws, statutes, regulations related to anti-bribery, anti-fraud and anti-corruption, including but not limited to the Bribery Act 2010; and

K3 cooperate with Invest NI, Northern Ireland Government departments and the Government of the United Kingdom in allowing them to fulfil their respective obligations under European Regulations and these Regulations shall also be applied by Invest NI in assessing the eligibility of expenditure included in the grant claims submitted under this letter, particularly all the regulations and acts governing the European Regional Development Fund.

L FINAL DATE FOR CLAIMING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Invest NI shall be under no obligation to make any payment or payments of the Financial Assistance in

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ANNEX



respect of any claim received by Invest NI after the End Date set out in the attached Annexes.

M THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT

M1 Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (**MSA**), any commercial organisation (defined by the MSA as any commercial organisation in any sector that supplies goods or services that carries on its business (or part of its business) in the United Kingdom and has an annual global turnover, or Group global turnover, of not less than the amount prescribed in accordance with the MSA from time to time (currently, £36 million)) must publish an annual Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for each financial year ending on or after 31 March 2016, setting out, inter alia, the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or in any part of its business.

M2 To the extent that the Council qualifies as a commercial organisation for the purposes of the MSA, the Council shall, and shall procure that its suppliers, sub-Councils and other participants in its or their supply chain(s) shall, comply in full with its or their obligations under the MSA, and shall indemnify Invest NI against any losses, liabilities, damages, costs (including but not limited to legal fees) and expenses incurred by, or awarded against, Invest NI as a result of any delay or failure on the part of any of the foregoing to so comply.

N EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

N1 The funding of the Project under this letter is dependent on funding being received from the European Regional Development Fund of the EU. In the event of such funding not being received or being discontinued for whatever reason then no liability will exist for Invest NI, the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland or any other Government Departments or Agencies in Northern Ireland to provide funding to the Council.

N2 Invest NI is committed to the principle of E-Cohesion. The Council has the option to submit all claim documentation in line with Invest NI's E-Cohesion procedures **but the Council must inform Invest NI of its intention to do so prior to the submission of the first claim and must conform with these procedures for all subsequent claims**



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Colin McKenna
Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Date : 03/01/2019

Invoice Number:
INV2019214820

INVOICE DETAILS

Description	Amount	VAT Rate	VAT
NICC Membership	£2,500.00	20%	£500.00

Total	£2,500.00
Total VAT	£500.00
Amount Due	£3,000.00

Membership subscription includes exceptional networking and business development opportunities, influencing government economic policy and practical support for development of export business.

See www.northernirelandchamber.com for full details or speak to one of the membership team.

Member Level: Corporate

Terms :- 30 days net

VAT Reg. No. 254 4276 58

Bank details for BACS payments: Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast BT1 6JS

A/C No: 11136488 Sort Code: 95-01-21

It is now possible to pay using Debit/Credit Card. Please phone the NICC office for more information.

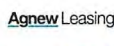
Payment terms are strictly 30 days net. Payment due on 02/02/2019

Company Reg: R78 Vat No: 254 4276 58

Communications
Partner



Chamber Patrons



Accreditation





FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

MID ULSTER VILLAGE SPRUCE UP SCHEME

(Phase 2 – Reserve List)

Completed by Paul Hamill of McCarter Hamill Architects – January 2019

mccarter hamill architects

CONTENTS:

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Aims and Objectives of the scheme
- 3.0 Who could apply
- 4.0 Scope of works eligible for funding
- 5.0 Procurement
- 6.0 Application process
- 7.0 Assessment of the Applications
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- 14.0 Conclusion

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Guidance Notes
- Appendix 2 Application Form
- Appendix 3 Individual Assessment Sheet
- Appendix 4 Commencement Inspection Form
- Appendix 5 Final Inspection Form

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme (Phase 2). It presents a breakdown of the applications received, a synopsis of a number of successful projects and the impact of the scheme.

Enabling Town and Village Regeneration is one of the key themes in Mid Ulster District Council's Economic Development Plan 'Our Plan for Growth'. The Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme was developed as one of the key initiatives to enable the delivery of this theme. The Scheme supported the improvement and enhancement of business and commercial properties within the development limits of forty-six villages within the Council area.

Based on the Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'Strategic Settlement Evaluation-Proposition Paper' and Council recommendations, business/commercial properties within the Development Limits of the following Villages were eligible to apply:

Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Castledawson, Castlecaulfield, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Desertmartin Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

The Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme was a Pilot project and offered discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme was available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the development limits of each village.

The allocation of grant was a competitive process and limited funds were available, therefore only the higher scoring applications were funded.

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Scheme

The aim of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme was to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in each village.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme were:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties by 30 September 2018.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in each village
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.

4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each village.

3.0 Who Could Apply

Based on the Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'Strategic Settlement Evaluation-Proposition Paper' and Council recommendations, business/commercial properties within the Development Limits of the villages listed in 1.0 above could apply.

The grant was available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g. estate agents, insurance companies etc).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises. For a vacant property to be eligible evidence must be provided that:
 - 1) It was previously used as a business/commercial property.
 - 2) That it would be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works were complete. Evidence had to be provided of how this was to be achieved and actively promoted.

Properties that were ineligible to apply for grant aid included banks, building societies, charity shops, government organisations, political organisations and community groups/clubs.

Application forms were accepted from the property owner/s or tenants as long as the owner was in agreement.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties are adjacent to each other were welcomed. Defined as 'Multiple Applications', these applications were viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result were scored more highly by the assessment panel.

4.0 Scope of Works Eligible for Funding

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas could apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors and stairs.
- Internal redecoration work e.g. repainting of walls, ceilings etc
- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.

- Permanent (i.e. not loose fitted or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening ,e.g. open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).
- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g. power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

Ineligible Works included:

- Works which required planning permission which was not in place at the Application stage.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).
- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.
- Internal work which was not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant did not include:

- Statutory fees (e.g. Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

5.0 Procurement

Completed applications had to be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the

appropriate number of quotations/tenders had to be submitted for each element of the scheme.

The scheme required:

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£30,000

All quotations had to be dated and on headed paper and the funder reserved the right to have an independent quantity surveyor check the validity of quotations/tenders.

6.0 Application Process

Completed application forms were to be returned to McCarter Hamill Architects by 4pm on Friday 15 September 2017. Only fully completed Applications were validated and late submissions were not accepted. There was no separate Application Process for Phase 2. Phase 2 projects were those projects, which were contained the a reserve list from Phase 1 and achieved a Score of 40 or above.

7.0 Assessment of the Applications:

The following criteria was used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- i) Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)
Scoring ranged from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property was considered very poor, the maximum 25% was allocated.
- ii) Impact the proposed element of works will make (30%)
Scoring ranged from 0%-30%, for example, if the proposed element of works would have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 30% would be allocated.
- iii) Value for Money (25%)
This was calculated based on the formula:- $\text{Impact (points)} \div \text{Grant Sought} = \text{Weighted Criteria}$. Weighted criteria achieved ranged from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.
- iv) Multiple Application Status (10%)
Multiple applications received a favourable weighting, where individual applications were received from owners/tenants whose properties were adjacent to each other. These applications would be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result were scored highly by the assessment panel, being allocated a further 10%.
- v) Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)
Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting, allocated 10%.

All applications had to score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

All works had to be completed and claimed by 30th September 2018 for Phase 2.

8.0 Successful Applicants for Phase 2 of the scheme

Letters of Offer were issued to a Reserve List of Applicants on 28 March 2018 for Phase 2 of the scheme.

This was a form of contract that stated:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

It was made clear to the successful Applicants that no works could commence until a signed 'Letter of Offer' was returned to Mid Ulster Council within the allotted timescale.

In total 44 Letters of offer were issued, out of which 39 schemes were eventually delivered.

9.0 Geographical spread of Successful Applications.

Successful Phase 2 schemes were delivered by schemes in the following villages (in alphabetical order):

VILLAGE	NUMBER OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS:
Aghaginduff/Cabragh	0
Annaghmore	0
Ardboe	1
Augher	4
Aughnacloy	1
Ballinderry	0
Ballygawley	3
Ballylifford	0
Ballyronan	0
Bellaghy	1
Benburb	0
Brockagh/Mountjoy	0
Caledon	1
Castledawson	3
Castlecaulfield	2
Churchtown	0
Clady	0
Clogher	2
Coagh	0
Desertmartin	0
Donaghmore	0

Draperstown	0
Drummullan	0
Edendork	0
Eglish	1
Fivemiletown	1
Galbally	0
Granville	0
Gulladuff	0
Killyman	0
Moneymore	2
Moortown	1
Moy	6
Moygashel	3
Newmills	0
Orritor	0
Pomeroy	2
Sandholes	1
Stewartstown	2
Swatragh	0
Tamnamore	0
The Bush	1
The Loup	0
The Rock	0
Tobermore	1
Upperlands	0
Total	39

10.0 Payment of Grant

It was stipulated that payment of grant would only be made once Mid Ulster District Council was satisfied that all the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' had been fulfilled. A site visit was carried out by McCarter Hamill Architects to verify that the works had been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard.

Payment of grant was be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim had to include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment.

11.0 Case Studies of selected completed projects.

We have selected the following projects for a brief Case Study of Phase 2 of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme.

- i) Project No.163 - Daly's World of Wines Moy
- ii) Project No.83 - The Corner Barber Shop Moy
- iii) Project No.25 - RTC Engineering Sandholes
- iv) Project No.157 – RA Noble Clogher.

- v) Project No.94 - Chil N Cut, Bellaghy
- vi) Project No. 114 - Moneymore Laundry Services

11.1 Project No.163 - Daly's World of Wines Moy

Scope of Works. *New Traditional Timber Shopfront*

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as a Case Study as it is a good example of a new shopfront designed in a traditional style using high quality materials. The works improve the premises and undoubtedly the village as a whole. The materials used should mean that this shopfront will be a feature in the village for many years to come.

11.2 Project No.83 - The Corner Barber Shop Moy

Scope of Works: *Internal and External improvements including tiling, painting, signage and electrics.*

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as a case study as it is a good example of a building which was not only improved inside and out, but one that the developer made a substantial investment of their own funds. The building looks much more striking on the outside whilst the interior has been thoroughly brought up to date.

11.3 Project No.25 - RTC Engineering Sandholes

Scope of Works: *New gate, fencing and landscaping*



After:



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as a case study as it is an excellent example of an improvement to an area without involving changes to a building. Although the grant aid was of the scheme average, the works have greatly improved the appearance of this area of Sandholes, much more than the budget would suggest.

11.4 Project No.157 – RA Noble Clogher.

Scope of Works: *New illuminated document displays*

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as a case study as it is an excellent example of how the appearance of a property can be improved on a very small budget. The grant aid on this scheme was only £401.20 but the new displays make the shop more attractive, and at night provide an eye-catching display.

11.5 Project No. 114 - Moneymore Laundry Services

Scope of Works: *New door, Windows, Signage, and Decoration*

Before:



After:



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as a case study as it is another example of a comprehensive improvement in which the owner made a substantial investment of their own funds. The shop is on a prominent site in the village, and the new windows, doors, signage and paint scheme make a worthwhile contribution to the building and the street as a whole.

11.6 Project No. 94 – Chic 'n Cut, Bellaghy

Scope of Works – *Signage, Painting and Decoration*

Before:



After:

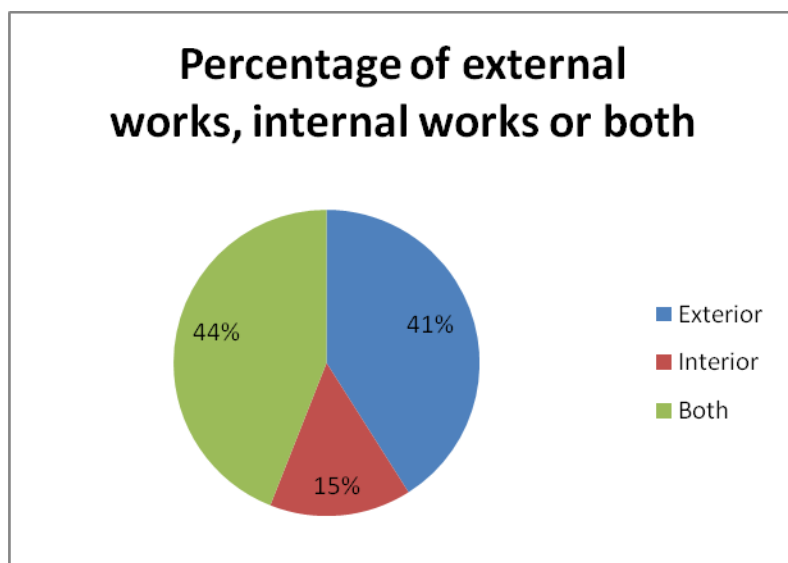


Impact of the Works:

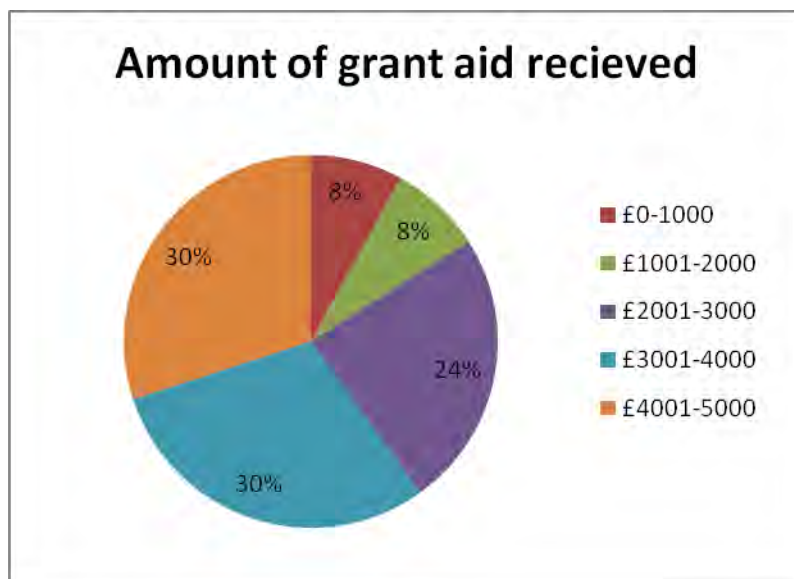
This project was chosen as a case study as it is another example of a comprehensive improvement in which the owner made a substantial investment of their own funds. The shop is on a prominent site in the village, and the signage, decoration and internal redecoration make a worthwhile contribution to the building and the street as a whole.

12.0 Statistical Data and Conclusion

In terms of the ratio of projects that were funded for Internal and External works, 41% carried out External works only, 15% interior works only and 44% carried out both.

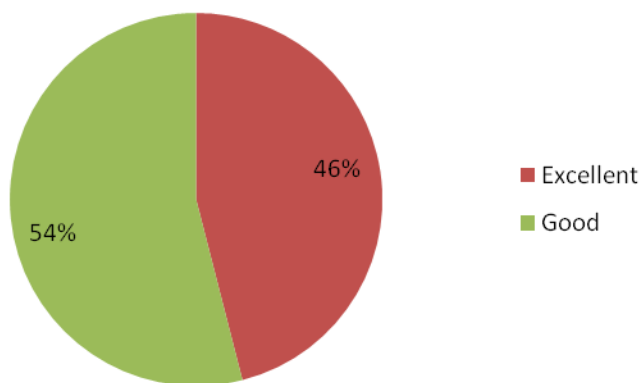


As can be seen from the pie chart below, most grant aid in Phase 2 was awarded for the larger projects, with the £3001-4000 segment and the £4001-5000 segment having an equal share of 30%.

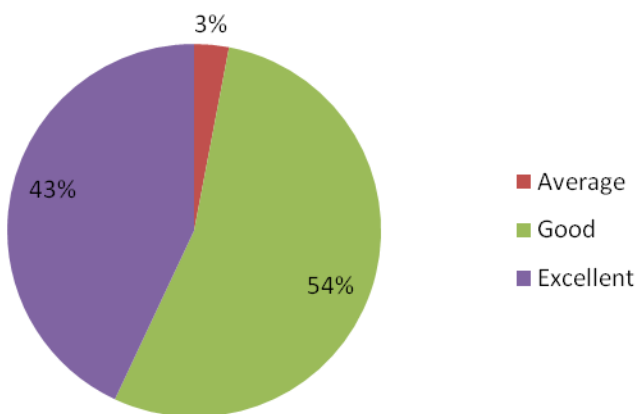


The quality of the materials used overall was good, with 46% deemed as being excellent. Again, quality of workmanship was deemed as being good, with 43% deemed as being excellent.

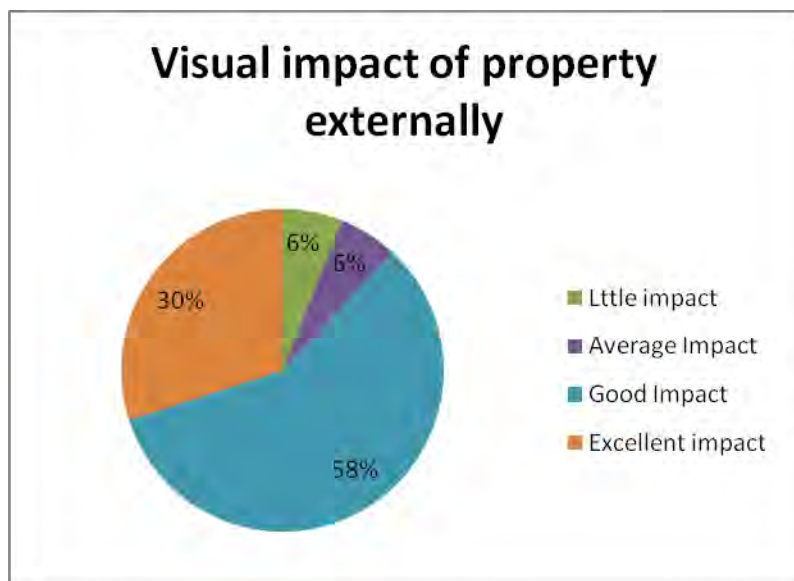
Quality of materials used



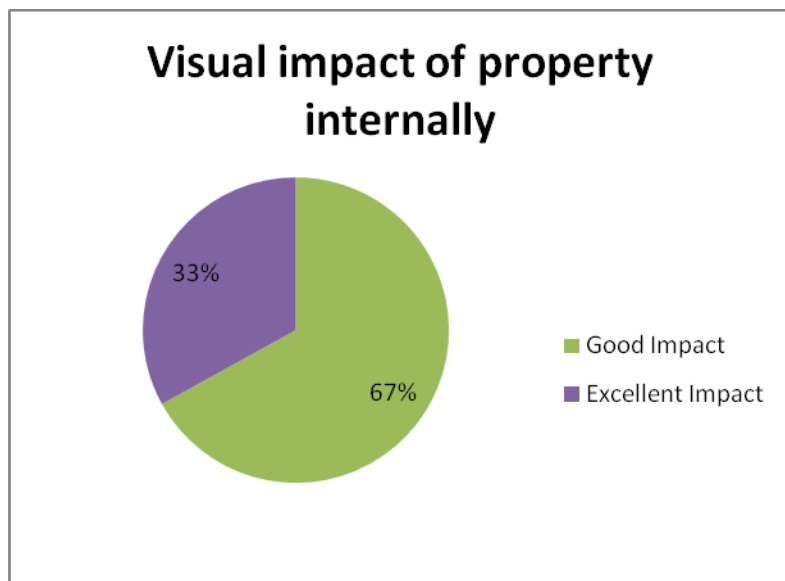
Quality of workmanship



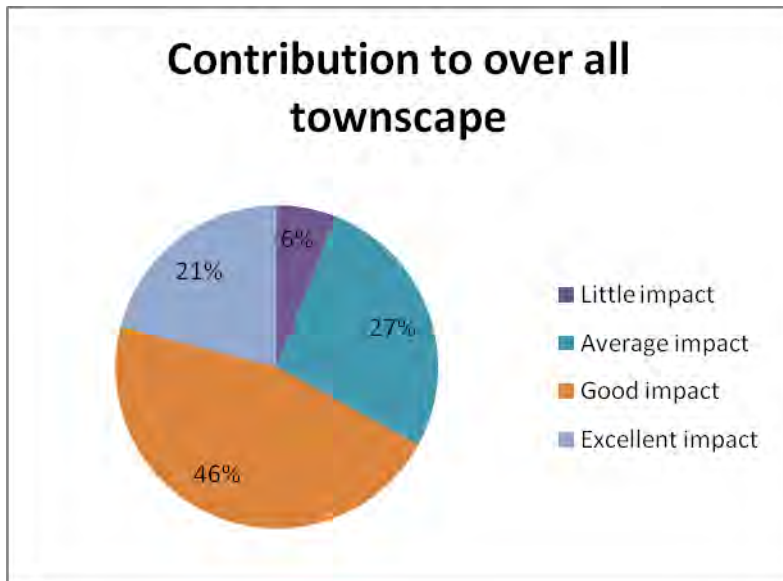
The Visual Impact of the works was rated overall as good (58%), with 30% of schemes rated excellent in this category.



For Internal works, all had either a good or an excellent impact, with 67% deemed as being good and 33% as being excellent.



An important and key statistic in the delivery of the scheme is the Contribution to the Overall Townscape. 46% of schemes had a good impact and 21% had an excellent impact.



13.0 Overview of Scheme

Phase 2 of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme aimed, like Phase 1, to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the eligible villages. Through the delivery of the scheme properties awarded funding strived to achieve a comprehensive improvement to building frontage, internal repairs and refurbishments. The wider impact on each village aimed to visibly enhancing the townscape and improving local economic infrastructure.

A final evaluation of each completed property was carried out with a score awarded between 1 (very poor) and 5 (excellent) to measure the visual improvement to the property on an individual basis, and also to measure the contribution of the improvement works to the overall townscape. The overall impact of the scheme has been impressive. It is clear to see that each property owner planned each element of the works in relation to how it would benefit their business and the streetscape (if works included external elements).

In total £128,878.99 of Grant Aid was awarded to 39 properties across the Council area, with private sector leverage of £67,685.25. Grants ranged from £401.20 to the £5,000 maximum with the average being £3343.48. 10 applications received the maximum £5,000 grant.

McCarter Hamill Architects believe that the relatively small budget for the scheme was put to excellent use as it helped 39 (mostly small) businesses improve their premises and enhance the visual appearance of their village.

14.0 Conclusion

Phase 2 of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme has also made a significant impact to the properties and contributed to the enhancement of their respective Villages.

The funding provided by the scheme has unquestionably improved the external frontages and internal areas of each property.

The scheme has certainly succeeded in offering local businesses a significant and meaningful support. The monetary incentive has encouraged property owners to carry out improvement works to their properties which, in today's economic climate, may not otherwise have been feasible.

The total amount of private investment in Phase 2 of the scheme was £67,685.25, which shows a commitment from the property owners and tenants to successfully deliver the scheme. The impact this has made across the Mid Ulster District Council villages has been significant and will assist the local economy to remain competitive in the current market.

In terms of providing business owners with an incentive to improve their property (and in turn their village), Phase 2 had a very similar result to Phase 1, with Private Sector Leverage totalling 34% of total monies spent in Phase 1 and 34% in Phase 2.

Through the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme, 109 properties were enhanced, resulting in a total of £496,112.62 spent on improving properties in the villages. This included a total of £323,997.09 of grant aid and £172,115.53 of private sector investment.

The Scheme provided an incentive to businesses to improve their business property, which has been well received, and has resulted in significant improvements on an individual and village basis. Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme has been a very successful incentive which produced significant results from delivery through a Council and private sector partnership.

Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Guidance Notes for Applicants

Welcome to the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme Guidance Notes for applicants. Before you complete your application form, you must take time to read this document carefully.

These guidance notes are provided to help you understand the aims of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme and how you can make a grant application.

Background

Mid Ulster District Council supports the improvement and enhancement of business/commercial properties within the development limits of each village as identified in attached maps.

The Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme is a Pilot project and offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme is available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the development limits of each village. Whilst the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme is intended to aid minor works to business/commercial premises, large scale schemes may apply however please note the maximum grant aid is up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property.

Please note that allocation of grant is a competitive process and limited funds are available, therefore not all applications will be funded.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme is to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in each village.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties by 30 March 2018.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in each village
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.
4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each village.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A 'SPRUCE UP' SCHEME INTENDED TO AID MINOR WORKS TO BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PREMISES IN THE IDENTIFIED VILLAGES OF THE AREA. IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT WORKS INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME WILL NEED PLANNING PERMISSION. HOWEVER IF ANY OF THE PROPOSED WORKS DO NEED PLANNING PERMISSION THIS *MUST* BE IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION, AND A COPY INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION.

Who Can Apply?

Based on the Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'Strategic Settlement Evaluation-Proposition Paper' and Council recommendations, business/commercial properties **within the Development Limits** of the following Villages will be eligible to apply (See Maps):

Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Castledawson, Castlecaulfield, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Desertmartin Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglis, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

Please note that the inclusion of a building within an eligible area does not give any automatic entitlement to a grant. This is a competitive process.

The grant is available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g. estate agents, insurance companies etc).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises

PLEASE NOTE:

For a vacant property to be eligible evidence must be provided that:

- 1) It was previously used as a business/commercial property (If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided

2) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete in March 2018. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted.

Application forms will be acceptable from the property owner/s or tenants. If a tenant makes an application it must be co-signed by the property owner(s). Please note should your application be successful, applicants evidence of ownership must be provided at Letter of Offer stage. If the tenant is applying, the tenant will have to request such information from the property owner.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties are adjacent to each other are welcome. Defined as 'Multiple Applications', these applications will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result will be scored highly by the assessment panel. In particular, these 'Multiple Applications' will be most effective and score higher, where an agreement is reached on a complimentary design across all the properties involved.

Properties that are **ineligible** to apply for grant aid include banks, building societies, charity shops, government organisations, political organisations and community groups/clubs.

Eligible expenditure - what we can fund...

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas may apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors and stairs.
- Internal redecoration work e.g. repainting of walls, ceilings etc
- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.
- Permanent (i.e. not loose fitted or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening ,e.g. open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).

- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g. power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

Ineligible Expenditure - what we cannot fund...

The scheme will not support:

- Works which require planning permission which is not in place at the Application stage.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).
- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.
- Internal work which is not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant will not include:

- Statutory fees (e.g. Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

Procurement guidelines

Completed applications must be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the appropriate number of quotations/tenders must be submitted for **each element** of the scheme: **Please cost each element of work separately in Section 3.1 of Application Form, Pages 4 & 5, and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. (Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)**

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£30,000
- For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)

All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. The funder reserves the right to have an independent quantity surveyor check the validity of quotations/tenders.

PLEASE NOTE

A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED UNCOMPETITIVE IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY

INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC). COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS, OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.

How do we assess your application?

The following will be used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- 1 Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)
Scoring will range from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property are considered very poor, the maximum 25% will be allocated.
- 2 Impact the proposed element of works will make (30%)
Scoring will range from 0%-30%, for example, if the proposed element of works will have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 30% will be allocated.
- 3 Value for Money (25%)
This will be calculated based on the formula:- $\text{Impact (points)} \div \text{Grant Sought} = \text{Weighted Criteria}$. Weighted criteria achieved will range from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.
- 4 Multiple Application Status (10%)
Multiple application favourable weighting, whereby individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties are adjacent to each other. These applications will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result will be scored highly by the assessment panel will be allocated 10%.
- 5 Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)
Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting, allocated 10%.

Please note all applications must score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

There is no internal appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications. The decision of the Independent Chartered Architect is final.

Please note all works must be completed and claimed by **2 March 2018**.

Successful Applications - your 'Letter of Offer'

If your Application is successful, you will be issued with a 'Letter of Offer'. This is a form of contract that states:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

IMPORTANT - NO WORKS CAN COMMENCE UNTIL A SIGNED 'LETTER OF OFFER' IS RETURNED TO MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME NOTED ON THE LETTER OF OFFER.

Payment of Grant & financial considerations

Payment of grant will only be made once Mid Ulster District Council is satisfied that all the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' have been fulfilled.

A site visit will be carried out to verify the works have been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard. You may be asked to amend work which does not comply with or falls below the agreed standard.

Payment of grant will be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim will include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment. Proof of payment should be in the form of copy cheques/copy of BACS payment and original bank statements/online bank printouts/printouts from a reputable financial cooperative (clearly showing the name of account and account number).

How do I apply?

Complete the attached application form and return, with relevant documentation listed in section 7 of the application form to the address below by **4pm on Friday 15 September 2017**:

McCARTER HAMILL ARCHITECTS, 44 CIRCULAR ROAD DUNGANNON CO.TYRONE BT71 6BE

Please note only fully completed applications will be considered. A fully completed application constitutes:

- **A Fully Completed Application Form**
- **Submission of all necessary documents as per section 7 page 10 of the application form, prior to 4.00pm on Friday 15 September 2017.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Business Clinics

Property Owners/Tenants are invited to attend business clinics to find out more about the scheme and to get advice/assistance in completing application forms. Representatives from the scheme's Chartered Architect and Mid Ulster District Council will be present. These clinics will be held on two consecutive weeks. The dates and venues for these meetings are as follows:

Date	Town	Time	Venue
Monday 4 th September 2017 & Monday 11 th September 2017	Ballygawley	10am-1pm	Ballygawley Community Hall Fairfield House, Main Street, Ballygawley (Located in Playing fields off Main St)
Monday 4 th September 2017 & Monday 11 th September 2017	Donaghmore	2pm-5pm	Bardic Theatre The Torrent Centre, Donaghmore
Tuesday 5 th September 2017 & Tuesday 12 th September 2017	Stewartstown	10am-1pm	Crieve Centre 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown
Tuesday 5 th September 2017 & Tuesday 12 th September 2017	Moneymore	2pm-5pm	Moneymore Recreation Centre Moneyhaw Road, Moneymore
Wednesday 6 th September 2017 & Wednesday 13 th September 2017	Tobermore	10am-1pm	The Kilcronaghan Centre Rectory Road, Tobermore
Wednesday 6 th September 2017 & Wednesday 13 th September 2017	Bellaghy	2pm-5pm	Seamus Heaney Homeplace Main St, Bellaghy

Who do I contact for more information?

If you need any assistance on any aspect of the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme, please contact:

Mary McCullagh mary.mccullagh@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132
 Lynn Shiels lynn.shiels@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132
 McCarter Hamill Chartered Architects, Paul Hamill paul@mcharchitects.co.uk Tel: 028 87727050

All documents can be downloaded at
www.midulstercouncil.org/villagespruceup



Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Application Form

Applications should be completed in conjunction with the attached Guidance Notes. Only fully completed applications forms submitted with required documentation will be considered.
Please use block capitals.

1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Applicant Details

Name			
	Are you the property owner or tenant?		
	(Please circle)	Property Owner	Tenant
Address			
Telephone	Phone:	Mobile:	
Email		Website	

2. PROPERTY DETAILS

2.1 Please provide details of the property for which the grant is being sought

Name of Business Trading in Property:			
Property Address:			
Please provide a short description of the business for which the grant is being sought.			
Are you the owner of the property? (delete as applicable)	Yes/No		
Is the business/commercial property currently vacant? If Yes, please provide details of the vacant business/commercial property indicating: 1) The property's previous use as a business/commercial property 2) How it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete in March 2018.	Yes/No		
Are you registered for VAT?	Yes/No	If yes, please provide VAT registration number.	
Has the building got 'Listed Building Status'?	Yes/No Status Type:- _____		
Have you received Listed Building Consent for the proposed works? Please note that Consent MUST be obtained prior to commencement of works			
Please state the current number of employees			

Type of Business (Please Tick the appropriate box):	Sole Trader	
	Business Partnership	
	Limited Company	
	Registered Company	
	Other (Please specify)	
If a registered charity, please state registration no:		

2.2 Please describe the current condition of the element of work proposed to be improved/refurbished (***a current colour photograph must be attached to your application***)

3 PROJECT DETAILS

3.1 Please provide a full description of work to be carried out and the associated cost under each of the relevant headings below.

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g. repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. (Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete) 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
Internal Works					

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g. repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT. Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. (Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete) 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
External Works					
TOTAL COST		£			

Note:

- 1.Colours should be appropriate to their area. Colours which make the building visually stand-out unnecessarily to the detriment of the wider streetscape will not be funded.
- 2.All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. The funder reserves the right to have an independent quantity surveyor check validity of quotations/tenders. Please note that professional fees will not be eligible for grant aid and you employ such services at your own risk, whether or not your application is successful. **PLEASE NOTE A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED UNCOMPETITIVE IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC.): - COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS, OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.**
- 3.Costs should not include Vat regardless if the company is VAT registered or not
- 4.All works must be completed and claimed for by 2 March 2018.

3.2 Please identify if the proposed project is part of a Multiple Application (See note on page 3 of Guidance Notes)

Is project part of a Multiple Application	Yes/No
If yes please give details below naming adjacent business/commercial premise applying	

3.3 What is the planned start and completion date for the project?

Expected Start Date:		Expected Completion Date:	
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Please note all works must be completed and claimed by 2 March 2018. If successful no works should commence prior to receipt of Letter of Offer.

3.4 Statutory Approvals

Is Planning Permission required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes a copy of the Planning Permission MUST be included with the application.
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Is Building Control approval required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes Building Control Approval must be in place BEFORE payment of grant.
--	--------	--

Is Listed Building Consent required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes a copy of the Listed Building Consent MUST be submitted prior to commencement of works.
--	--------	--

3.5 Please state how your scheme meets the objectives as stated in the Guidance Notes (See note on Pages 1 & 2 of Guidance Notes)

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4 PROJECT COSTS AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Please provide details of total project cost and grant aid sought:

Total Project Cost:	£
Grant Aid Sought:	£


Details regarding the amount of grant-aid available through this scheme are detailed in the Guidance Notes Page 1.

4.2 Please complete details of remaining funding for the project:

<p>Are you able to provide the remaining funding for the project? (Proof of available match funding is required i.e bank statement/ / print out from a reputable financial cooperative (clearly showing the name of account and account number) / letter of confirmation from bank on their headed paper confirming the applicant has sufficient funds for the scheme to be delivered).</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>Can you complete the project within the required timescale (All works must be completed and claimed by 2 March 2018)</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>

5. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

5.1 Please use this space to add any additional information that may support your application:



6. DECLARATION

Notes to Applicants:

- a. Only owners/tenants of properties located **within the scheme boundaries** included within the Guidance Notes are eligible to apply.
- b. Please note that completion of this application does not guarantee an award of grand aid.
- c. Any costs incurred in the completion of this application will be at your own expense and will not be refunded.
- d. Please note that if your application is successful you will be required to provide documentation to Council for funding purposes before any funds can be released (e.g. bank account details, confirmation of VAT status, original bank statements)
- e. No funds can be issued until all the necessary information required by Mid Ulster District Council has been received
- f. If approved, Council will issue a formal Letter of Offer for your scheme – works must not commence until a formal Letter of Offer has been signed and returned to Council.
- g. Work commenced prior to a Letter of Offer being signed and returned to Council or work commenced before the required statutory approvals are in place will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.
- h. All projects must meet the required timescales.
- i. Grant aid cannot be awarded for works already carried out.
- j. Applicants must comply with publicity arrangements: - Consent to the business being named in and participating in any publicity produced in relation to this Scheme.

I/We confirm that the information contained in this Application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I/We hereby agree to comply with the conditions of the grant.

I/We hereby apply for Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S)/TENANTS)

.....

Name(s) (Print).....

Date.....

IF TENANT APPLYING FOR GRANT AID, PROPERTY OWNER(S) MUST COMPLETE THE BELOW

I/We the property owner(s) give permission to _____ (tenant) to conduct and complete the works as detailed in the attached application form to:-

Property Address: _____

Name of Business currently located in property: _____

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S))

Completed application forms should be returned to the address below in a sealed envelope marked

Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

**McCARTER HAMILL ARCHITECTS , 44 CIRCULAR
ROAD,DUNGANNON,CO.TYRONE,BT71 6BE**

PLEASE NOTE a fully completed application constitutes:

- A Fully Completed Application Form
- Submission of all necessary documents as per section 7 page 10 of the application form

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS
FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 4PM

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED



7 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Failure to fully complete the application form and submit the required documentation below will result in your application being deemed incomplete.

7.1 Please provide the following documentation as part of your application:

	Attached (Please tick)
Completed application form, signed appropriately by the tenant/property owner as per pages 8 & 9	
Colour photograph showing the element of works proposed to be improved/refurbished.	
Detailed costs for any works to be completed in Section 3.1. Please ensure to cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application.	
Proof of available match funding is required i.e bank statement / print out from a reputable financial cooperative (clearly showing the name of account and account number) / letter of confirmation from bank on their headed paper confirming the applicant has sufficient funds for the scheme to be delivered.	
<p>If applying for a property which is currently vacant evidence must be provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It was previously used as a business/commercial property (If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided 2) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete in March 2018. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted. 	
If proposed works require planning permission this must be in place at time of application- a copy of permission MUST be attached	

Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Individual Scoring Assessment Sheet

SECTION A:

1. Applicant Details:

Name of Applicant:			
Address of Applicant:			
Tel No:		Email Address:	
Name of Business:			
Property Address:			
Total Project Cost:		Grant Aid Requested:	

2. Checklist

Eligibility Criteria	Yes	No
Is the property located within the boundary of the scheme as defined in the Guidance Notes.?		
Is the property type eligible for the scheme? (I.e. Commercial, NOT a bank, building society, or charity shop?)		
Did the applicant provide proof that match funding for the project is available?		
Did the applicant demonstrate that they can complete the project within the required timescale?		
Has the application form been signed by tenant and / or property owner or property owner?		
Has a colour photograph of the element of works proposed to be improved/refurbished been provided? (Interior and/or Exterior)		
Are written quotations from bonafide reputable contractors, of which there is no conflict of interest between the applicant and the companies who have the provided quotations?		
If Planning Permission / Listed Building consent needed has a copy been provided?		

SECTION B

1 – CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENT(S) TO BE GRANT AIDED (25%)

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
Very Poor/Non Existant 25%		
Poor 20%		
Average 15%		
Good 10%		
Very Good 5%		
Excellent 0%		
Score in this Section		

2 – IMPACT PROPOSED ELEMENT/ELEMENTS OF WORK WILL MAKE (30%)

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
None 0%		
Minor 6%		
Average 12%		
Good 18%		
Very Good 24%		
Transformation 30%		
Score in this Section		

3 –VALUE FOR MONEY (25%)

Value for money calculated as: Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought (in thousands to nearest £500)

EXAMPLE 1 Average Impact(12) ÷ Grant Sought(£5000) = 12÷5 = 2.4 =Score of **10%**.

EXAMPLE 2 Very Good Impact(24) ÷ Grant Sought(£2000) = 24÷2 = 12 =Score of **25%**.

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
0-1.999 - 5% Poor		Impact =
2-3.999 - 10% Average		-----
4 – 7.999 - 15% Good		Grant Sought =
8 – 11.999 - 20% Very Good		Value for Money =
12 – 30 - 25% Excellent		Score =
Score in this Section		

4 –MULTIPLE APPLICATION (10%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Multiple Application 0%		
Multiple Application as part of 2 properties 5%		
Multiple Application as part of more than 2 properties 10%		
Score in this Section		

5- VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PROPERTY (10%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Vacant Business/Commercial Property 0%		
Vacant Business/Commercial Property 10%		
Score in this Section		

Summary:

		Maximum Score	Actual Score
1	CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENTS TO BE GRANT AIDED	25	
2	IMPACT OF PROPOSED ELEMENT	30	
3	VALUE FOR MONEY	25	
4	MULTIPLE APPLICATION STATUS	10	
5	VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERICAL PROPERTY	10	
Total Score:		100	

Recommended Grant Aid:	
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Signatures of Assessment Panel:	Date:



Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Commencement Inspection Report

Application Ref No.			
Applicant Name			
Business Name			
Property Address			
Photograph (Before Works Commence)			
Is the photo supplied with the application a true reflection of the current condition of the premises			
Have any of the funding works been carried out (if yes list within comments section)			
Planning Approval Granted	Ref No:	Building Control Approval Granted	Ref No:
Listed building Consent Granted	Ref No:	Advertising Consent Granted	Ref No:

SUMMARY OF WORKS	
Element of Works	Description of Works
Internal Works	
External Works	
Other (Please Specify)	
Comments	
Date Works Due to Commence	
Date Works Due to Complete	
Inspection Conducted by	
Inspection Date	
Signed (original)	

Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Final Site Inspection

Application Ref No.	
Applicant Name	
Business Name	
Property Address	
Photograph of Property before Works	
Photograph of Property on Completion	
Date of Completion	

Has the work been carried out within the required timescale (30th March 2018)	
Verification of Statutory Approvals attached	
Has the works been completed in accordance with the application	

Summary of Works

Element of Works	Description of Works	Progress of Works
Internal Works		
External Works		
Other (Please Specify)		

QUALITY OF WORKS

	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Quality of materials					
Quality of Workmanship					
Comments					

IMPACT OF SCHEME IN RESPECT TO:

	1 Poor / No Impact	2 Little Impact	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Visual Improvement of the external structure of the property					
Visual Improvement of the internal					

structure of the property					
Contribution to overall townscape					
Comments					

Final Inspection Conducted by	
Final Inspection (date)	
Grant Offered	
Recommendation to Pay Grant	
Comments on impact of Scheme	
Signed	
Date	



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Brexit Working Group

Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

Exiting the EU will be one of the biggest events of this generation and it is critical that the Council understands and anticipates the impacts of what will be a long term process. It is equally important that the Council get the best deal for Mid Ulster and its residents in a post-Brexit settlement.

A cross-party, member-led Brexit working group is being set up in order to understand the impacts and secure the best possible deal for the Council area. It will be looking at the impact of Brexit on the District; the local economy during the Brexit process; potential changes to legislation; financial impact on the Council; and social cohesion.

The Brexit Working Group will explore and evaluate the challenges arising from the decision to leave EU and to deliver on any opportunities that may arise as a result of this decision.

In this context, the Council has resolved to establish an elected member Working Group whose specific remit will be to consider Brexit related matters.

1.1 Working Group Membership

The Council has nominated the following 10 Members to participate on the Brexit Working Group:

SF

Cllr C Elatter
Cllr M Gillespie
Cllr S McGuigan
Cllr S McPeake
Cllr D Molloy

DUP

Cllr P McLean
Cllr W Robinson

UUP

Cllr W Cuddy
Cllr T Wilson

SDLP

Cllr M Kearney

2.0 Meetings

- 2.1 It is anticipated that the Working Group will meet on a quarterly basis, however, the frequency of meetings will be kept under review. The Working Group has indicated that where possible, it would prefer to hold meetings in the evening time.
- 2.2 The venue for the meeting can be determined at the first meeting.
- 2.3 Meetings will be quorate when there is an attendance of 5 Members. Should the meeting be inquorate 15 minutes after the appointed meeting commencement time, the meeting will not proceed. Should the meeting become inquorate at any point, the meeting will terminate.
- 2.4 Members who are unable to attend a meeting can nominate a substitute which will enable a quorum to be met.
- 2.5 Economic Development staff will provide the secretariat for the meetings. Minutes of the meetings will take the form of key discussion points and agreed actions.
- 2.6 Minutes of the meetings are intended for use by and circulation to the Council and Working Group Members.
- 2.7 Any matters which are deemed as Confidential will be clearly described as such.
- 2.8 A schedule of meetings will be agreed and at least 3 working days' formal notice will be given of meetings, together with an Agenda and associated papers. Communications relation to meetings and all related documentation, will be provided electronically.

3.0 Wider Governance Arrangements

- 3.1 The Brexit Working Group does not have any delegated authority from the Council and accordingly, regular reports will be provided to the Council's Development Committee.
- 3.2 To avoid a delay in progressing Working Group recommendations, where necessary, verbal updates of recommended actions will be provided to the Committee with formal written reports to be considered at the next available Committee.

4.0 Key Objectives

- 4.1 The key objectives of the Brexit Working Group are to be a meaningful strategic grouping which will support Mid Ulster District Council in implementing our Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019, Community Plan and Economic Development Plan – Our Plan for Growth 2015 - 2020; and securing growth and improvement by:
- Researching, monitoring and reviewing the financial and operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of Brexit
 - Identifying any actions the Council may take to mitigate any adverse impacts arising
 - Continuing to champion Mid Ulster as an area to invest and retain investment
 - Supporting Mid Ulster's businesses to trade with existing and potential new trade partners
 - Exploring opportunities that may arise as a result of Brexit
 - Representing the position of MUDC as part of any negotiation and transition arrangements
 - Engaging and working with stakeholders as required
 - Assisting with disseminating Brexit related information and potential changes to legislation to local businesses and wider stakeholders
 - Monitoring the impact on migrant workers, skills gaps and issues arising as a result of Brexit
 - Maintaining positive relations and cultural links with the EU
 - Identifying the implications for EU grant funding and alternative funding Opportunities
 - Seeking to influence decisions with regard to continuing access to and

distribution of EU funds (i.e. Peace, Culture and Interreg programmes)

- Maintaining and promoting positive social cohesion within the district post Brexit
- In respect of any other matter which may require some consideration in the context of Brexit, the Brexit Committee will act in an advisory capacity

5.0 Review

The Brexit Working Group Terms of Reference will be kept under review.



Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group

Monday 10 September 2018

Chamber, Cookstown Office

	Action																														
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies A McCreesh welcomed everyone to first meeting of the Broadband Working Group.</p> <p>Present:</p> <table> <tr><td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Colin McKenna</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Louise Lamont</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Barry O'Hagan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor S McAleer</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor R Mulligan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor W Buchanan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor S Clarke</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor K Ashton</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor J McNamee</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor M Gillespie</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> </table> <p>Apologies:</p> <table> <tr><td>Councillor Mark Glasgow</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor Sean McPeake</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr><td>Councillor Brian McGuigan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> </table> <p>No Conflicts of Interest were declared.</p>	Adrian McCreesh	MUDC	Fiona McKeown	MUDC	Colin McKenna	MUDC	Louise Lamont	MUDC	Barry O'Hagan	MUDC	Councillor S McAleer	MUDC	Councillor R Mulligan	MUDC	Councillor W Buchanan	MUDC	Councillor S Clarke	MUDC	Councillor K Ashton	MUDC	Councillor J McNamee	MUDC	Councillor M Gillespie	MUDC	Councillor Mark Glasgow	MUDC	Councillor Sean McPeake	MUDC	Councillor Brian McGuigan	MUDC	
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Councillor M Gillespie	MUDC																														
Councillor Mark Glasgow	MUDC																														
Councillor Sean McPeake	MUDC																														
Councillor Brian McGuigan	MUDC																														
<p>2. Election of Chair The D'Hont system was used for the election of chair, Councillor Sean Clarke was nominated. This was seconded by Councillor John McNamee and Councillor Michael Gillespie.</p>																															
<p>3. Election of Vice Chair A McCreesh explained that a Vice Chair was not required for working groups. This was agreed by all. Councillor Sean Clarke took the chair.</p>																															
<p>4. Draft Broadband Working Group Terms of Reference C McKenna provided an overview of the Terms of Reference and suggested that the Broadband Working Group. Councillor J McNamee proposed that meetings are held monthly in the Cookstown office to begin with, with a view</p>																															

<p>that this is reviewed in a few months' time. Councillor W Buchanan seconded the location of the meetings.</p> <p>C McKenna recommended that the Broadband Working Group meetings should only proceed when a minimum of 5 Councillors were available to attend. This was agreed by all.</p> <p>B O'Hagan confirmed that he will attend the Broadband Working Group meetings. A McCreesh confirmed that the Economic Development Department will service all meeting and will deliver on actions required in order for progress to be made.</p>	
<p>5. Presentation – Overview of Broadband in Mid Ulster</p> <p>C McKenna presented an overview of the Broadband situation in Northern Ireland confirming approximately £63 million has been spent on broadband to date. BT state that Northern Ireland is 95% fibre enabled, which includes the Mid Ulster area. This has been achieved mostly via Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology. In reality this is misleading particularly in Mid Ulster. OFCOM' s 2017 Report shows that Mid Ulster District Council area has the second worst broadband service in Northern Ireland with 6% of premises being unable to get 2Mbit/s (3163 premises).</p> <p>The Universal Service Obligation (USO) set by the government, guarantees that all premises in the UK access to speeds of at least 2 Mbit/s. This is expected to rise to at least 10Mbit/s by 2020, regardless of where premises are located within the UK.</p> <p>Councillor S McAleer highlighted there is a risk that in the future there will be premises which will not receive 10Mbit/s as they are not receiving even 2 Mbit/s currently.</p> <p>Councillor S Clarke asked what figure represents an urban area. A McCreesh confirmed that any population over 3,000 is classified as Urban area.</p> <p>Councillor S Clarke queried how the Broadband is distributed e.g some parts of Pomeroy can get 10MB but this doesn't mean the whole area gets this level of coverage.</p> <p>C McKenna highlighted that FTTC is not the correct solution for rural areas. There now seems to have been agreement on this by DfE and Broadband Providers. The sustainable long term socio-economic benefits to the Mid Ulster Council area will mainly be achieved through Fibre to the Premise (FTTP).</p> <p>Councillor M Gillespie stated that inequality exists in pricing. Many people are currently paying for a poor level of Broadband coverage which they are not receiving at the same price as people who get a good service.</p>	

C McKenna said OFCOM now seem determine to ensure there are changes with regards to equality of service in the future.

C McKenna explained that the £150M Broadband Fund under the Confidence & Supply arrangement has been created to bring Ultrafast fibre (100 Mbit/s.) to rural and semi-rural areas across NI that currently receive less than 30 Mbit/s. In June 2018 the Department for Economy (DfE) presented 2 options which they said were the best way to utilise this fund.

Option A – Rolling out 30 Mbit/s to all rural areas in NI.

Option B – Provide limited Ultrafast broadband into many areas although not exclusively in rural areas.

Option B would result in 5% of NI seeing no improvement in their broadband which is approximately 27% of the Mid Ulster District Council area. The proposal is going out to public consultation in October 2018, consultation with industry has commenced.

C McKenna stated that Option A although good is still short of the 100Mbit/s Ultrafast Broadband.

A McCreesh stated that options A&B have been presented to MLAs representing all the political parties. C McKenna advised that councillors were not involved in these meetings and many were not aware the meetings took place or the outcome of the meetings.

A McCreesh highlighted that all rural communities will not be future proofed if either of these options are accepted.

Councillor W Buchanan asked how much it would cost to get everyone up to 100 Mbit/s, C McKenna said this cost was not known.

F McKeown suggested a further option, that perhaps the available fund could be pro-rated into the worst affected areas, with support from Council.

F McKeown also highlighted that the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) has seconded an officer to undertake a Broadband survey to gather evidence and to analyse data of the worst broadband areas. This work is to be completed through survey Monkey to look at districts in Northern Ireland, however the focus will be on businesses.

The aim of the survey is to determine what speeds are available. F McKeown stressed that the issue with this is that people cannot access email as their broadband is so poor, therefore this could lead to distorted survey results and the

<p>risk of people in Northern Ireland being wrongly sold products they cannot use.</p> <p>Councillor R Mulligan highlighted the importance of FTTP and said where he currently lives he can access only 1.5 Mbit/s but beyond his property service levels decrease.</p> <p>A McCreesh agreed that within the new council area, all areas have all had a little connection but that moving forward the OFCOM 2017 report if a game changer, the body responsible will hold BT and other providers accountable.</p> <p>S Clarke also reiterated that the solution is FTTP.</p> <p>C McKenna summarised that the two options provided are not future proof and that he had spoken to other councils (Fermanagh & Omagh and Newry & Mourne) who also agreed options A&B are not totally suitable solutions.</p> <p>A McCreesh urged members to agree a meeting with the Department for Economy Telecoms section to discuss the issue of Rural Broadband further, all members agreed.</p> <p>Councillor J McNamee suggested Jonathan Rose OFCOM be present at this meeting. C McKenna confirmed the most senior people responsible for Telecoms, Geraldine Fee Director Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals and Petroleum Division and Alan Preston Head of Telecoms would be able to attend a meeting with the group.</p> <p>Councillors K Ashton & S McAleer both suggested a meeting with local MLAs be set up prior to the meeting with the Department to find out if they were aware of Options A & B.</p> <p>It was agreed two meetings would be set up, one for Councillors to meet with MLAs and another for Councillors to meet with the Department to discuss Broadband solutions</p> <p>C McKenna provided suitable dates for the meeting.</p>	<p>C McKenna to arrange meeting with the Department for Telecoms and Members in the Dungannon office</p>
<p>6. Presentation of Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Proposal</p> <p>C McKenna provided an overview of the Local Full Fibre Network Proposal. (LFFN).</p> <p>The LFFN is has been set up by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to stimulate commercial investment in fibre technology. It is a competitive process. Projects must deliver gigabit capable connectivity in urban locations across the UK. A gigabit is 1000 Mbit/s.</p> <p>DCMS advised that NI councils should develop a collective bid. Therefore a consortium called Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) has been formed to develop and submit a collective bid to secure substantial investment for fibre</p>	

<p>connectivity in Northern Ireland. All connections must be capable of 1Gbps and must have at least 100 Mbit/s, a key aspect of the project is that Council buildings must act as the anchor tenant at the start and end of the fibre connection.</p> <p>There are three project route proposals in the pipeline from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The former High School grounds in Maghera through the town to Maghera Recreation Centre. 2. The Hill Of The O'Neill in Dungannon via Mid Ulster District Council offices Circular Road Dungannon to Coalisland Recreation Centre Gortgonis. 3. Mid Ulster Council Offices, Cookstown circulating around the town to the MUSA via Loughry College adjacent to new Desertcreat Fire & rescue facility. <p>Councillor M Gillespie requested for maps for each proposal to be emailed to members</p>	<p>C McKenna to issue maps to members</p>
<p>7. Update on Broadband funding allocation in Rural Development Programme</p> <p>F McKeown highlighted that RDP has a budget of £350k for Broadband enablement with a grant rate of 75% of eligible costs available. The purpose of the scheme is to enable rural dwellers and businesses to avail of Broadband where no broadband exists or not likely to exist in the next three years. The scheme rules dictate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If promoters are successful they cannot apply to any other government fund for another three years. • Grant award is for Community groups only. • £100,000 is the max grant available at a rate of 75% • Promoters are to provide 5% towards project costs. <p>The timescale for application deadline is December 2019 with Letters of Offer to be issued by September 2020.</p> <p>F McKeown asked members to consider if this route should be pursued or if this budget should be transferred to the Rural Services Scheme or the Rural Basic Services Scheme which are both currently over-subscribed.</p>	
<p>8. Draft letter to Secretary of State to lobby for the release of the allocated funding to be spent on broadband provision especially in rural areas in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>F McKeown provided a summary of the letter. The letter is to be issued from the Chair.</p>	<p>F McKeown – Letter to be issued from Chair.</p>
<p>9. Letter from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council re Options for Confidence and Supply Agreement Funding.</p> <p>C McKenna explained that the letter shows Fermanagh & Omagh District Council are like minded and that their members are also concerned about the two options agreed</p>	

by MLAs, the fact that towns and cities can avail of this funding is considered unfair. All members agreed.	
10. Broadband Work Plan F McKeown proposed actions are collected as the working group continues	
11. Any Other Business None	
12. Date of next meeting TBC	



Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group

Thursday 18 October 2018

Meeting with MLA's and Department of the Economy Telecoms Branch

Chamber, Dungannon Office

	Action																																						
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies Cllr Sean Clarke (Chairman) welcomed everyone to meeting of the Broadband Working Group.</p> <p>Present:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Councillor S McAleer</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor R Mulligan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor W Buchanan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor S Clarke</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor J McNamee</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor M Gillespie</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Sean McPeake</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Brian McGuigan</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colin McKenna</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Louise Lamont</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> </table> <p>MLA's:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Oliver Molloy(Representing Michelle O'Neill)</td><td>Sinn Fein</td></tr> <tr> <td>Linda Dillion</td><td>Sinn Fein</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colm Gildernew</td><td>Sinn Fein</td></tr> <tr> <td>Keith Buchanan</td><td>DUP</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ian Milne</td><td>Sinn Fein</td></tr> </table> <p>DfE – Telecoms Branch:</p> <p>Geraldine Fee - Director of Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals & Petroleum Division Nigel Robbins - Broadband Project Director David Hamill Heidi-Beth Hudson Eamonn Blaney</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Councillor Mark Glasgow</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Councillor K Ashton</td><td>MUDC</td></tr> </table>	Councillor S McAleer	MUDC	Councillor R Mulligan	MUDC	Councillor W Buchanan	MUDC	Councillor S Clarke	MUDC	Councillor J McNamee	MUDC	Councillor M Gillespie	MUDC	Councillor Sean McPeake	MUDC	Councillor Brian McGuigan	MUDC	Adrian McCreesh	MUDC	Fiona McKeown	MUDC	Colin McKenna	MUDC	Louise Lamont	MUDC	Oliver Molloy(Representing Michelle O'Neill)	Sinn Fein	Linda Dillion	Sinn Fein	Colm Gildernew	Sinn Fein	Keith Buchanan	DUP	Ian Milne	Sinn Fein	Councillor Mark Glasgow	MUDC	Councillor K Ashton	MUDC	
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<p>Barry O Hagan Arlene Foster Rosemary Barton Sean Lynch Jemma Dolan</p> <p>MUDC MLA MLA MLA MLA</p> <p>No Conflicts of Interest were declared.</p>	
<p>2. 6pm– 7pm Update Meeting (Councillors & MLA's)</p> <p>In advance of the meeting at 7pm with DfE Telecoms Branch, Colin Mc Kenna presented a recap of Broadband in Mid Ulster reminding everyone of how bad the situation is. Proposed questions that would be asked in the next meeting with DfE Telecoms Branch were discussed.</p> <p>Adrian Mc Creesh also commented that the rural broadband funding under the RDP would be reallocated to other projects within the RDP programme. This was because by accessing it Communities would be excluded for 3 years any opportunity of funding under the £150m Confidence & Supply funding for broadband.</p>	
<p>3. 7pm – 9.15pm Meeting with Department of the Economy Telecoms Branch</p> <p>Councillor Sean Clarke welcomed the DfE Telecoms team into the meeting. Geraldine Fee, Director of Tourism, Telecoms, Minerals & Petroleum Division outlined what was happening regarding the £150m Confidence & Supply funding for broadband project.</p> <p>Nigel Robbins - Broadband Project Director, then explained what was happening next. That pre- market engagement with suppliers was ongoing who were showing great interest. The timescales to deliver the project would be from late 2019 – 2023.</p> <p>The supplier engagement process resulted in a double figure response from industry as a result the Department is looking into lotting workshops. The expected time frame for Tender release is Dec/Jan 19 with contract implementation to start June/July 19.</p> <p>In July 2018 Open Market Research (OMR) was undertaken and its findings will be published next week. The OMR will show a breakdown of areas not receiving 30M/bits. There will a 5 week public consultation on its findings which will ask the public to view an online map to identify their postcode area. There are up to 12,000 premises in Mid Ulster receiving less than 30M/bits. Therefore it is important that everyone responds to get included in the areas of intervention.</p> <p>The Department is to provide alternative means and methods for those with poor broadband access to enable them to be part of the consultation process, e.g. a text service, phone call, correspondence address for letters etc. MUDC to ensure public are made of the consultation by advertising on social media etc. Members asked that the public get confirmation that they are on the map if they report the problem to the Department.</p>	

The telecoms team felt that the whole focus of this project was on 12% of NI who at present are unable to access 30M/bits. This is mainly the rural areas. Based on this the team had developed 2 Options on how to spend the £150m (not factoring in suppliers match funding). They stated that they had met the political parties on this and there was political consensus.

The 2 options were:

Option A – Provide limited Ultrafast broadband across NI leaving 5% of NI with no improvement.

OPTION B - Provide 30M/bits to all areas in NI which currently receive less than 30M/bits.

If Option A was preferred it would mean approximately 4,000 premises in Mid Ulster seeing no benefit, requiring an extra £45m to complete the job as this is FTTP.

If Option B was preferred than no one would be left behind, everyone would get 30M/bits. The model being used was not suggested at this point.

This led to a series of questions posed during meeting and responses:

Will further delays in the plan to bring ultra-fast broadband across rural areas of Northern Ireland increase the risk to the £150m funding for the project?

The Department is seeking approval to get the project period extended to 2023/2024, as Industry leaders have advised they will need a period of grace to become operationally viable for the project, which could take 6-9 months. Also, Industry leaders have advised the rollout of the scheme could take 5-6 years.

Supplier Contribution – The Department advised the successful supplier/s should contribute 20% to the project, although this figure has been lower in England & Scotland. To this members asked if the Department should confirm 20% will be enforced on the supplier as part of the contract terms & condition's. Members expressed concerns that previously it looked like BT had control of contracts and this cannot be allowed to happen again. This was rebutted by Geraldine Fee.

With no Minister who will sign this off?

The Department is to seek clarification as to whether or not the Permanent Secretary will have the authority to approve decisions, the Department is currently exploring alternative options.

Are we operating within Best Value for money or Rural Proofing scenario?

The Department confirmed they are duty bound to comply with state aid rules and that the guiding principle is to get best value for money.

The Department stated that Option B is a sensible option as no one is left out and that procurement will address issues raised by MUDC. The Department said that an additional £224m, according to independent consultants would be needed to deliver Ultra-fast broadband across all NI. MUDC would like more evidence of where the figure of £224m

comes from as this seems high and have requested that procurement is designed to reach the areas most in need.

Will any delay in issuing a tender, impact on the contract award, increasing the already significant risk that the £150m funding for broadband will not be utilised?

The drafting of an outline Business case is to start this week and the Department aims to provide as much future proofing to as much of the 12% as possible.

Concerns were raised by MUDC re the accuracy of the map showing current broadband coverage. MUDC to arrange a meeting to view and discuss the Maps when they are issued.

There was also concern that the Department were interviewing suppliers around delivery models. Members stated that they felt the suppliers should not be influencing the deliver rather it should be the Department telling the suppliers.

Given that the tendering process to deliver the project will begin in December, with the contract awarded some six months later, what are the delivery timescales for work on the ground?

The Department advised that Industry has indicated they will need 6-9 months ramp up time to prepare for the project, the CBI report states a minimum of 3 years to deliver the programme however an extension has been requested, if there is no extension there is a risk money will not be used. The Departments timeframe for project start date is December – March 19/20. MUDC to determine how much of Mid Ulster will benefit if an extension is not agreed.

What areas will benefit first? – Will it be the areas with the worst broadband service i.e. FODC & MUDC?

The Department confirmed procurement will be designed to address intervention areas. They also said they could not confirm which area will be started first and stated the start area of the project will be a ministerial decision based on weight of factors. Members asked if tenders could be broken down by Council area and if the OFCOM 2017 report highlights FODC & MUDC areas as the worst in NI, then why would they not start work in these areas first? Members said that we already know what areas lack resources and that FTTP is the only solution.

Will all beneficiaries be entitled to Fibre to the Premise or are hybrid technologies such as Wireless or satellite being considered?

Department confirmed bids will be evaluated against criteria in the tender, and that a range of technology will be allowed. They also said that we should not focus on technology rather focus on the speeds. The Department stated that they cannot describe specific technology in the tender but can dictate certain technology that works at specific speeds, they cannot guarantee FTTP will be provided to all premises. The project costs have been worked out against a range of technology at £90-£96m with the remaining budget to be spent on future proofing. Department then confirmed under option B, **90% of premises will be reliant on fibre to cabinet**, with up to 3% dependant on wireless and 6% availing of FTTP. This was disappointing as the members believed

that the £150m fund was for Ultrafast (Fibre) not cabinets. The members expressed that they wanted FTTP and not Technology neutral methods.

The Department said that the £150m will cover 7% of the 12% of NI which currently has no broadband cover, which leaves 5% not being addressed. The estimated cost to include the remaining 5% will be £374M. MUDC to request detailed figures from the Department and to ensure FTTP is provided to all premises.

Are Option A or Option B the only options?

The Department confirmed the other option was to source funding to cover the entire 12%. MUDC to consider if they can/will contribute additional funding.

Will the Councils have any role on how the roll-out should happen?

The Department was reminded that: 1. OFCOM's report should steer where they start; 2. That similar to Council the Department has signed up to Community Planning and therefore under this spirit we should have a conversation to further advance what needs to be done; 3. We should be working as a partnership.

The Department also stated that there are a large number of publicly funded intervention over the next 3 years, e.g. regional city deals, Local Full Fibre Networks, etc and that they will work with each project regarding interventions. They also stated that everything they do is fully transparent.

Will it be a condition that services provided going forward be equitable in terms of availability and price, regardless of location?

The Department confirmed that by 2033 the UK is expected to have full fibre which will cost approx. £3-£5Billion and that the City Deal project will be descoped from this money, the Departments Broadband intervention will not go near the City Deal Intervention.

There is £150m available, however to get the full 12% covered the project is estimated to cost £374m, therefore an additional £224m is required to get Ultrafast Option A. Therefore 4,000 premises in Mid Ulster will not benefit from the project – MUDC to consider if/how much extra they could contribute to the project it is anticipated MUDC would need to contribute £45M to get FTTP.

Councillor Clarke thanked the department for attending the meeting and addressing all the members concerns. The Members agreed that they would be in touch with the Department going forward on this matter.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

4. Actions Going Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting to be arranged re maps, see report next week - Push consultation on social media - Drill into figures, and ensure FTTP is the way forward - Prepare a responses with positivity and raise concerns. - Arrange another meeting with MLAs/ Councillors. 	
5. Any Other Business None	
6. Date of next meeting TBC	

APPENDIX 8
LETTER TO PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPT OF FINANCE
RE RATES RELIEF FOR TOWN CENTRE BUSINESSES



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

8 January 2019

Ms Sue Gray
Permanent Secretary
Department of Finance
Clare House
303 Airport Road
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Dear Ms Gray

At a recent meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in December 2018, members joined to express their growing concerns that many local retailers in our town centres are struggling to survive. This difficult trading climate is made even more challenging as traders have to pay significant overheads on rates and rent etc. When that is coupled with the decline in footfall on our high streets, mainly due to the surge in online shopping, this has led to the closure of many local traders and consequently a monthly increase in our town centre retail vacancy rates.

Although this situation is not unique to Mid Ulster it is having a greater proportional effect in our district, due to the reliance on the retail sector. Looking ahead, the turmoil facing the retail sector is unlikely to abate unless Government provides further direct intervention to support the sector.

In the last Budget (October 2018), Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a £1.5bn package of rates relief and town centre infrastructure funding to support beleaguered high streets in England, Scotland and Wales, but sadly the North of Ireland was excluded from this funding support package.

Mid Ulster District Council would urge the Department for Finance to help preserve our high streets by introducing additional incentives similar to the model that exists in England, Scotland and Wales which would ultimately help support retail businesses and the hundreds of people they employ.

I trust you will give this matter your urgent attention and I await your response on what can be done to assist our retailers at this critical time.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Seán McPeake
Chair

Sue Gray
PERMANENT SECRETARY

2nd Floor West
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST, BT3 9ED
Tel No: 028 90816590
E-mail: sue.gray@finance-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Finance
An Roinn
Airgeadais
www.finance-ni.gov.uk

Cllr Seán McPeake
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

PSCOR/21/2019

23 January 2019

Dear Sean

RATES RELIEF

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2019 regarding high street rates in Mid Ulster and the Chancellor's initiative to help the high street and small businesses. I note the fact that the Council discussed this development at its December 2018 meeting.

On foot of the Chancellor's position, Northern Ireland has been allocated funds through Barnett Consequentials. The additional revenue received as part of that process will be unhypothecated within the budgetary process. Any decisions in relation to Northern Ireland will be taken in the context of the wider public finance and policy position.

In relation to wider business rating policy, the Department is planning to go out to consultation later this year. That process will seek views on potential future options available for longer-term small business rate relief policy. The findings of that consultation will inform advice to be provided to incoming Ministers on this issue.

Yours sincerely

SUE GRAY



APPENDIX 10
LETTER TO PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
RE SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

8 January 2019

Ms Katrina Godfrey
Permanent Secretary
Department for Infrastructure
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Dear Ms Godfrey

As recently as 5th December 2018, Mid Ulster District Council welcomed a meeting with your Department officials to discuss the capacity at the local sewage treatment works and its potential impact on future construction of residential buildings in the Mid Ulster Council area.

The Council would seek a follow up meeting in respect of future funding initiatives for water and sewerage in the Mid Ulster District Council area. In particular, members are concerned that new homes being built in Dungannon could be severely impacted by a lack of capacity at the local sewage treatment works, as Dungannon has been identified among one of the most affected areas.

Northern Ireland Water has advised no new homes will be connected to the wastewater network in affected areas such as Dungannon. As a result, it would appear that developers would have to fund and build their own private sewage treatment works. Dungannon is one of the fastest growing areas in the North of Ireland and the current requirement for new homes is now at a critical stage.

I would be most grateful if a delegation from Council can meet with you and your officials to discuss our ongoing concerns on the matter.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Seán McPeake
Chair

APPENDIX 11

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RESPONSE FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS

From: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2019 15:26
To: Eileen Forde <Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org>
Subject: COR-0016-2019 - SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS, REQUEST FOR MEETING

Cllr McPeake

Thank you for your letter dated 11 January (attached).

The issues you have raised are being considered and a reply will issue shortly.

Kind regards

Madeline Lowry | DfI Private Office

Room 7-08 | Clarence Court | 10-18 Adelaide Street | Belfast | BT2 8GB



Hospitality Ulster

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

17 December 2018



Dear Anthony

As we approach a new financial year, Retail NI, Hospitality Ulster and Manufacturing NI asks that the Council freezes or considers reducing the district rate on non-domestic properties.

Our members are experiencing huge uncertainty with Brexit, along with slow economic growth and the rising costs of running their businesses. The last thing they need is an increase in their business rates. We are urging all Councils to consider our call and not to add to the financial burden of our members

The recent UK Budget gave independent retailers and hospitality businesses in England a third off their rate bills. Their counterparts in Northern Ireland got nothing.

Rates reform is absolutely critical to the future of the economy. Please find enclosed a copy of the 'New Deal for Northern Ireland', which our three organisations jointly launched recently. In this document we call for a radical reduction in business rates to support our town and city centres and to ensure small business owners can reinvest more of their own money into growing their businesses and employing more staff.

Our three organisations recognise that our eleven Councils are key players in economic development and we want to strengthen our relationship with you going forward. We would be delighted to meet with your Councillors to discuss our concerns in greater detail. Please contact Lisa McMaster at lisa@retailni.com to arrange a suitable date.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Glyn Roberts
Retail NI CEO

Stephen Kelly
Manufacturing NI CEO

Colin Neill
Hospitality Ulster CEO

DEV
COMMUNITY

Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baselines and Outlook

Eoin Magennis & Andrew Park
December 2018

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Executive Summary

1. This report on the economic geography, baseline economic performance and outlook for the Mid, South & West (M,S&W) region of Northern Ireland (NI) has been completed for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABC), Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC).
2. This report confirms the economic geography of the M,S&W region as one with high levels of self-containment (90% of local jobs are filled by local residents) and strong sectoral specialisations which are aligned with the draft NI Industrial Strategy. The M,S&W region has strong sectoral concentrations in Advanced Manufacturing (eg: materials handling), Food Manufacturing, Construction, Transport / Logistics and Agriculture. The specialisation in Manufacturing is especially strong: 39% of all NI Manufacturing jobs and 30% of Advanced Manufacturing are found in the region. The supply chain linkages, connections forged by movements of employees across firms and interactions with FE and HE institutions provide the potential for stronger and sustained economic growth and development.
3. Northern Ireland's strategic corridor routes - the M1, A1 Dublin/Belfast, A4 Ballygawley/Border, A5(N2) Derry/Dublin, A6 Derry/Belfast and A29 Coleraine/Armagh - all run through the region. This ensures that the region is at the centre of important wider connections and markets. Planned or ongoing improvements to all of these routes will mean better access for the region to key transport infrastructure (airports and ports), Higher Education Institutions and entry routes for tourists. In doing this, the central position of the region becomes a greater asset.
4. Geography and proximity to the border means that the M,S&W is contiguous to counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. The region forms a central part of the Border Corridor with much higher levels of cross-border trade, commuting, access to services and recreational use than would be found in other parts of the island.

Economic Baseline and Outlook

5. The M,S&W region has seen strong **population** growth in the period since 2001, increasing by 15% and with 471,000 people is now a quarter of the total NI population. This growth is significantly ahead of the growth in the NI population,

with Mid Ulster (+18%) and ABC (+16%) the two fastest-growing LGDs in NI, with growth in the 0-15 age group particularly strong. Forecast growth in both total population and working age population to 2027 is expected to continue to be stronger than the NI rates, reaching more than half a million people.

6. The labour market in the M,S&W region has an **employment** rate of 69.2% and has seen a strong recovery since 2012, faster than NI's as a whole. Over 14,000 jobs were added by workplaces in the region, and where the manufacturing sector in NI just recovered lost ground, the M,S&W region saw this strong sector grow further, adding on another 3,500 jobs. Three quarters of the region's jobs are in the private sector – a higher proportion than the NI average and closer to the rebalanced economy to which the industrial strategy aspires.
7. The **business base** in the M,S&W region is a dynamic one, with a strong reputation not only for its levels of entrepreneurship – adding to the business base of 24,500 firms in 2017 or a third of all NI's – but also for a vibrant, often indigenously-owned businesses, especially in the agri-food, advanced manufacturing, life & health sciences, construction and tourism sectors.
8. The enterprises are a mix of the globally-competing, the small firm and the locally-owned. Three quarters of the 9,500 jobs created by Invest NI clients since 2012, were created by indigenous businesses. This cohort of successful, entrepreneurial firms drive export growth, the M,S&W region accounting for 27% of NI exports, a larger share than Belfast's.
9. The region has not only had a strong jobs recovery since 2012 but also a similar recovery in inflation-adjusted Real **GVA** growth rates. These growth rates are well above the NI average, so that the M,S&W region accounts for nearly a quarter of total NI GVA.
10. In summary, the M,S&W region is one which has seen employment and GVA grow strongly in recent years and has the potential for further productivity gains, as an economic driver for NI more generally. Local linkages, including supply chains between firms in the region, and labour markets with high levels of self-containment and strong sector specialisation with global competing world class firms, strengthen a sense of the M,S&W region being a driver of the wider NI and border region economies.

Considerations

11. The strong recovery and the anticipated creation of further jobs to 2027 is likely to mean that the region's labour market will be a **tight** one. This is a situation already facing local businesses and will continue to be one, testing the availability of skills locally and the ability to attract talent from other parts of NI and beyond. The availability of intermediate skills in particular is a pressing one for many businesses, especially for Manufacturing firms.
12. The economic outlook is uncertain due, in part, to **Brexit**. A best-case scenario is one where smooth border management ensures continuing free cross-border movement for residents, goods and services, and any opportunities arising can be realised through investment in areas such as infrastructural connectivity, increased supports for small businesses and the continuation of various funding streams.
13. **Growing sectors**, such as tourism digital and life sciences, point to an opportunity to develop new sectoral concentrations in the region. Tourism is well-established with strong visitor attractions and accommodation offerings in the region and is one with strong potential for greater levels of innovation and further growth. These are sectors, among others, where a potential lies for an ambitious approach to intervention on a regional basis.
14. The strength of the population growth and the dynamic entrepreneurial culture, mark out the region as different to other parts of NI and argue for a tailored approach to addressing productivity challenges. There may be other similarities to be explored in areas such as regeneration of smaller towns and inclusive growth challenges applicable to rural areas.

A compelling case

15. The economic geography, current economic performance and similar challenges across the M,S&W region provide a strong case for greater strategic cooperation. There is a growing understanding that the delivery of the industrial strategy and tackling the productivity challenges facing NI and the UK economy will happen in regions such as this one. Given the potential of the M,S&W region to meet the challenges of improving skills, more effective innovation activity and better, more efficient, economic infrastructure, there is a case for a strategic economic / growth plan for the region.

16. In conclusion, the diffusion of greater levels of innovation to the existing and new entrepreneurial firms will be essential to the further growth of a local economy. If achieved, the Mid, South & West region could not only develop its role as a driver of economic growth in NI but become a wider exemplar of a region, with a large rural area, tackling productivity issues.

1. Introduction

1. This report on the economic geography, baseline economic performance and outlook for the Mid, South & West (M,S&W) region of Northern Ireland (NI) has been completed for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABC), Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC).
2. The UUEPC has completed the following for the Mid, South & West (M,S&W) region of NI:
 - An assessment of the extent of the natural economic geography within or across the region
 - A baseline of population, the enterprise base, sectoral strengths, the labour market and GVA which identifies strengths and challenges in the region.
 - A set of population, employment and GVA forecasts to 2027 for the region.
 - Some considerations on addressing the productivity challenges in the region, and in NI more generally.
3. The importance of sectoral concentrations and skills availability in local Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) to economic growth in the region forms the basis of an assessment of the economic geography of the region.
4. This regional growth will be shaped by the current industrial policy, notably the draft NI Industrial Strategy. This is effectively the successor to the 2012 *Economic Strategy* and will form the background to any sub-regional economic development collaboration between the M,S&W region and government in driving forward NI's economic growth agenda.
5. The five pillars of the draft industrial strategy are designed to deliver the aspiration for the NI economy to be in the top three of nine benchmarked small economies by 2030. The pillars are as follows:
 - Accelerating innovation & research (e.g. innovating firms, creative culture, agile government and the creation of 80,000 knowledge economy jobs and £1.5 billion R&D spend by 2030).
 - Enhancing education, skills and employability (e.g. skills for life, careers advice, pipeline of graduates, relevant skills).
 - Building inclusive, sustainable growth.
 - Succeeding in global markets, including 80% growth in external sales and doubling of spend by overseas tourists by 2025.
 - Building the best economic infrastructure

6. The draft industrial strategy has identified the following sectors as either currently world class or with the potential to become so:

- Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering;
- Agri-food;
- Construction and materials handling;
- Financial, business and professional services;
- Digital and creative technologies; and
- Life and health sciences.

The first three of these are strong features of the M,S&W regional economy. And the Industrial Strategy targets for increasing the numbers of overseas tourists and their expenditure shows the tourism industry's importance to the NI economy and to the M,S&W region.

7. There are two important regional or sub-regional policies for intervention in the M,S&W region. In Northern Ireland the Regional Development Strategy (to 2035) and the emerging local development plans (to 2030) all contain sub-regional or spatial development implications. Given the region's proximity to the border, the implications of the Republic of Ireland's new National Planning Framework to 2040, with its focus on the A1 economic corridor and effective regional development (the Border Counties), have also been factored into this report.

8. The structure of the paper which follows is a section on the economic geography of the M,S&W region, one on current economic performance, another on the forecast outlook for the area (in the absence of strategic economic interventions), and two sections on the potential implications of Brexit and the productivity challenges.

2. Economic Geography of the Mid, South & West Region

Travel to Work / Labour Market Areas

1. Using Census data on commuting, Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) show an area which is close to being a self-contained labour market where people live and work within the same area. A TTWA has the twin criteria that 75% of the resident workforce work in the area and 75% of the workplace jobs in an area are filled by those who live there.¹
2. Since the 1991 Census the trend across the UK has been for the area size of TTWAs to increase and their total number to decrease. The same has happened in NI, where TTWAs decreased from 11 to 10 between 2001 and 2011. Omagh and Strabane were separate TTWAs in 2001 and have subsequently merged. Seven of the 10 TTWAs have changed between the two censuses, suggesting changing commuting patterns though the average time taken has not altered by much.²
3. Six of the 10 TTWAs fall within the M,S&W region. They are listed in Table 1: Cookstown & Magherafelt; Craigavon; Dungannon; Enniskillen; Newry & Banbridge; and Omagh & Strabane. The total population of the six TTWAS in 2016 was 640,600.

Table 1: Population and characteristics of TTWAs in Mid, South & West region, 2011

TTWA Name	Total Population (2016 est.)	Total Economically Active	% of employed resident working locally	% of local jobs filled by local residents
Cookstown & Magherafelt	82,800	38,000	74%	83%
Craigavon	168,400	74,100	75%	81%
Dungannon	66,800	29,400	73%	75%
Enniskillen	70,700	31,100	89%	90%
Newry & Banbridge	161,800	71,200	77%	86%
Omagh & Strabane	90,100	40,000	82%	89%
M,S&W Region	471,400	214,200	61%	90%

Source: NISRA, Census 2011; 2016 Mid-Year Population. Estimates are for the Super Output Areas in each TTWA

¹ The minimum population for a TTWA is 3,500 and, if more than, 25,000 the self-containment rates can fall to 66.7%.

² If we compare Shuttleworth & Gould (2010) and UUEPC (2017) the average (mean) commuting distances have increased from 13km in 1997-2011 to 24km in 2016. However, the average commuting travel time in NI, similar to most parts of the UK outside London, has stayed the same since 2006, at around 23 minutes (Oxford Economics, 2014).

4. A number of points can be made about the six TTWAs that fall into the M,S&W region:
 - In every TTWA the percentage of local jobs filled by local residents is higher than the percentage of local residents working locally. In other words in each TTWA (as in every NI TTWA bar Belfast) the numbers commuting out of the area to work is higher than the numbers commuting in.
 - Over 63,000 residents of the six TTWAs commute every day outside their 'area'.
 - Not surprisingly, Belfast is the largest single 'draw' for nearly 22,000 of this number. Almost two thirds of these Belfast-bound commuters (63%) come from two TTWAs: Craigavon and Newry & Banbridge.
 - However, a further 30,000 move between the six TTWAs, many for jobs in the Manufacturing and Health sectors. Two TTWAs – Dungannon and Craigavon – attract most commuters from the other areas.
5. Figure 1 shows the six TTWAs which are fully or partly found within the M,S&W region. The red dotted shape has been added to give a sense of the core commuting area or the origin and destination Super Output Areas where people move from and to, to work.
6. This core area is a little different from the Super Output Areas which make up the M,S&W (ie: those in the three Council areas). In the M,S&W region we find that 90% of local workforce jobs are filled by local residents, with over 30,000 people commuting across the region from one Council area to another.
7. Over half (61%) of local residents of the region actually work locally. Workplaces in Belfast and Newry, Mourne & Down draw in a majority (62%) of commuters from the M,S&W region. Of the minority less than a third (29%) travel to work in either Derry City & Strabane or Causeway Coast & Glens. This suggests that there is a larger challenge to create enough jobs to employ local residents than there is to fill local jobs with local residents.

residents of NI or the Republic of Ireland. One estimate is that 26,000 border crossings are made for work every day by residents of the M,S&W region.³

Sectoral specialisation and geography

10. An important aspect of functional areas and economic geography is the extent to which a region is specialised – or how far people are employed in particular sectors or occupations. The idea that there is a distinctiveness to urban or rural areas (and therefore complementarity between them) is a key part of the NI Regional Development Strategy.
11. Location Quotients (LQs)⁴ provide a measure of an area's industrial specialisation relative to a larger geographic unit (in this case NI). An LQ over 1 indicates a greater degree of specialisation in this industry. Table 2 highlights those industrial areas where the local authorities have similarities in their industrial specialisation. It also provides a LQ for the M,S&W region as a whole and highlights those industries where the region is more specialised than in NI generally.
12. What Table 2 shows is that for most of those sectors where the region is specialised – Manufacturing, Construction, Mining & Quarrying and Wholesale & Retail – these are specialised in common across the three Council areas. The exception is Agriculture where specialisation in one Council area is not shared in the other two and transport which is strong in two of the Council areas.
13. Table 2 also highlights two sectors, in particular, where the M,S&W has less specialisation: Financial & Insurance Activities and Information & Communications Technology.

³ This is based on 77% of crossings being made by NI residents and third of this share by residents of the M,S&W region. It is also estimated that a third of crossings are made for work, two thirds for social or recreational purposes.

⁴ Industry LQs are calculated by comparing the industry's share of regional employment with its share of national employment.

Table 2: Location quotients (LQs) for employment in the M, S&W Region

		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LQ	Mid Ulster LQ	Fermanagh and Omagh LQ	M,S&W Region LQ
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.66	0.64	3.47	1.52
B	Mining and quarrying	1.03	4.76	2.57	1.91
C	Manufacturing	1.47	2.59	1.10	1.75
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.08	0.37	0.49	0.17
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.49	0.62	1.37	1.29
F	Construction	1.08	1.99	1.63	1.32
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	1.16	1.17	1.16	1.16
H	Transport and storage	1.52	0.90	1.01	1.12
I	Accommodation and food service activities	0.72	0.75	1.10	0.91
J	Information and communication	0.32	0.22	0.50	0.31
K	Financial and insurance activities	0.42	0.41	0.74	0.43
L	Real estate activities	0.90	0.50	0.61	0.81
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.86	0.64	0.65	0.80
N	Administrative and support service activities	0.87	0.31	0.34	0.77
O	Public administration and defence: compulsory social security	0.62	0.41	0.87	0.64
P	Education	0.96	1.00	1.24	0.99
Q	Human health and social work activities	1.08	0.63	1.10	0.99
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.90	0.71	1.02	0.89
S	Other service activities	0.88	0.70	0.61	0.82

Source: NI Business Register and Employment Survey, September 2017

Note: The figure uses employee jobs not employment

14. Manufacturing (including Agri-Food and Advanced forms) is central to the M,S&W region's economy. Almost a fifth (18%) of total workplace employment and a third (35%) of the regions total GVA. Both of these shares are much larger than those enjoyed by other parts of NI, supporting the LQ analysis above in Table 2. In addition, the Manufacturing sector in the M,S&W region critical to

the health of the overall sector in NI. Two fifths (39%) of NI's Manufacturing employment is in the M,S&W region and a quarter (23%) of its GVA.

15. The business strengths in the sector lie primarily in the engineering, food and material handling machinery associated with the mining and quarrying industries. The IDBR figures for numbers of firms by sector shows that the M,S&W region significant specialisations in these sub-sectors when compared to NI. For example, a third (31%) of all NI's agri-food firms are based in the M,S&W region and a higher share (37%) of those businesses manufacturing Machinery & Equipment.
16. An innovative method of identifying specialisation, using firm location, employment size and commuting data, supports the Advanced Manufacturing specialisation in the M,S&W region, with a particular concentration of firms manufacturing of Machinery & Equipment and Transport Equipment.

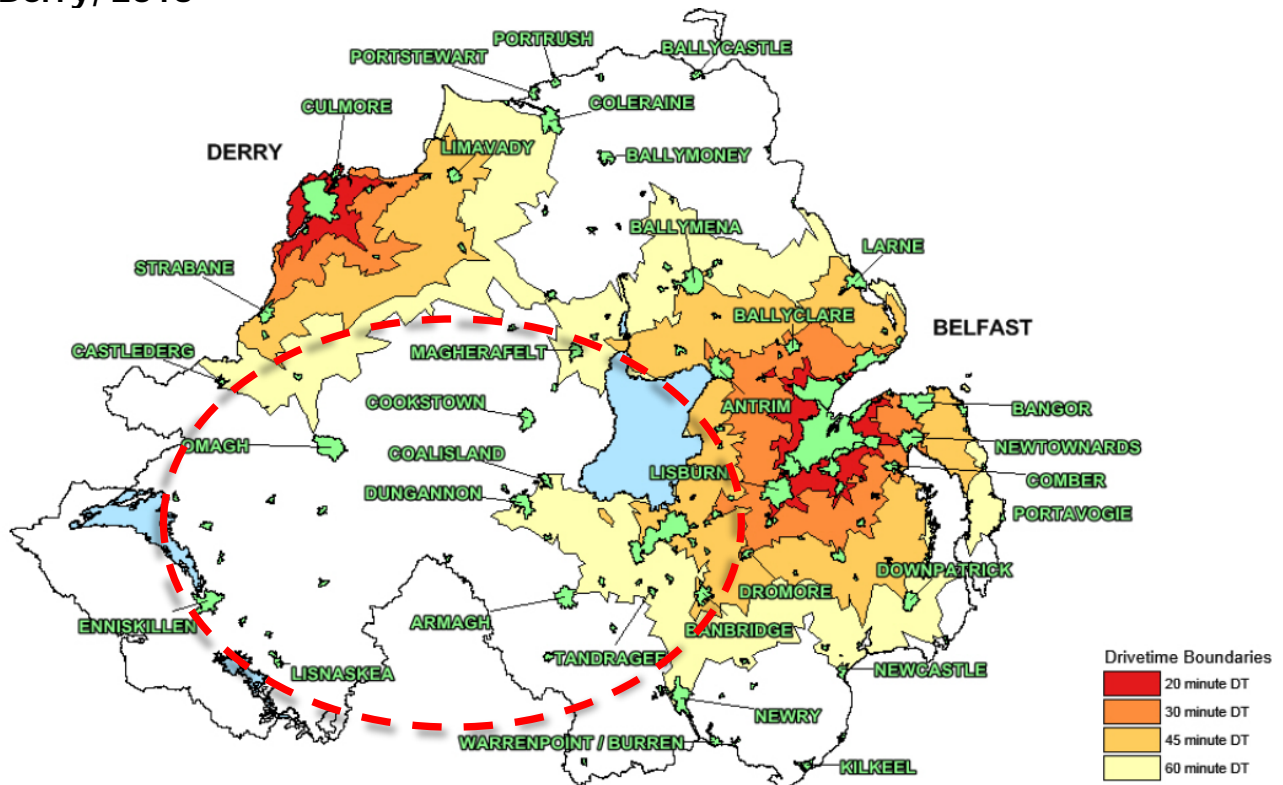
Conclusions

17. The M,S&W region has a distinctive economic geography informed both by labour market interaction and sectoral specialisation.
18. The commuting data suggests that the region is characterised by a number of core TTWAs (Craigavon, Dungannon, Enniskillen and Cookstown & Magherafelt) which have strong levels of self-containment.
19. The commuting data shows how almost a fifth of the 30,000 people commuting within the M,S&W region do so for jobs in the Manufacturing sector. This supports the specialisation shown above and reinforces the distinctive economic geography of the region.
20. The region's geography is also marked by its mix of urban centres and a large rural area. The region has two large urban areas: the 'Craigavon Urban Area' (65,555 at the last Census) and Omagh (19,682). Of the other towns, Banbridge (16,653), Armagh (14,749), Dungannon (14,332), Enniskillen (13,790) and Cookstown (11,620), are in the 'medium town' band, with Magherafelt (8,819) and Coalisland (5,700) in the 'small town' group.
21. The consequence of this is that just over a third (36%) of the total population of the M,S&W region live in urban areas.⁵ Figure 2 shows how much of the

⁵ 62% of total NI population live in urban areas at the time of the 2011 Census. Data from NISRA, *Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements* (2015).

region (shown within the red dotted line) is more than a 60-minute drive to either Derry or Belfast and almost all of it more than three quarters of an hour's drive on the existing roads.

Figure 2: Map comparing 20, 30, 45 and 60 minute drivetime boundaries for Belfast and Derry, 2015



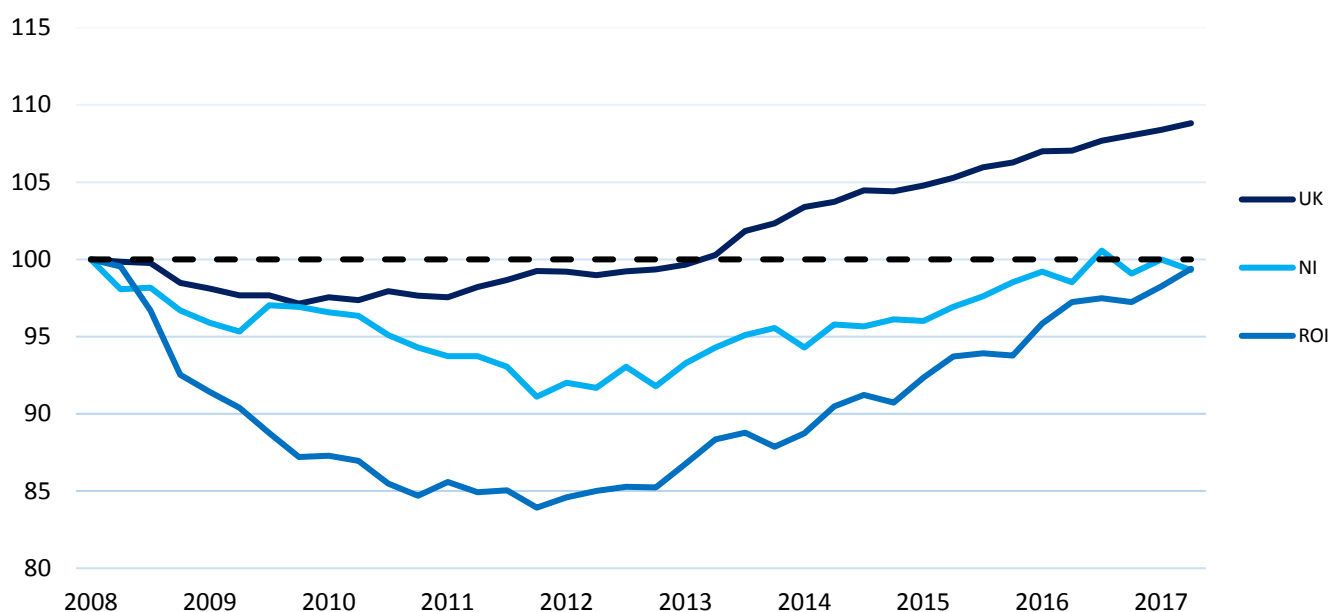
22. Finally, the economic geography of the region is shaped by the presence of the strategic M1, A1 Dublin/Belfast, A4 Ballygawley/Border, A5(N2) Derry/Dublin, A6 Derry/Belfast and A29 Coleraine/Armagh routes. The fact that each of these roads run through the region means tat the M,S&W is at the centre of important wider connections and markets. Planned or ongoing improvements to all of these routes will mean better access for the region to key transport infrastructure (airports and ports), Higher Education Institutions and entry routes for tourists.

3. Current baseline in the Mid, South & West (M,S&W) Region

Introduction: The Crisis and Recovery

1. The UUEPC Winter 2018 Outlook referred to the then position of the NI economy as being one where global 'tradewinds' were meeting some local 'headwinds'. Globally, there is growth at the same time – for the first time since the recession – in the three major economies of the US, EU and China. Global demand is high and economies are being boosted by both exports and domestic demand. However, there are major risks to this growth, not least from protectionism, the still-parlous state of some banks a decade on from the financial crash of 2008 and rising interest rates at a time of increasing household, business and government debt.
2. In the UK exports have been boosted by the fall in Sterling since the EU referendum and employment numbers across the UK regions are at new highs. Figure 3 shows how employment in the UK has grown consistently since 2011, while NI and Republic of Ireland have made up much of the losses suffered in 2008-2012. This trend has continued into 2018 with the Republic of Ireland surpassing the previous employment heights of 2007.

Figure 3: Quarterly Employment Index, NI, UK & ROI, 2008-2017 (2008 Q2=100)



Source: ONS, NISRA, CSO: UUEPC analysis

3. Employment in the M,S&W region has also enjoyed growth, stronger indeed than NI's recovery. Table 3 shows how, by 2016, the number of jobs lost in 2008-2012 had been clawed back. Growth in both Accommodation and services were part of the recovery in the region, but Construction and Retail remain important sector (as Table 2 shows above). Unlike at the NI level, where the manufacturing sector did well to replace jobs lost, the M,S&W region saw a strong sector grow further, adding on another 3,500 jobs.

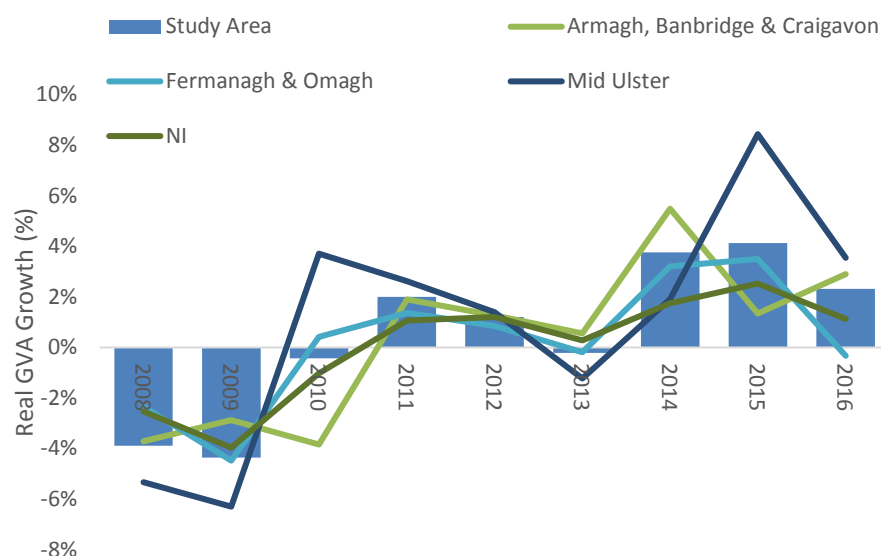
Table 3: Employment change by sector in the M,S&W Region, 2008-2016

Sector	2008-2012 (Recession)	2012-2016 (Recovery)
Agriculture	300	-1200
Mining and quarrying	200	200
Manufacturing	-2400	5800
Utilities	0	400
Water supply & waste	0	0
Construction	-7600	1700
Retail	-2000	1100
Transportation	0	1500
Accommodation	-500	1500
Information & Comm's	-500	100
Financial activities	-500	-100
Real estate	100	-200
Professional & scientific	-200	1100
Administration services	200	2100
Public Admin' & defence	0	-1100
Education	-1000	400
Health & social work	1200	-500
Arts and entertainment	-100	200
Other services	0	1300
TOTAL	-12900	14100

Source: NISRA, BRES; UUEPC analysis

4. In terms of economic output the recovery has not been so positive. NI is still below peak output in 2008, while the UK economy took more than six years to recover to the previous high (making it the longest recovery on record). This has resulted in a 'job-rich but productivity poor' recovery and has raised questions about the causes of the UK productivity puzzle and what interventions are needed to solve it.
5. Turning to GVA, although care must be taken about the accuracy of measurement at LGD level, Figure 4 shows that the M,S&W region has consistently outperformed the NI average growth rates during the recovery.

Figure 4: Real GVA Growth (%) by NI, Councils and Study Area, 2008-2016



Source: ONS; UUEPC analysis

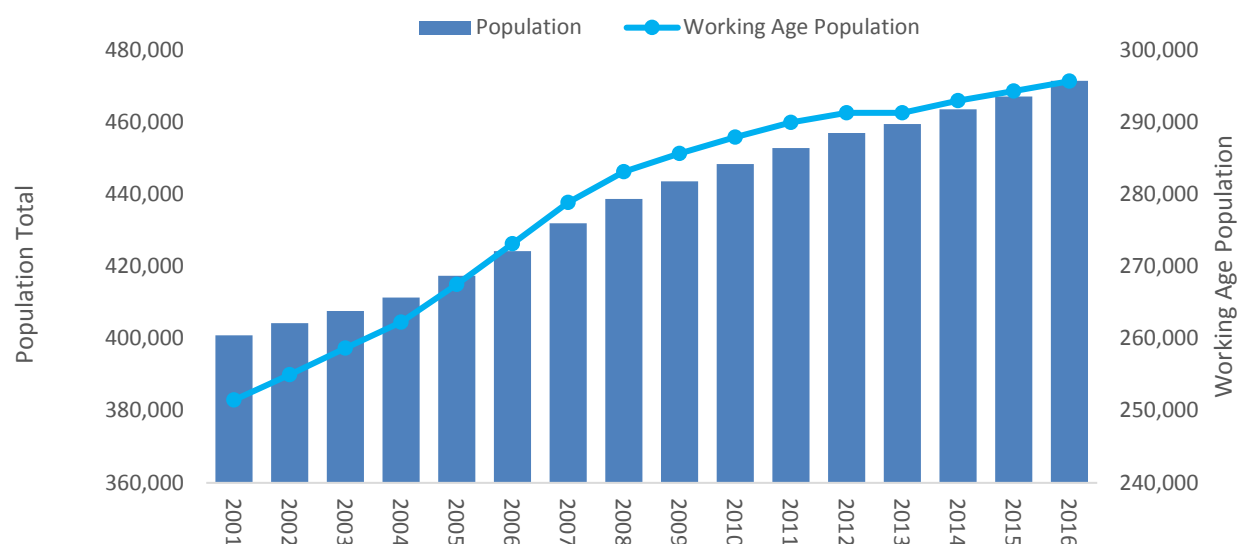
6. In light of the recovery the following sections outline the population, labour market, skills, sectoral concentrations, entrepreneurial and business demography indicators for the study area as well as the three Councils and their share/comparison with NI where appropriate.

Population

7. As Figure 5 shows, the total population of the M,S&W region was 471,448 in 2016, 25.3% of the NI population. This share has slowly increased over the past two decades, up from less than 23% in 1995. The working age population stood at 295,000 in 2016 which means that the dependency ratio is a healthy 62.7%.
8. Since 2001 there has been strong population growth in the region – a 15% increase which is much stronger than the NI average of 9%. Within the area Mid Ulster (+18%) and ABC (+16%) were the two fastest-growing LGDs in NI, with growth in the 0-15 age group particularly strong.
9. The working age population (15-64 age group) has grown at a similar rate as the total population. The rate of growth in Mid Ulster has been quicker than the overall rate of population increase, with only Belfast city showing a similar trend, driven by employment opportunities and in-migration.

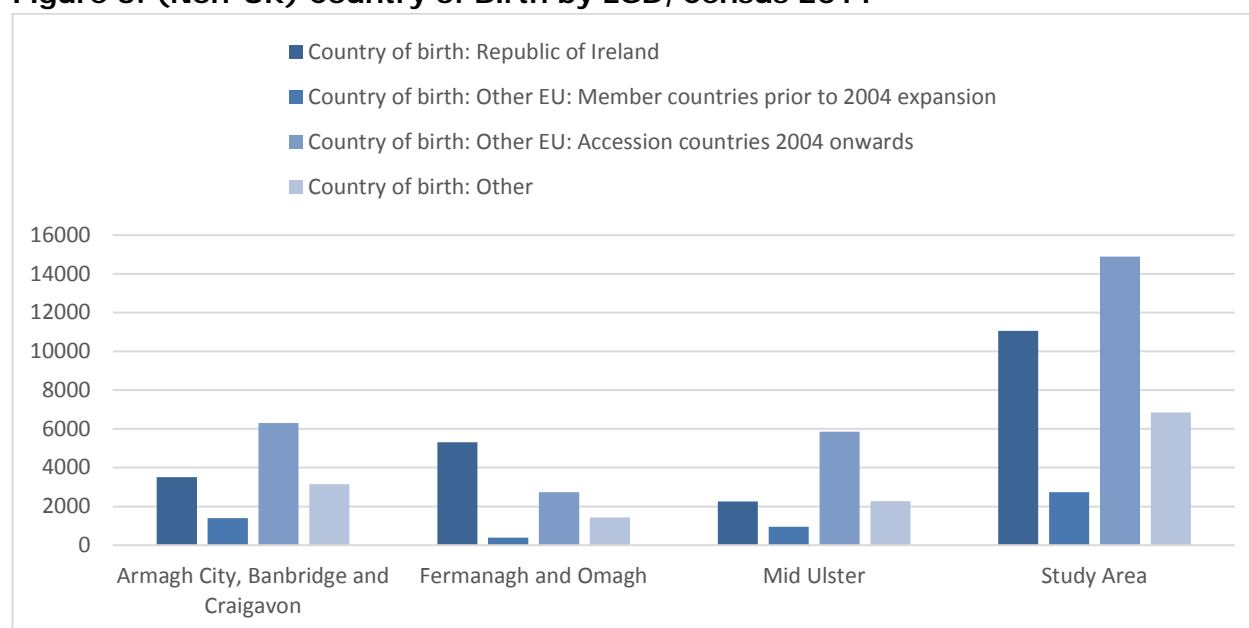
10. The share of population between the different Council areas in the M,S&W region has barely changed over time with ABC continuing to have the largest share (45%), Mid Ulster next (31%) and Fermanagh & Omagh last, with a slightly falling share (24%).

Figure 5: Total Population & Working Age Population, M,S&W region, 2001-16



11. One factor behind the higher than average growth rates has been the addition of migrants to the local population. The phenomenon of higher rates of in-migration than out-migration was a new one for NI as a whole in the 2000s – in particular in the years 2004-2008 – and in-migration was particularly strong in Mid Ulster and ABC. As Figure 6 shows, by 2011 the result was that the M,S&W region had significant numbers of people living there with origins in the EU Accession States.
12. Employment opportunities appear to have been key in attracting migrants to the M,S&W region. While the region had a 29% share of the NI total of those from outside the British Isles in 2011, 33% of all new applications for National Insurance numbers by migrants between 2001 and 2016 were from people based in the M,S&W region.

Figure 6: (Non-UK) Country of Birth by LGD, Census 2011



Labour Market

13. As noted above the NI labour market has recovered well in terms of jobs numbers since 2012. Question marks remain over the wider NI labour market in terms of: the quality of jobs; the high levels of inactivity (more than a quarter of the working age population; and an unimpressive skills profile. These characteristics explain the desire in the draft Industrial Strategy to enhance skills and employability prospects. This section looks at the M, S & W region labour market and comparisons with the wider NI pattern.

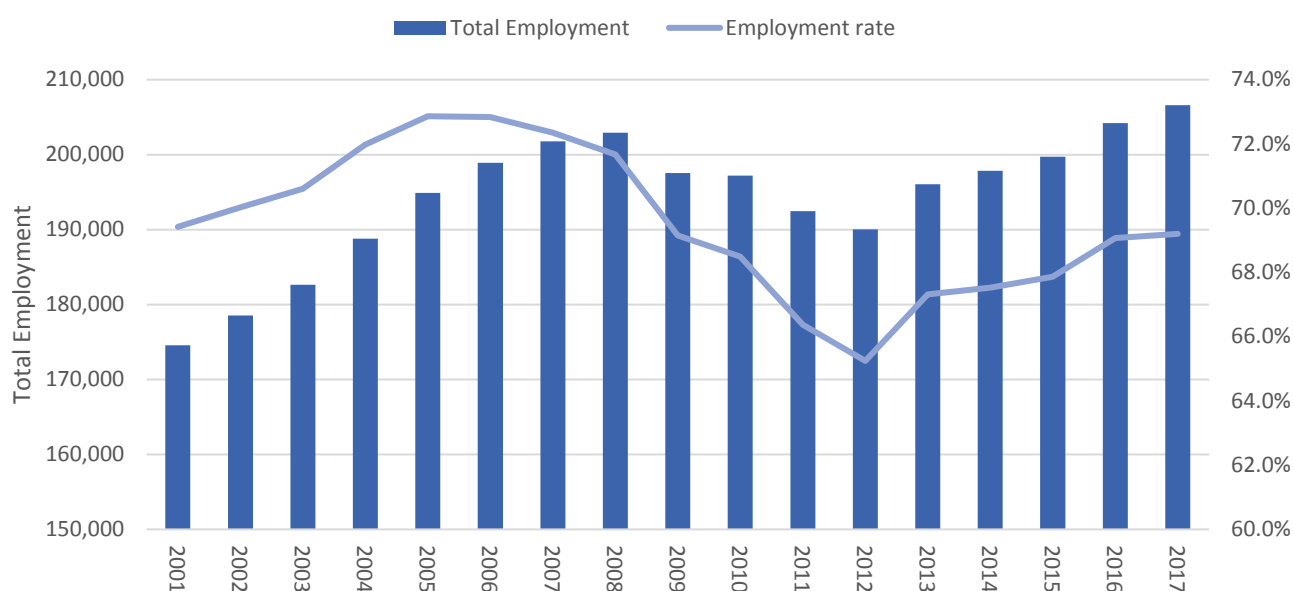
Employment

14. Figure 7 shows that, in 2017, the employment rate across the M,S&W region was 69%, in line with the NI average.⁶ This rate varies a little across the three Council areas when we use a three year average (2014-16): Mid Ulster and ABC with just over 70% rates and Fermanagh & Omagh with one of 68%. One noteworthy issue around employment rates is the much lower levels of female participation across the region, particularly in ABC.

⁶ One thing to note is that the employment (and inactivity) rates taken from the Labour Force Survey tend to be volatile at Council level from year to year, due mainly to small sample sizes.

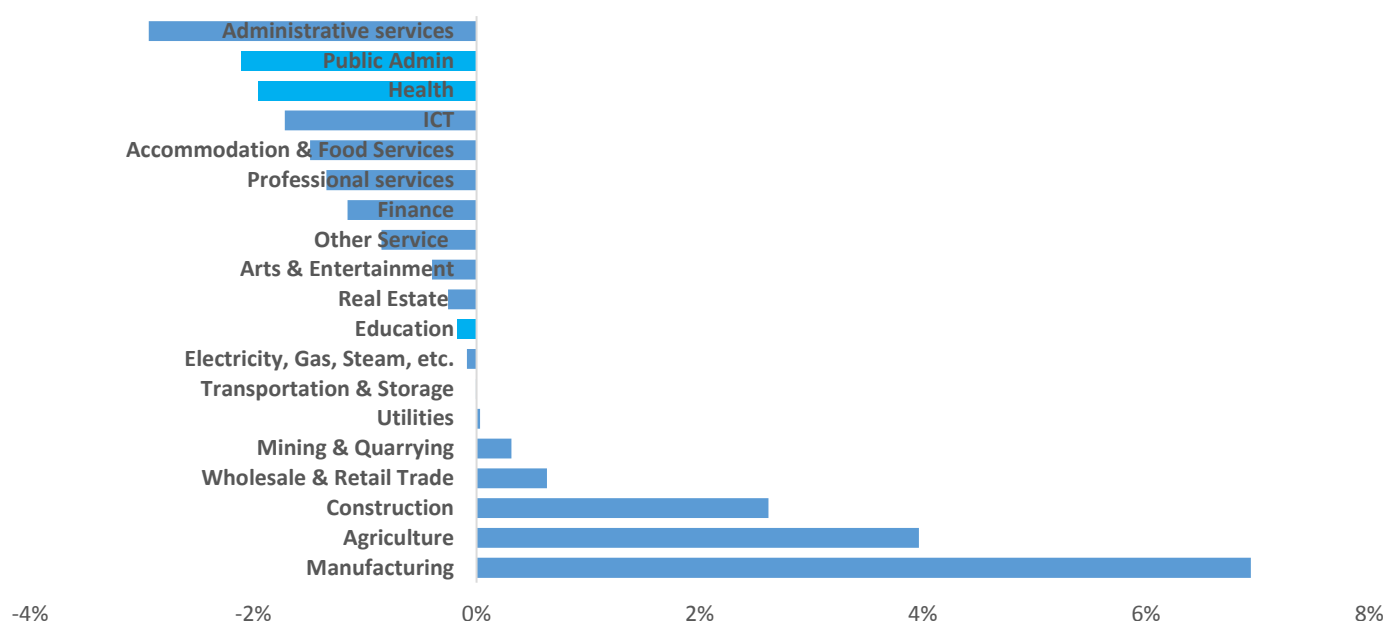
15. In 2017 the UUEPC estimates that there were more than 206,000 jobs⁷ in the M,S&W region: the shares across the Councils were 42% in ABC, 32% in Mid Ulster and 26% in Fermanagh & Omagh.
16. Three quarters of these jobs are in the private sector – a higher proportion than the NI average and closer to the rebalanced economy that any industrial strategy aspires to. The largest sectoral shares are in Manufacturing (17%), Retail (16%) and Health (13%). Figure 8 below shows that there are significant differences in sectoral concentrations when compared to the NI average with the productive sectors and construction more highly concentrated and the services sectors less so.

Figure 7: Total employment and employment rate, Study Area, 2001-2017



⁷ This figure differs from the Invest NI briefing for the region (160,000 jobs) and BRES 2017 (175,000 jobs). The latter includes agriculture employment but not the self-employed numbers, which are added from the Labour Force Survey for the purposes of the UUEPC local model.

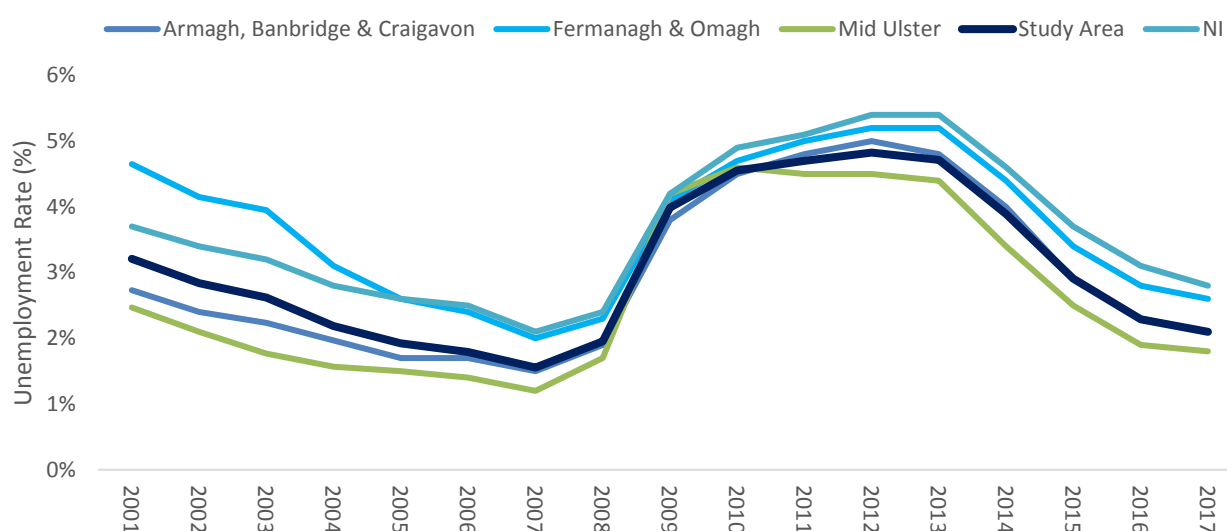
Figure 8: Percentage Point Difference in Sectoral Employment, M,S&W region vs. NI (2017)



Not in Employment

17. Data from the Labour Force Survey suggests that around 30% of the working age population in the M,S&W region are not in employment. They are either 'looking for work', as unemployment claimants, inactive and/or in a more ambivalent position of being unable to work (studying, with health issues or caring for a relative), with some who would like to work but needing employability support to get into the labour market. This picture is not dissimilar to NI as a whole which might suggest similar forces are at work in the study area when it comes to people not being in employment.

Figure 9: Claimant Unemployment Rate (%16-64), M,S&W region vs. NI (2001-2017)



18. Figure 9 shows how unemployment rates in the M,S&W region have consistently been below those in NI as a whole. This was even the case in 2008-10, when the rates came closer together as the numbers laid off in the construction sector rose rapidly. It is also noteworthy is that this picture of lower than average rates holds for all three Council areas.
19. The spread of unemployment rates across the wards in the three Council areas do not show a large range (6.1%) between the lowest rate (0.8%) and the highest (6.9%). This is quite typical of most of the NI councils with the exceptions of Belfast, Derry City & Strabane and Causeway Coast & Glens where much greater disparities exist (9%, 12% and 10% respectively).
20. The rates of inactivity in the study area are much closer to the NI rates – a rolling average of 32% for the 2011-2016 period. Higher rates in Fermanagh & Omagh than in Mid Ulster and ABC make the average inactivity rate higher. The reason for this difference is not immediately clear, but it is something to note when employability issues are raised.

Skills

21. The skills data at LGD level should be treated with great care – given the small sample sizes in the Labour Force Survey⁸ – but Figures 10-11 reveal some clear trends. One is that the percentage share of those in the local population without qualifications has been falling since 2009, but remains higher in the study area than the NI average (perhaps due to a combination of opportunity and incentive). Another trend is that the share of people with NVQ level 4 (degree) or higher has slowly risen but remains slightly below the NI average.

⁸ The UUEPC is currently rolling out a sub-regional skills barometer research project which will be completed by the end of 2018 and will deal with a Southern region (including the three Council areas and Newry, Mourne & Down).

Figure 10: % of Population with No Qualifications, M,S&W Region, 2009-16

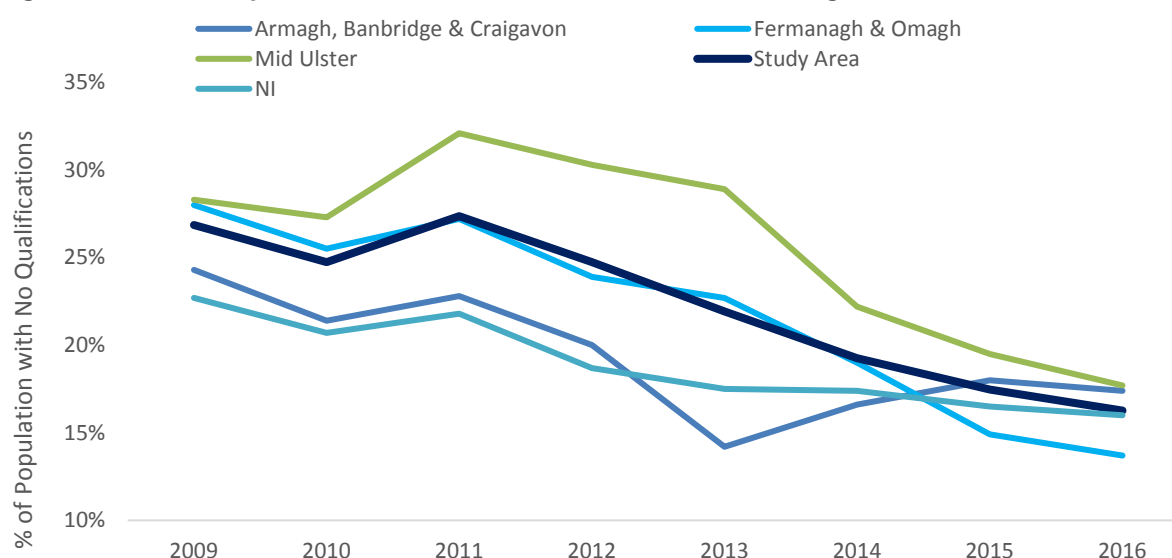
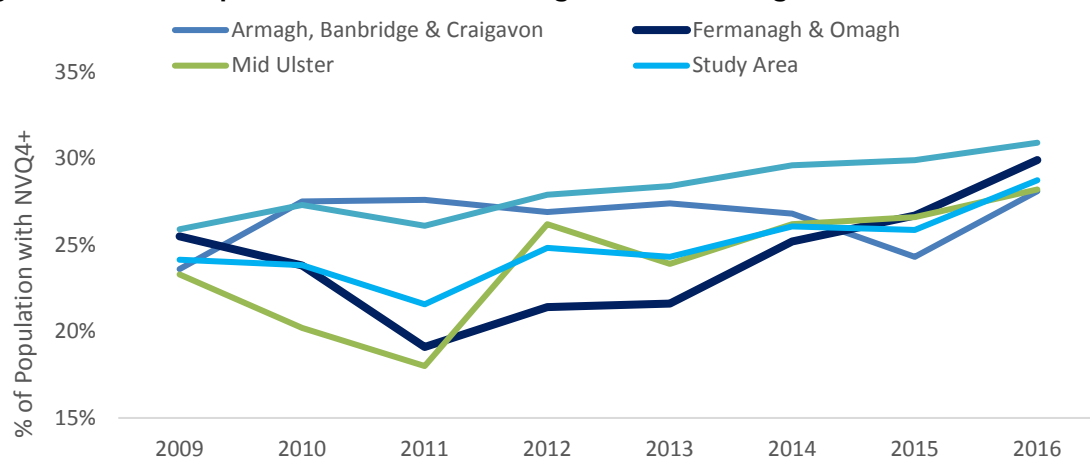
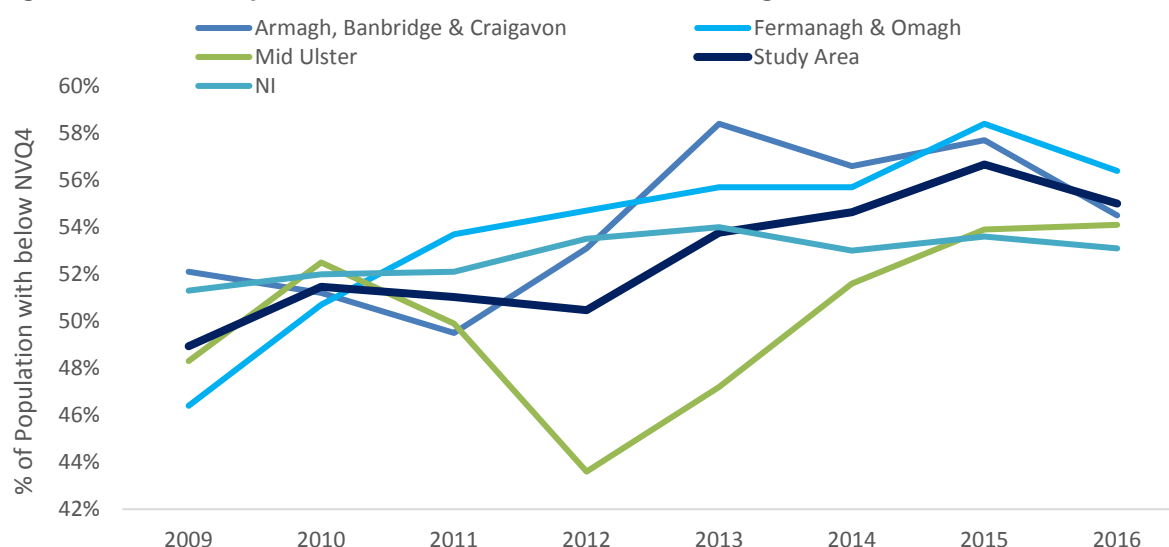


Figure 11: % of Population with NVQ4 or higher, M,S&W Region, 2009-16



22. The largest group (54%) is those who have qualifications which are less than NVQ Level 4 and can be described as intermediate skills (see Figure 12). Their share of the overall population is growing, perhaps because of fewer people entering the labour market with no qualifications. There is a balance to be struck between the danger of creating a 'low skills equilibrium' in the local economies (NERI, 2017) and the need for a strong supply of what might be termed intermediate skills.

Figure 12: % of Population with below NVQ4, M,S&W Region, 2009-16



Conclusions: Tight Labour Market

23. Consultations and the evidence suggest that the Mid, South & West region is an active (or tight) labour market with a consistently strong employment rate and high self-employment rates. Also, it attracts people into the area to work. As shown in the previous section, at least 2,000 cross-border commuters come into the three Council areas, mainly from counties Monaghan and Donegal. In addition, in 2011, 9% of the jobs in the M,S&W region were filled by commuters from other parts of NI.
24. The previous section also detailed how people commute outside the area for work, perhaps for job types and roles not available in the study area, or for higher wages (something deserving further work). In 2011, 16% of the study area's resident workforce commuted to other parts of NI and a further 2,000 crossed the border for work.
25. All three Councils have made skills a priority area in their Community Plans and two of the three (Mid Ulster and ABC) have moved to establish skills fora with local stakeholders involved. In addition Mid Ulster have also recently published a comprehensive skills Action Plan which echoes the finding of consultations which the UUEPC has held with local businesses. In these the issue of the current and future supply of skills was consistently raised, as was the concerns about upskilling staff who might then become targets for recruitment by other firms. Financial supports for skills issued by Invest NI are quite low, in line with NI generally, but this may hide the amount of support available elsewhere from the Department for the Economy or the Department for Communities.

26. A fuller skills profile will show the occupational profile of jobs filled by residents of the M,S&W region, those by commuters and which skills are leaving the area. Such a profile⁹ will provide an insight into how additional employment created in the study area might be filled by the locally inactive, by new residents (from others parts of NI, the border counties or migrants from further afield) and the extent to which local businesses may struggle to fill vacancies.
27. There are, therefore, several questions about whether the labour market in the study area repeats the patterns in NI as a whole, which cannot be fully answered just yet. Although there are similarly high levels of inactivity, there are differences in the sectors people are employed in and, perhaps as a result of this, in male employment rates.

Business base

28. Entrepreneurship has long been an issue in NI with the region performing much worse than UK regions or the Republic of Ireland in terms of aspirations to start a business or the subsequent rate of business births. There are also question marks over the quality of businesses with a smaller share exporting than in other economies and consistently lower rates of innovation activity or R&D expenditure by firms. The factors behind these patterns are much debated – historical path dependencies, institutional failures, poor policy, management failings, or a combination of all of these. The focus in the draft Industrial Strategy continues to be on the need to improve the innovation and exporting profile. This section looks at the current nature of the business base in the study area.
29. The M,S&W region has a strong reputation not only for its levels of entrepreneurship – adding to the business base of 24,500 firms in 2017 – but also for a vibrant, often indigenously-owned businesses, especially in the agri-food, advanced manufacturing, life & health sciences, construction and tourism sectors. Dunbia, Almac, Hyster-Yale, DCE Global, Quinn Group, Kerry Group and Kingspan are just some of the globally-competing firms located in the M, S & W region.

Self-Employment and rates of entrepreneurship

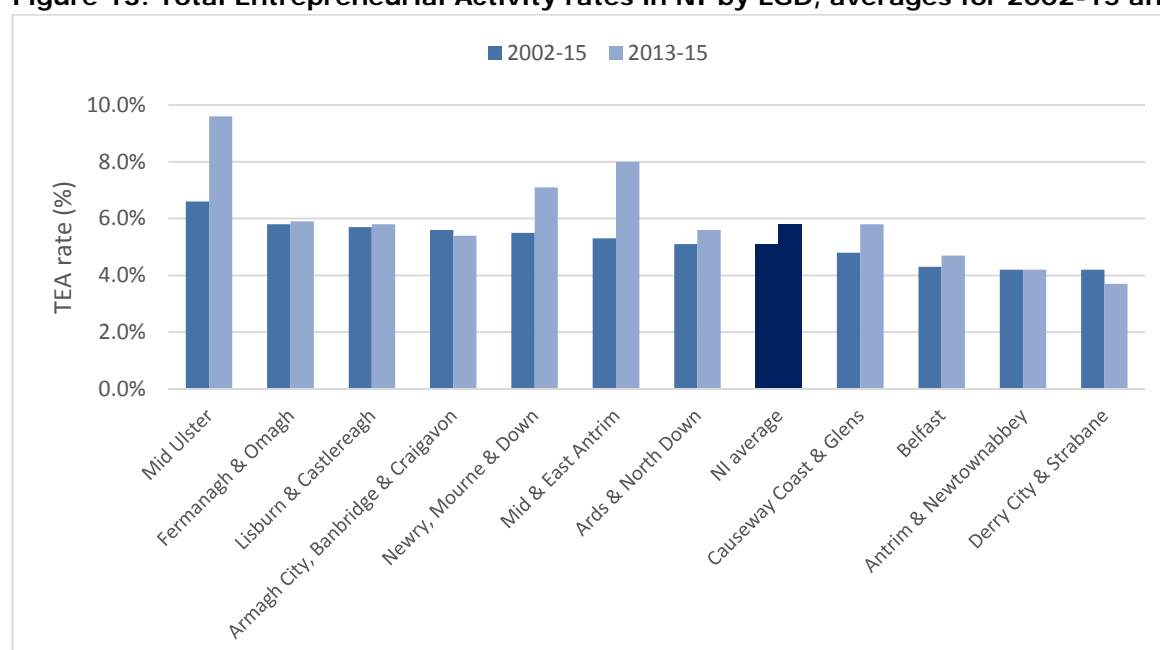
30. In terms of self-employment rates, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh have consistently had higher rates than NI as a whole. It is important to remember that there may be some sectoral explanations for this given higher rates of self-

⁹ UUEPC are currently researching sub-regional Skills Barometers for the NI economy, which will be completed early in 2019.

employment in the Construction and Agriculture sectors and their concentrations in the study area.

31. However, Figure 13 shows that the measurement of entrepreneurship using TEA rates¹⁰ has also shown Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh and ABC (though with a recent decline) outperform the NI average since the early 2000s, with a pattern of much higher male than female rates in the highest two Council areas.¹¹

Figure 13: Total Entrepreneurial Activity rates in NI by LGD, averages for 2002-15 and 2013-15



32. These rates of entrepreneurship are reflected in the much higher than average stock of businesses¹² in the M,S&W region than in NI as a whole – higher indeed than most UK regions bar London (see Figure 14). The study area also sees higher rates of business births (though ABC has shown a dip below the NI average during the recovery – see Figure 15) but also a higher failure rate (again with the exception of ABC). A higher churn rate can act as an indicator of difficult trading conditions locally or, perhaps, of strong competition which means that business survival is far from assured. However, even if the latter is the case, it

¹⁰ Stands for Total Entrepreneurial Activity and comes from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor methodologies and annual surveys which include NI as a subset within the UK one.

¹¹ Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh and Newry, Mourne and Down have been among the best performers in terms of entrepreneurship activity among Council areas in NI; see M. Hart, K. Bonner, J. Levie and L. Heery, *GEM UK 2015 Report: Northern Ireland* (2017).

¹² This is measured by numbers of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 people and allows comparisons across geographical areas.

seems clear that the region is above-average when it comes to entrepreneurship.

Figure 14: Number of businesses per 10,000 people, NI LGDs and M,S&W region, 2015-17

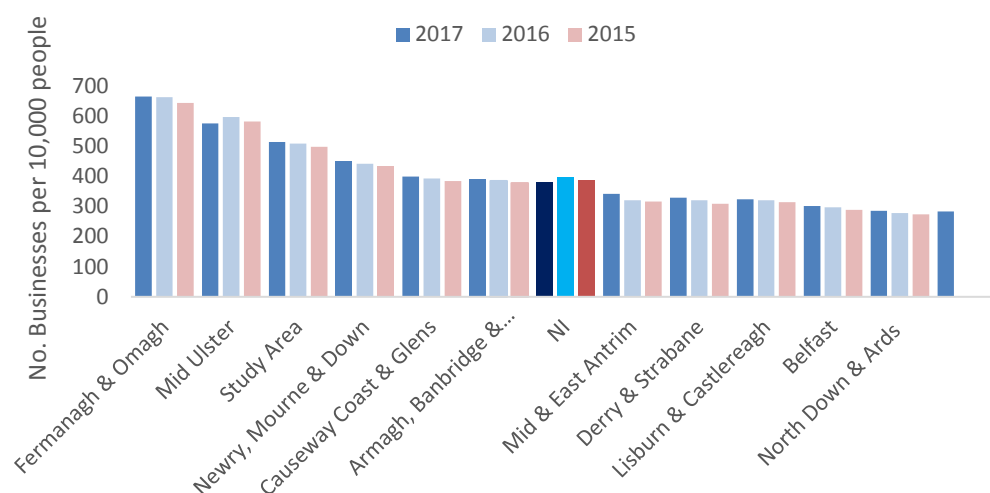
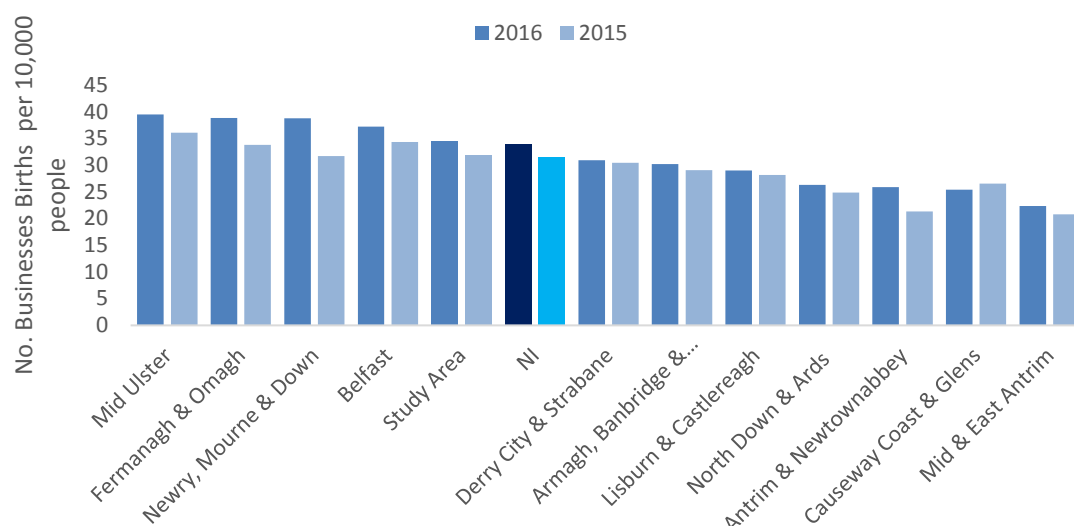


Figure 15: Number of business births per 10,000 people, NI LGD and M,S&W region, 2015-16



33. In 2017 the study area had more than a third of all NI businesses (34%) located there, a much higher share than that of total population (25.3%). The indicators suggest the presence both of an entrepreneurial culture and of resilience in the local economies. The question arises whether this entrepreneurial activity becomes an end in itself or acts as a prompt to broader economic growth in the region.

Characteristics of firms

34. The NI economy has a very high level of micro-enterprises (88% of businesses having less than 10 employees), but the M,S&W region stands out for its level of concentration of these small firms. In the region as a whole 91% of firms are

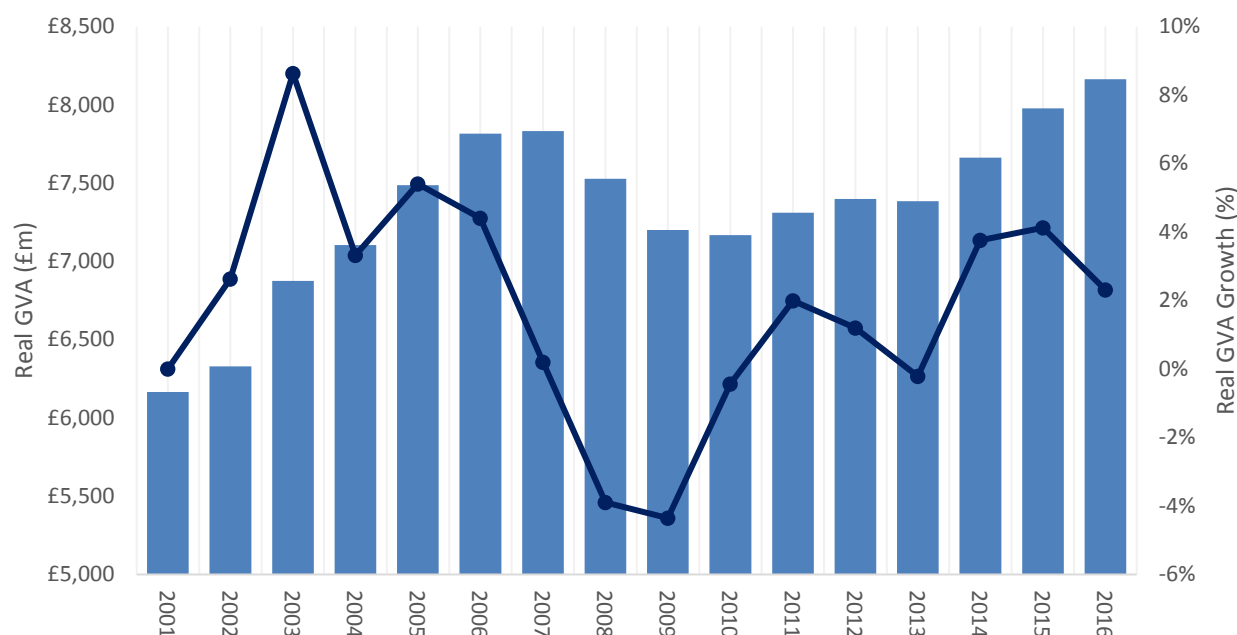
micro-enterprises, with Fermanagh & Omagh (93.5%) leading the way and ABC (89.6%) closer to average.

35. The share of larger firms (+100 employees) is similar for NI and the region (both less than 0.5%). However, this should not be allowed to hide the fact that the study area has a significant number of business with a strong turnover of £5 million plus. In fact there are more than 450 of these firms (26% share of NI), which are large, successful and predominantly locally-owned.
36. There is no question that the M,S&W region, like all of NI, could do with more mid-sized (NI has a larger share than the region: 44.6% vs 39.5%) and larger firms, bringing the question back to scaling businesses through entering new markets and rolling out new product lines.
37. Recent data on the breakdown of 2017 Business Enterprise R&D by Council area shows that the M,S&W region accounted for slightly less than a quarter (22.5%) of the £543 million figure. Of course innovation is a much broader activity than R&D. Figures from Invest NI on its supports for firms in the region (£163 million for over 2,000 businesses in 2012-17) show that 14% of the Invest NI supports fell in the Innovation & Technology category and 18% for R&D, compared to 9% and 24% respectively for NI. Consultations with businesses in the region support the picture of a greater focus upon process innovation and technology transfer rather than frontier research.
38. Finally, moving to exports, the M,S&W region accounts for 27% of NI exports, greater than Belfast's contribution. However, the region has a slightly smaller share (30%) of exporting firms to its share of NI businesses (34%). Consultations suggest a mixed picture where the majority of businesses in the study area serve local (which can sometimes include cross-border) customers only, but that those who are exporting off the island are doing so intensively (to a number of markets and with a number of products).

GVA and productivity

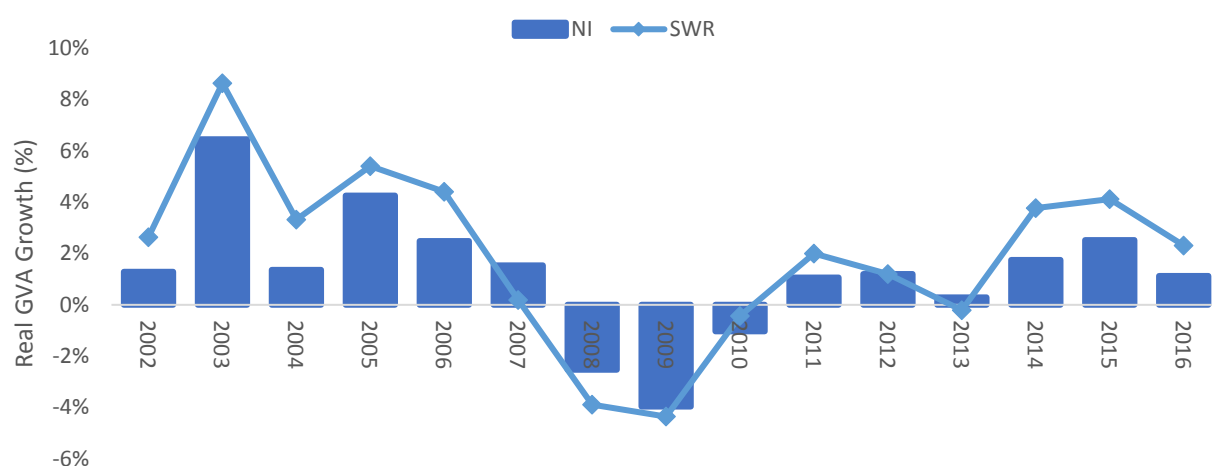
39. Moving to levels of Gross Value Added (or GVA) in the study area there is a mixed picture. The M,S&W region, as shown in Figure 16, has seen Real GVA levels in 2016 surpass the previous peak in 2007. That said, the year-on-year growth rates struggle to rise above 2%, the exception being Mid Ulster – as seen in Figure 4 above.

Figure 16: Real GVA (Value & Growth), M,S&W region, 1998-2016



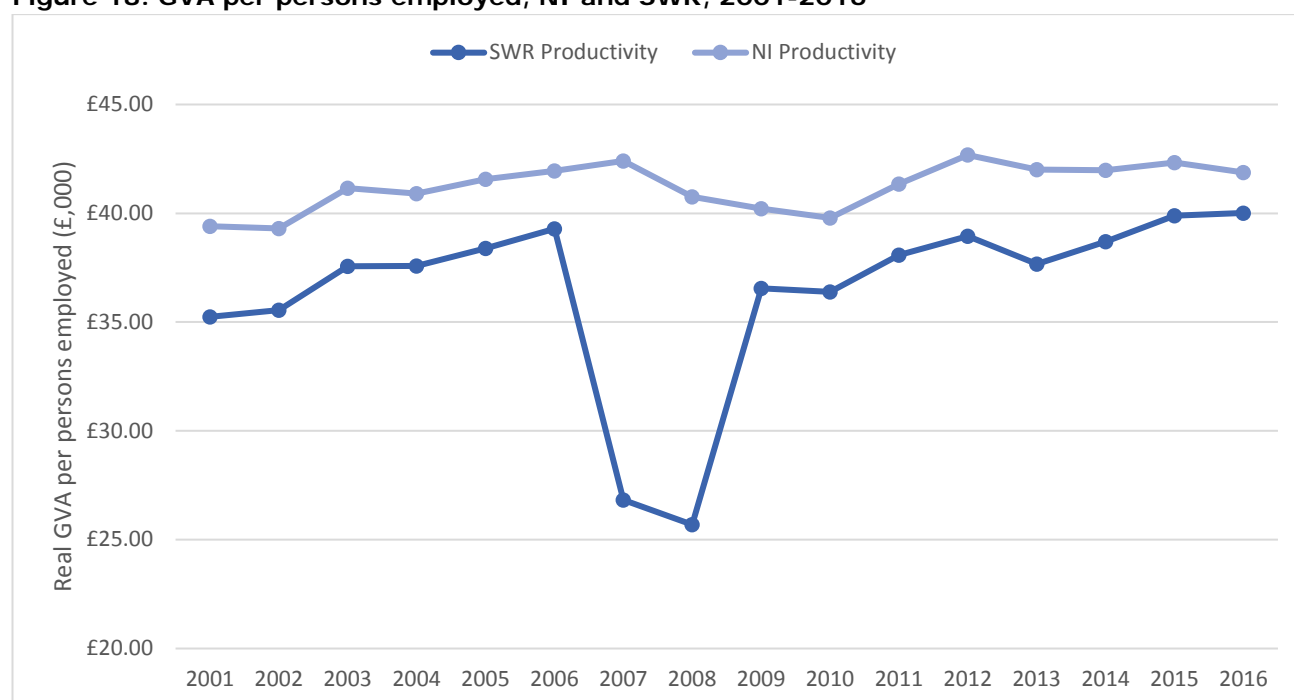
40. Figure 17 shows that the region's GVA growth rates have generally been better than those for NI as a whole. It is interesting to note that the growth rate dipped below the NI average in three years of deepest global recession (2007-2009) and the year (2013) where the UK and EU both threatened a double-dip of recession. This suggests an openness or sensitivity to external growth trends.

Figure 17: Real GVA Growth (%), NI and M,S&W region, 1999-2016



41. Despite this stronger than average, albeit moderate, GVA growth rate, Figure 18 shows that productivity levels in the M,S&W region have had been around 10% lower than the NI average since data began to be made available (2001).

Figure 18: GVA per persons employed, NI and SWR, 2001-2016



Source: ONS, Regional Accounts

42. This gap between the region and the low NI average leads into the ongoing debate about the UK 'productivity puzzle' (ie: the cause of consistently lower levels of productivity growth when compared to other advanced economies). There are certainly issues around measurement of GDP and productivity metrics but the UK and NI industrial strategy both centre on the fundamental questions about growth in the UK, in its regions (including NI) and in NI's sub-regions.
43. The UK debate currently centres at the firm level and whether a 'long tail' of smaller firms need to raise their game to become more productive and profitable, or whether the 'top tail' of most productive firms are not adding as much to growth as they did in previous decades?
44. In NI the debate has not reached that level as yet. There is a longstanding (by some accounts going back to the 1920s) 15% gap between local productivity levels and those of the UK as a whole. The question is how much of the gap can be explained by *what we do* (ie: the sectoral structure of the economy) and how much by *how we do it* (ie: skills levels across firms collectively and individually). Research from the UUEPC suggests that the gap could be closed to 2% if NI's sectoral structure became the same as the UK's; or could close to 8% if in-sector productivity matched that in the UK. The first is only likely to happen over time,

unless there are barriers to restructuring, while the second needs a great deal of support and determination to make happen.

45. Given the further c10% gap between the NI average and the M,S&W region, then the question of how far this can be closed by in-sector productivity improvements – in areas such as upskilling both employees and managers or use/adoption of new technology.

Conclusions

46. The recent economic recovery in the M,S&W region has displayed positives which are reflected in the labour market opportunities and the Real GVA growth. Other positives for the region include the population profile (which suggests a combination of in-migration and retention of young people growing the numbers of people in a region with a large rural area) and a lively and growing business base.
47. The better-than-average GVA growth performance in the period since 2001 in the M,S&W region is particularly striking. This has seen the study area's GVA growth outstrip the NI growth rate in both the strong decade to 2008, and then in the much weaker one since the crash.
48. Despite this above-average GVA growth since the early 2000s there remains a significant gap in productivity between the M,S&W region and NI. These productivity figures suggest that, given its vibrant entrepreneurial culture and sectoral strengths, there are some particular challenges and constraints facing the region, particularly around infrastructural connectivity and access to suitable skills.
49. Looking to the future there are also some question marks about whether the current skills profile in the study area will feed the changing labour market, and how well some sectoral concentrations – particularly in agriculture and construction – will perform. The next section looks at different scenarios for the economic future of the study area and provides a framework for looking at what might be coming if the region follows the current trajectory and previous trends.

4. Outlook for the Mid, South & West Region

1. The forecasts in this section come from the UUEPC's Winter 2018 Outlook (released in February 2018). This Outlook, similar to other recent ones, includes three scenarios (Baseline, Upper and Lower) in order to reflect the high degree of uncertainty in the global and local economy. All three scenarios assume that Brexit will occur, albeit with varying types of impact, which depends on how orderly or otherwise the exit is and how quickly a new trade relationship with the EU is established.
2. The Baseline (or Central) scenario is believed to be the most likely and assumes that Brexit will have the effect of slowing business investment (falling FDI) and introducing a UK-wide cap on inward migration at 185,000 per annum. It is also the scenario in which current economic performance will underpin future trends to the greatest extent. In other words, ***this is a 'steady state' scenario assuming little policy change or intervention impacting on output or productivity growth.***
3. The Upper scenario assumes that the UK will experience a smooth trade-friendly Brexit, based upon a favourable new relationship with the EU, and that NI will converge to the UK's economic performance. This is something which can be regarded as a highly aspirational or best case scenario, and can act as a test for ambitious policy interventions or targets either from central or local government (eg: Community Planning targets, skills policies, etc).
4. In contrast, the Lower scenario assumes a poorly coordinated exit from the EU in conjunction with a continued squeeze on real incomes which leads to much lower growth rates, or a worst case scenario.
5. In this section we detail the forecasts for population, employment and GVA for the study area, for the three individual Councils and provide their share/comparison with NI where appropriate.

Population

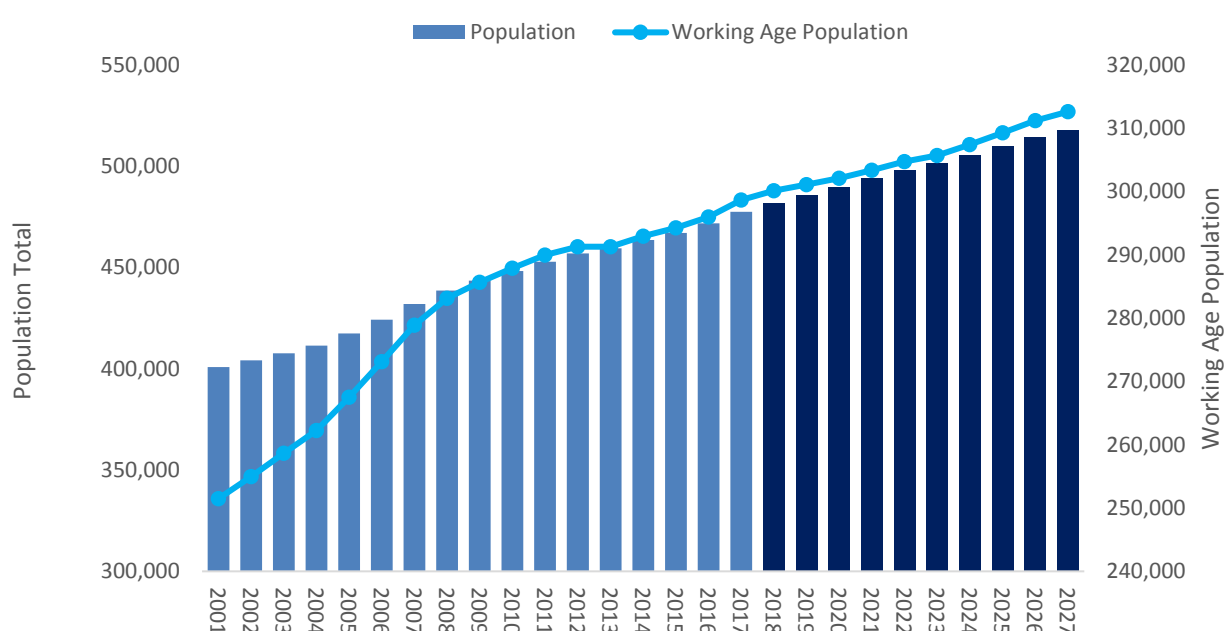
6. The UUEPC forecast¹³ for population is higher than the projections from NISRA as the Centre believes in-migration will be larger, with more people being drawn in (or perhaps retained) by employment prospects. The forecast for the M,S&W region to 2027 is for an increase in both the total population (by approximately

¹³ There is no Upper or Lower scenario for population forecasts.

41,000 or an increase of 8.6%) and the working age population (by around 14,000 or 4.7%). The contrast in growth rates is important as it points to increasing shares at either end of the population pyramid and an increasing ratio of people dependent on the working population – as shown in Figure 17.

7. Within the region the shares of the three Councils are forecast to remain very steady. Mid Ulster is projected to increase its share very slightly at the expense of Fermanagh & Omagh. More generally, Mid Ulster retains its pole position among NI council areas in terms of population growth rates over the next decade.

Figure 17: Total Population & Working Age Population, M,S&W Region, 2001-27

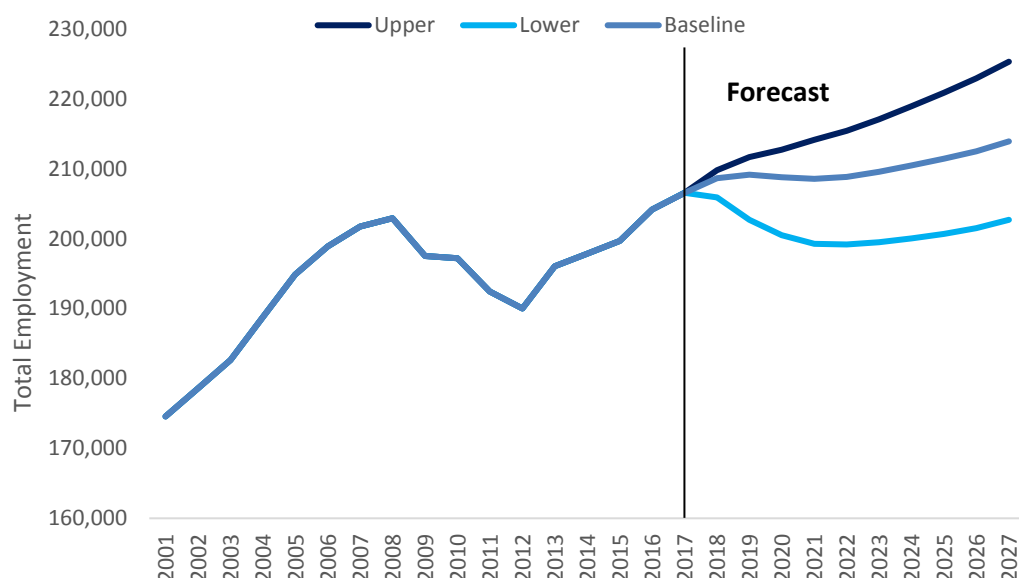


Labour market

8. Figure 18 shows the employment trajectory of the study area since 2001 and including the Upper, Central or Baseline and Lower scenarios. In the Baseline scenario, regarded as most likely, employment growth will be quite flat with only 7,353 new jobs being added by 2027 across the M,S&W region. When we bear it in mind that almost twice this number of jobs were added in 2012-2016, the flatness of the growth is obvious. The annual growth rate for the study area will be 0.39% under this scenario, lower than the 0.43% forecast for NI.
9. The Upper scenario is closer to the recovery trajectory with 18,750 new jobs and an annual growth rate of 0.97%. In this scenario the additional 11,500 jobs over the Baseline would mean a combination of a much higher rate of in-commuting

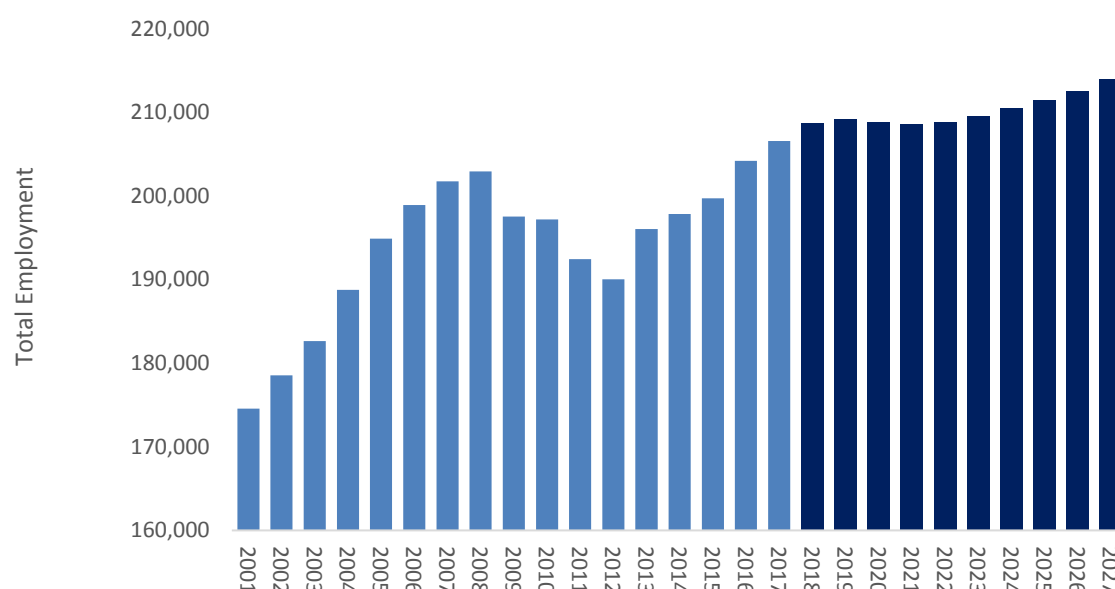
(assuming other parts of NI are not growing as quickly), in-migration and bringing people out of inactivity will be needed. Under the Lower scenario more than 3,800 jobs can be expected to be lost, with a sharp fall to 2023 and only a small increase thereafter.

Figure 18: Current Performance and Upper, Lower and Baseline Employment Forecasts, M,S&W Region, 2001-27



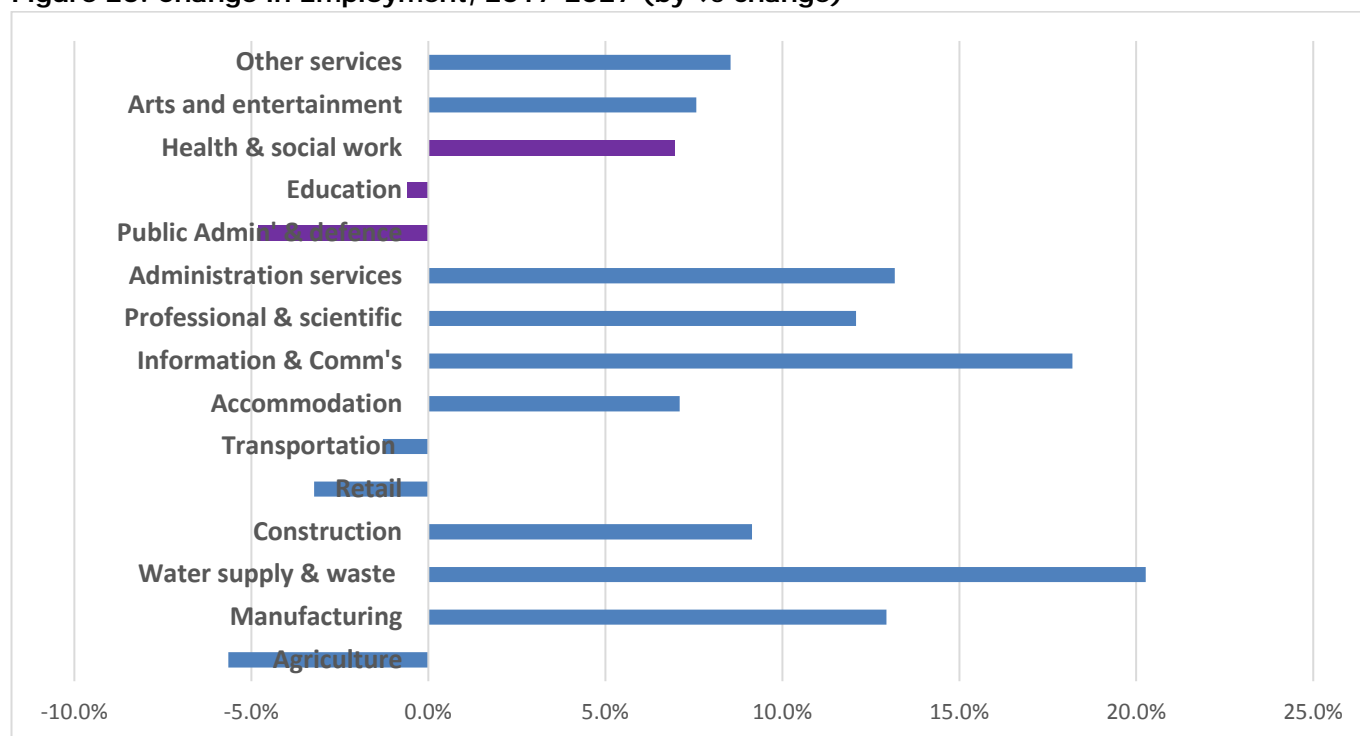
10. Figure 19 provides more detail on the Baseline scenario year-by-year and shows that a possible, if slight, downturn is expected in 2020-2021 before employment begins to rise again. Any job losses (600 at most) are expected to be concentrated in ABC and Fermanagh & Omagh, rather than Mid Ulster.

Figure 19: Total Employment, M,S&W Region, 2001-2027



11. Sectorally, the region's sectoral concentrations in Manufacturing and Construction are set to continue as these two sectors may add as many as 4,700 and 1,700 respectively under the Baseline scenario (or three quarters of the total new jobs). One issue to note from the consultations – with regard to Construction – is that much of the work of the firms based in the study area may continue to be in the Republic of Ireland and GB, creating something of a 'headquarter effect' in this sector.
12. Elsewhere sectoral restructuring can be seen for the Agriculture, Retail and Public Administration sectors, which are expected to take the brunt of any losses over the decade in the Baseline scenario. The first two are a result of structural changes either continuing (in the case of farming) or accelerating (in the case of Retail).
13. Figure 20 shows the percentage increase in some sectors and gives a sense of which sectors might be emerging as potential new growth poles to rival the dominant sectors. Manufacturing is expected to grow impressively by 13.5% but this is matched by growth in ICT (18.2%), Administration Services (13.2%) and Professional & Technical Services (12.1%). The numbers added in these latter sectors might not be large, given the lower bases, but the slow, important trend towards diversification could be important in terms of retaining a range of (higher) skills in the region.

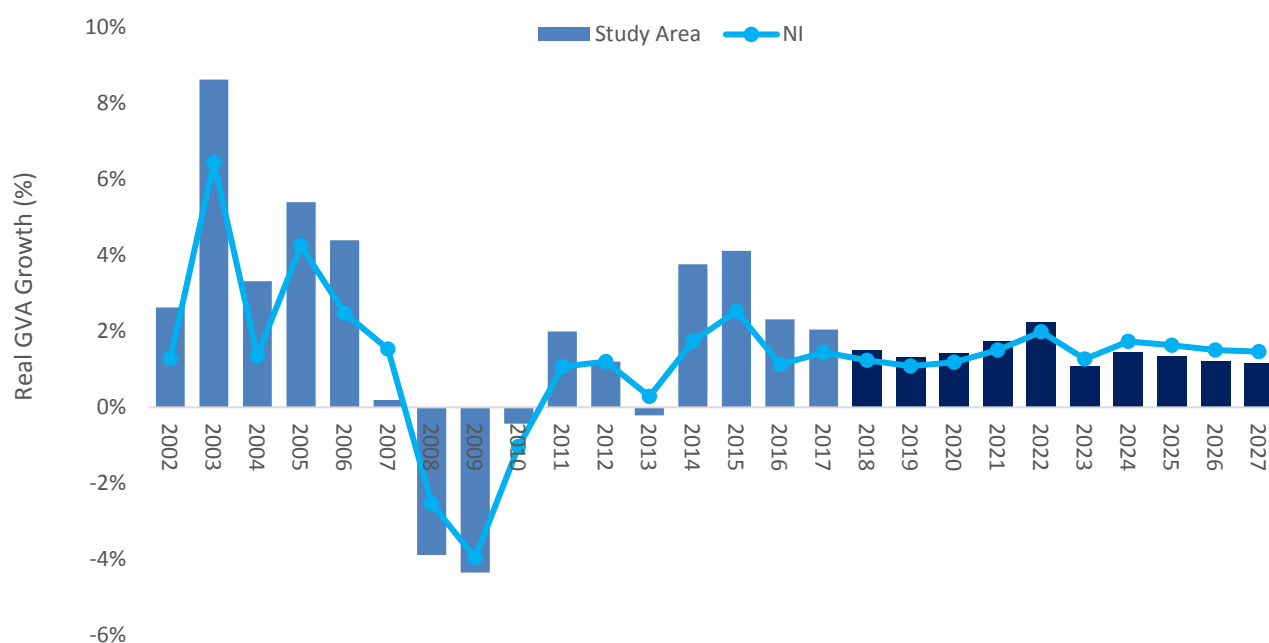
Figure 20: Change in Employment, 2017-2027 (by % change)



GVA

14. GVA growth forecasts are notoriously difficult to make accurately, given the impact that various factors can have.¹⁴ Using the new 'balanced' GVA figures from ONS (designed to reflect both production and income), Figure 21 shows that neither NI as a whole or the SWR are expected in the Baseline scenario to exceed annual growth of 2% to 2027.

Figure 21: Real GVA Growth (%), M,S&W Region and NI, 2002-2027



15. It should be noted that while the low growth (an average annual growth rate of 1.5%) occurs across the decade, that the second half is lower than the first, which may be a function of the structural performance of the economy in the study area or the expected growth in certain sectors. The slowdown in GVA growth is more marked in ABC (1.4% average annual rate) than in Mid Ulster (1.6%) or Fermanagh & Omagh (1.6%).
16. Growth at this level will do little to close the productivity gap between the M,S&W region and the NI average, nor between NI and the larger economies of the UK (annual growth rates of 1.6% forecast by the OBR) or Republic of Ireland (growth rates to 2022 of 3.1%). The result may feel like stagnation for the local economy as a whole under a Baseline scenario without any policy intervention.

¹⁴ For example, several large jobs announcements at lower than average wages might push things in a 'negative' direction unless the businesses make larger than normal profits because of this.

Conclusions

17. The Baseline forecasts show that there are positive growth prospects for the next decade in the M,S&W region, when considering population, employment and Real GVA. The Working Age Population will also rise, ahead of rates seen in most other parts of NI over this period.
18. However, the issue is that in this 'steady state' scenario productivity growth and therefore the creation of wealth in the M,S&W region will remain behind the NI average. The forecast annual GVA growth rate (1.5%) in the region is lower than the rate for employment growth (3.4%). This means that productivity levels in the M,S&W region will continue to be behind NI as a whole. We will return to this challenge in Section 6. The next section will detail a further, related, challenge for the region and other parts of NI: the potential impacts of Brexit.

5. The implications of Brexit

1. The potential impacts of Brexit raise a cause for concern in the border region, of which the Mid, South & West region of NI is a key part. Research by the UUEPC on the Border Corridor also found that the very regional weaknesses and vulnerabilities, whereby small numbers of entrepreneurial firms are strongly reliant on the island economy and access to the Single Market and Customs Union, are those which a poorly-managed UK exit from the EU could turn a spotlight upon. At the same time, a question arises over what opportunities might arise for the M,S&W region from mitigation measures or new policy directions as a result of Brexit.
2. At present, where NI and the Republic of Ireland are both in the EU Single Market and Customs Union, there is an administrative (taxation) and currency boundary in existence. All sides to the negotiations have declared their wish to ensure that Brexit does not harden the border into one which hinders economic and social activity, through labour immobility, lower than potential levels of trade or regulatory divergence in key sectors (eg: agri-food). There are also promises to ensure that the passage of consumers, tourists or citizens accessing services should remain as they currently area, and that some EU special investment and funding will continue.
3. The recent Withdrawal Agreement (November 2018) is the current attempt to square this apparent circle of keeping an external border of the EU open on the island of Ireland. The 'backstop', which was agreed in the Joint EU/UK report from December 2017, will now see the UK as a whole in a 'bare bones' customs union with the EU as this is believed to avoid the need for customs checks on the Irish border or within the UK. In addition, the Agreement's NI/Ireland Protocol has provisions which would effectively mean NI stays within the in 'the' EU customs union, dealing with matters include VAT rules on goods and inspections of food or fisheries products.
4. The Protocol will start at the end of the transition period and last until a new EU-UK relationship is in place and deemed by a working group to meet the need of ensuring no hard border on the island of Ireland.
5. Given that the three Council areas in the study area are at the heart of the Border Corridor of local government district contiguous to the border, the continued unhindered operation of cross-border trade and access to skills through cross-border commuting for work or study is critical to economic

growth. More generally, cross-border access to services and continuing availability of EU (or UK/Irish government) funding and investment for sectors such as agriculture, are demands for communities across the M,S&W region.

6. A key reason for these concerns and demands in the study area is that the UUEPC research on the wider Border Corridor found that the 2016-2026 employment forecasts for that larger region provided some worrying patterns when compared to the rest of the island. Specifically, employment growth rates in both parts of the Border Corridor would be below the average percentage change in NI and the Republic of Ireland. And, in a Lower scenario, there would still be positive growth in the Southern Border Counties, but well behind the national average, while in NI, all Border Council areas were expected to lose jobs.
7. Overall, the research showed that Border Corridor still lags behind NI or Republic of Ireland averages in areas such as productivity and household incomes, in spite of significant EU funding since the 1990s. In a Baseline scenario under Brexit Council areas in the Border Corridor will fall further behind the NI and Republic of Ireland averages. This is expected to happen for the M,S&W region also.
8. Thus, in thinking about the potential impacts of Brexit, the recommendation of the Border Corridor report was for both mitigation measures and solutions that would ensure that future border management is as seamless as possible.
9. In terms of mitigation the Community Plans across the M,S&W region and the wider Border Corridor already suggest a range of proposals to address structural regional weaknesses. These include:
 - Investment in upgrading transport infrastructure such as the A5, A4, N16 (Sligo/Enniskillen), A29, Enniskillen Bypass, etc..
 - Investment in business supports to ensure that many more SMEs are able to prepare for Brexit, including getting advice on tariffs and new customs arrangements if these come into place.
 - Continuation of EU funding to ensure not only that peace and reconciliation projects funded by the Peace programme continue, but so too cross-border cooperation (through Interreg), research collaboration (in Horizon 2020 and successor programmes) and student mobility activities (Erasmus).

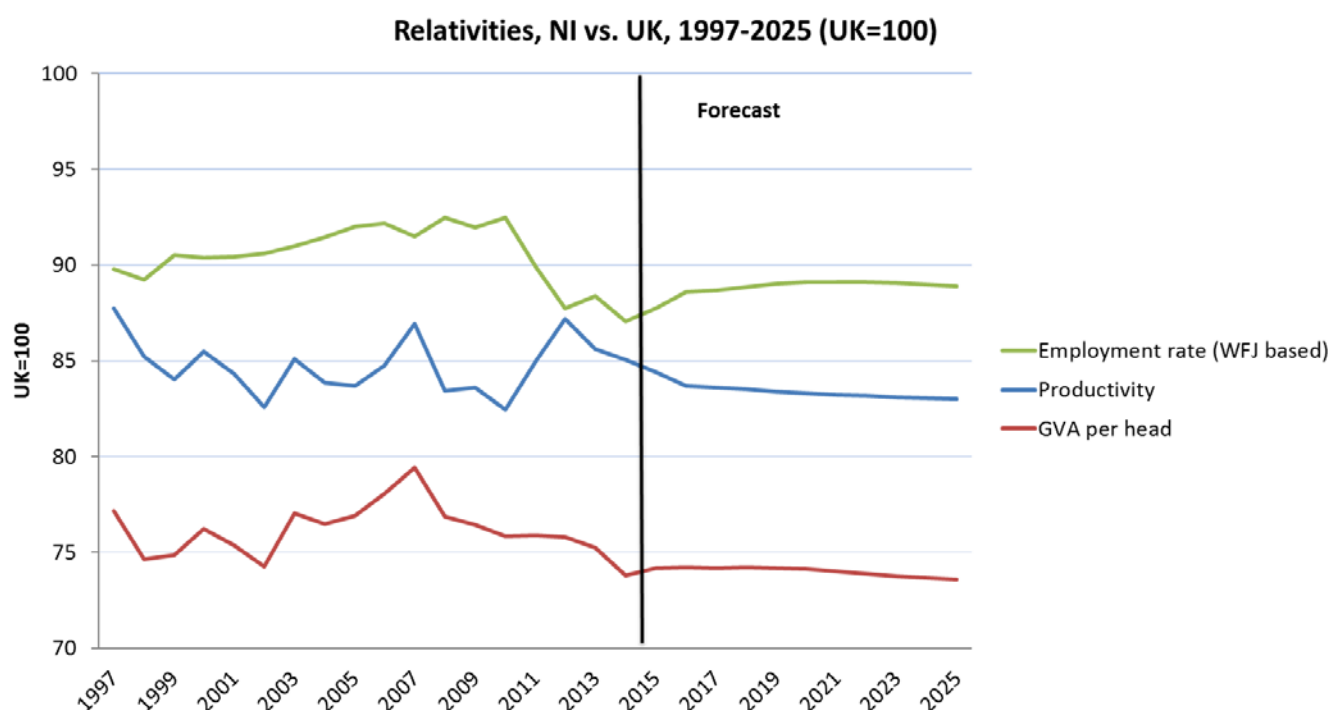
10. When thinking of the best possible border management solution for the M,S&W region, as part of the wider Border Corridor, the UUEPC research suggested that the simplest solution was that the UK remains a member of the Customs Union (and possibly the Single Market). This could be either on a permanent basis or on a transitional basis until a new Free Trade Agreement is signed with the EU, which ensured a close relationship with EU rules and regulations.
11. At the time of the previous research two possible elements of a 'special arrangement' to prevent the return of a 'hard' border returning to the region were the extension of the Common Travel Area to include other EU nationals (33% of the approximate 120,000 non-UK nationals in NI in 2011) and the development of a new economic zone for the Border Corridor within which the free movement of goods and services would continue as now. The application of exemptions for trade by certain sizes of businesses and the introduction of quotas for certain sectors that are highly integrated (eg: agri-food) are ideas that might form the basis of such a zone.
12. It may be that the Withdrawal Agreement, with its NI/Ireland Protocol, contains the bones of this special arrangement. However, absent a regional migration policy or NI or one for the UK which takes into account local and different needs, the access to skills challenge will exacerbate over time. Given the tightness of the local labour market in the M,S&W region this will have its consequences on local investment decisions every much as the uncertainty surrounding the political hurdles still to be crossed for this (or any) agreement.
13. The forecasts for the next decade, with Brexit 'priced in', suggest that in the medium term productivity growth rates in the M,S&W region will fall further behind the NI average. Given that tackling low productivity is a key element of the draft industrial strategy and is hoped for as a positive outcome of Brexit, the next section will outline some ways this might be addressed in the M,S&W region.

6. Meeting the Productivity Challenges

Introduction: What is the productivity challenge?

1. The productivity challenge for every country or region is how to increase output per worker (or per hour worked), as this is the key to the extent to which living standards improve over time. As Paul Krugman has put it, 'productivity isn't everything, but in the long run it is almost everything'.
2. NI has a longstanding productivity problem, perhaps from the early 1900s, which was masked by the then-successful concentrations in shipbuilding, textiles and heavy engineering. Research suggests that the problem deepened as older sectors survived long past their prime and new sectors struggled to emerge or, where they did in the case of artificial fibres, brought only a brief respite in the 1950s and 1960s from the relative decline.
3. The current problem is that the NI productivity gap, relative to the UK, is forecast to remain and indeed grow if present trends continue. As Figure 22 shows employment rates will rise but productivity will diverge further from the UK.

Figure 22: Relative productivity, employment rates and GVA per capita, NI vs UK, 1997-2025

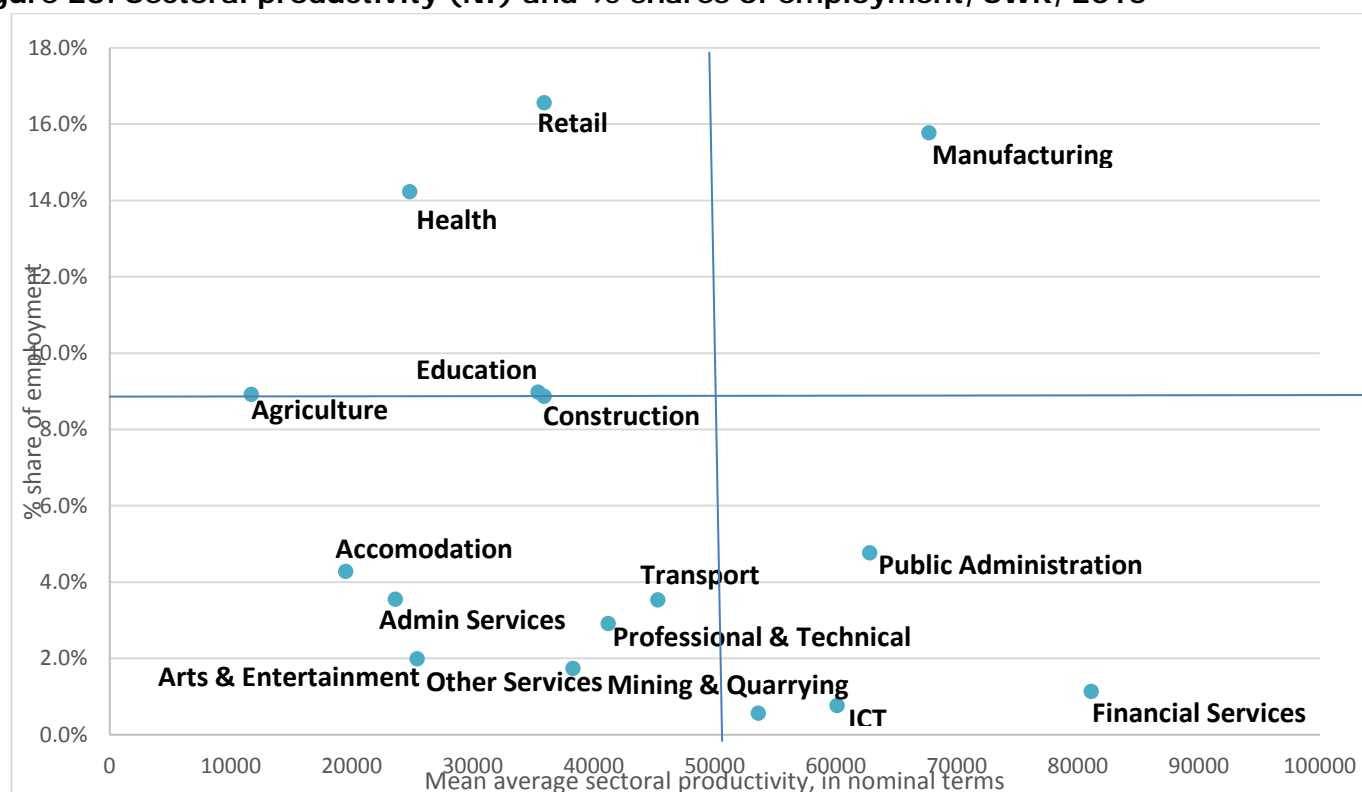


4. There are arguably three reasons for this gap. **First**, a higher employment rate in NI (and the M,S&W region) should deliver a higher productivity rate, but only if

the extra people brought into work had levels of productivity as high as the UK average.

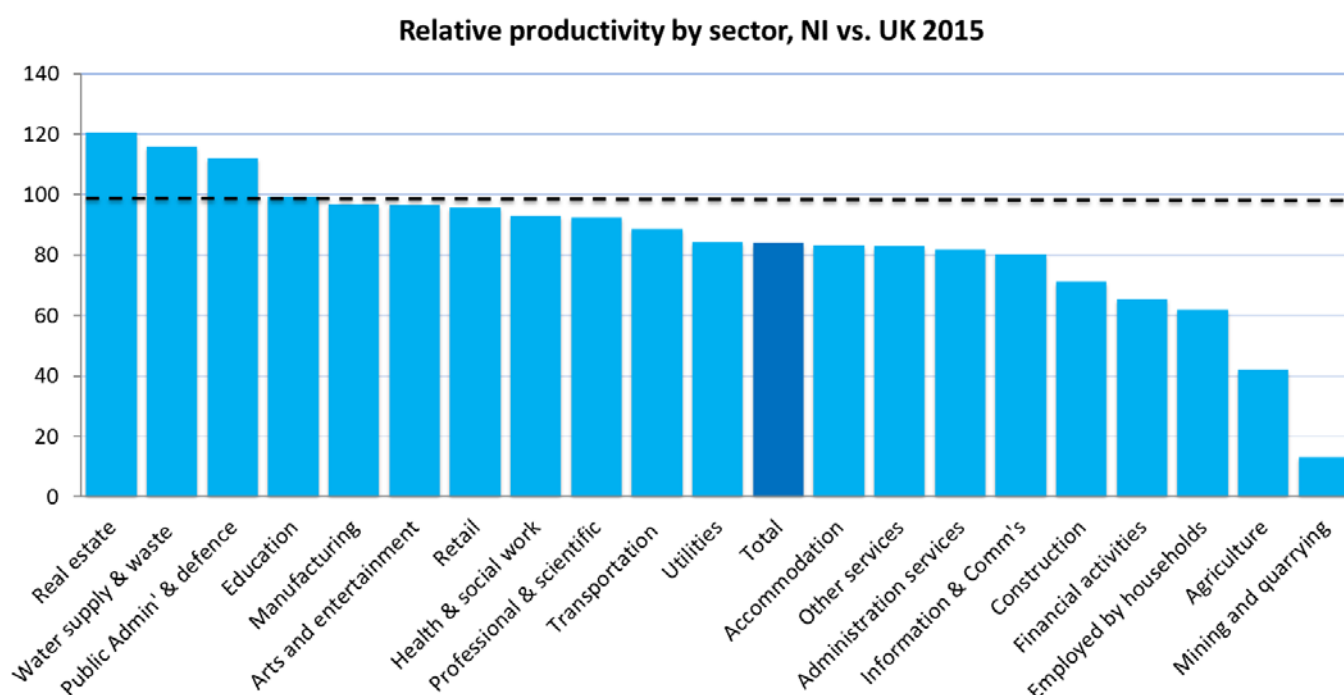
5. **Second**, half of the UK/NI gap comes from NI having a greater concentration of activity in sectors that traditionally have lower levels of productivity. Figure 23 shows the sectors in which the M,S&W region has concentrations of employment – Manufacturing (16%), Retail (17%), Agriculture (9%) and Construction (9%). Only Manufacturing can be found within the higher productivity sectors. Other higher productivity sectors – such as Financial Services or ICT – only currently have a combined 2% of total employment in the region. A sectoral shift will happen slowly and would only close the gap if the in-sector productivity levels were the same or higher than the UK average

Figure 23: Sectoral productivity (NI) and % shares of employment, SWR, 2015



6. **Third**, in almost all sectors NI businesses are underperforming the UK average in sectoral productivity. Figure 24 shows the productivity performance of NI by sector in 2016 relative to the UK. Assuming that the in-sector performance in those sectors in the M,S&W region is little different from the NI average, improving this picture through policy interventions is critical.

Figure 24: Relative productivity by sector, NI vs UK, 2015



7. Manufacturing is one important sector where in-sector productivity is near to the UK average. It is also a sector which is undergoing a new, fourth revolution or Industry 4.0, where the use of the newest smart, digital technology will not only transform how products are designed, made or used and maintained, but also change completely the process of production and manufacturing operations through the likes of robotics or analytics.
8. Ensuring that Manufacturing and allied sectors are able to lead or adapt to the rollout of Industry 4.0 will be a key element of meeting the productivity challenge. In addressing this, the role of skills, investment (public and private), innovation and management capabilities all come to mind. These factors translate into educational qualifications levels and 'matching' of skills supply and demand (a particular issue for NI according to the UUEPC Skills Barometer), access to finance for investment but also productive projects to invest in, Business R&D levels but also cooperation with others in a wider innovation ecosystem, and getting better management practices into businesses..
9. Most of these issues matter not only for a 'long tail' of under-performing businesses but right across most NI firms, a position which is probably largely similar for the M,S&W region. Improving this productivity picture will mean that the challenges of improving skills, more effective innovation activity and better, more efficient, infrastructure should be at the centre of any NI industrial strategy.

Given the potential that exists in the M,S&W region, because of the entrepreneurial firms which operate there and the existence of a vibrant Manufacturing sector, meeting these challenges will be crucial to any strategy that seeks to stimulate further and sustainable economic growth in the area.

10. The rest of this section sets out some ideas that consultations have identified as potential ways to address the local productivity challenges.

Access to better skills

11. A common reason given for low productivity in the NI economy is the relatively low-skilled nature of the workforce and a shortage of key essential skills for some businesses. In terms of available skills one statistic seems to show the problem: 16% of 16 to 64 year olds in NI had less than 5 GCSEs (A-C grade) in 2016, compared to 8% in the UK as a whole. Figures 8-10 above show how the M,S&W region is largely in line with the NI average.
12. The issue of skills or a 'lack of people' is consistently raised as a problem by local businesses (something reinforced in consultations). Given current vacancies and at least 7,000 additional jobs created in the next decade in a 'steady state' scenario alone, it is not surprising that skills is a priority area in all three Councils' Community Plans. Two of the three (Mid Ulster and ABC) have moved to establish skills fora with local stakeholders involved. In Mid Ulster a recent skills action plan has been released with actions in areas such as attracting external talent to the area, engaging better with prospective employees and developing skills through better careers advice and apprenticeship schemes.
13. Meanwhile, in ABC, the Community Plan identified the twin issues in the borough of specific shortages in some sectors and a lower qualification base more generally than NI as a whole. The Council, along with other partners, has similar actions in mind on skills as in Mid Ulster, from the development of 'collaborative initiatives to address skills deficits in target sectors' to 'opening up career pathways and improving employment readiness'. Given the shared nature of these problems there may be cooperative opportunities to set specific sectoral policies/priorities across the study area.
14. Several pieces of the puzzle will need to be in place for any wider cooperative skills initiative to succeed. First, a further deepening of partnerships between central and local government (given the former sets policy) and between Councils and education providers – schools and FE colleges both. Second, an evidence base on the likely demand for skills in the M,S&W region, as well as the current

and future supply of skills in the area. Third, a clear buy-in by businesses beyond individually articulating a 'need' for people, in terms of developing HR functions, in-company skills development and greater inter-firm cooperation.

15. In connection with this last point is the question whether employees are reluctant to acquire additional skills because the opportunities are not there, or employers are loathe to invest in upskilling because of the risks attached to the resultant new business models and/or markets. It is likely to be a mix of the two with the result that the NI and M,S&W region's economy have the twin problems of low skills tied to low-wage jobs and innovative firms unable to find the high skills they need.
16. Given the current reliance on attracting new talent to the region, the local skills base needs further attention. At present, there is a situation of skills mismatches being created, where too many qualifications are found in some sectors or job functions and not enough in other. Creating demand for skills is as important as improving the supply of intermediate and higher skilled people.
17. One final point is that it is important to be cautious about arguing that better workforce skills are the panacea for all productivity ills. A lower skills base may account for less than 20% of the productivity gap between the UK and other advanced economies, much less than investment in infrastructure, R&D or plant. And upskilling staff needs to be accompanied by making workplaces 'smarter' or more in line with Industry 4.0. This includes improving the capabilities of the management of businesses, and these being more innovative and looking to invest. As Michael Best said of the NI economy in the late 1990s: 'The lack of demand for such graduates [skills] is a reflection of the lack of capability development in NI business enterprises'. If this position can be changed, the opportunities are enormous.

Innovation and capabilities

18. The 2015 UK Innovation Survey found that NI is the second-worst performing region. An improvement in performance from 2013 did little to close the gap with other regions. Less than half (45%) of all businesses in NI were innovation active in 2012-2014, up from 40% in 2010-2012, but less 8% fewer than the UK average.
19. In the NI survey larger firms and those in the Manufacturing sector are more likely to be innovative than smaller or service sector businesses. These are characteristics which might augur well for the M,S&W region, when compared to

the rest of NI. Although there is no official data for innovation activity at the LGD level, some of what Michael Best calls 'entrepreneurial firms'¹⁵ clearly exist in the study area.

20. At the same time, the M,S&W region is likely to have a long tail of businesses which do not innovate or invest in R&D. This tail in NI is longer than in other UK regions or in the Republic of Ireland. Either the businesses see no incentive for engaging in innovation or they are unable to adopt new technologies and innovation produced elsewhere. What we might also expect to see are struggling management teams, lower levels of ICT usage (where available) and less interaction with customers and suppliers. The last of these elements is crucial to what makes up an innovation ecosystem.
21. The innovation challenge facing the M,S&W region is how to build upon the presence of successful businesses and the encouraging levels of business start-ups to become a truly innovative region, driving growth in a sustainable manner. This might include:
- Stimulating greater levels of innovation in sectors with lower levels of this activity, such as Tourism, perhaps in areas such as increasing the range of value-added offerings (around food, eco-tourism), and developing the business processes.
 - Developing a role for Councils to play in terms of 'pushing' innovation activity through their procurement practices, such as innovation competitions and so on.
 - Encouraging emerging sectors with higher innovation levels, such as the digital technology-based one (ABC), or creating an encouraging environment through initiatives such as the 'smart region' (in Fermanagh & Omagh).
22. Although an innovation ecosystem involves access to investment finance, strong support agencies and skilled advisers and consultants, a key piece is the further and higher education institutions. The M,S&W region has campuses of both the South West and Southern Regional Colleges, plus Loughry College, all of which have developed capabilities in knowledge transfer. Building upon this provision – perhaps through further access to research bases in the two universities – will be essential to the greater diffusion of innovative practises in the region. So, too, will be the development of clusters and networking among firms and their supply

¹⁵ These firms develop strong technological capabilities within the business, manage the adoption of new technologies, are organised for product-led competition and use this as the basis for innovation.

chains. Central to this might be some variation on the mechanisms found in Germany (such as the *Fraunhofer* institutes) which assist firms, large and small, in their innovations, perhaps using the education providers. This might be done on a sectoral basis, for Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Food or Tourism.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

23. The National Infrastructure Commission suggests four main ways in which infrastructure contributes to economic growth:

- Lowering costs of production.
- Enabling innovation and hence increases in productivity.
- Facilitating the efficiency of housing and labour markets within the economy.
- Enabling a higher density of people or businesses within a certain geographical area, hence forming the basis for agglomeration or external economies, for example having a network of related businesses.

24. Given these contributions, in particular the second and fourth, there is a strong argument for investment in infrastructure being a key component of regional economic growth and features in the Councils' Community Plans. In addition, the current road network, energy supply (both gas and electricity), and digital/broadband infrastructure is a major weakness for the M,S&W region and in need of significant upgrade.

25. In terms of transport infrastructure, the issue of connectivity and access to markets and a wider pool of labour is critical for growth. For the M,S&W region there are a number of key transport corridors (M1, A1, A4, A5 and A29), the first two of which have planned improvements. In Mid Ulster, town by-passes are also in the pipeline. With regard to public transport, access to rail is largely restricted to the ABC area for either in-commuting to Belfast or use of the cross-border Enterprise service. This is unlikely to change which makes intra-urban transport more of a priority for moving around the region.

26. In terms of digital infrastructure, access to broadband and the internet remains a significant issue in parts of the M,S&W region. According to figures from OFCOM, the rate of households with broadband access (for 2015 and 2016) in Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster was below the NI average (70% and 71% compared to 77.5%), while ABC was above (78%). When it comes to households and businesses able to access higher speed (>10 M/bits) fixed broadband services the region is towards the bottom end: 23% in Fermanagh & Omagh, 15% in Mid Ulster and 7% in ABC unable to access this speed in 2017. This represents 24,600 premises across the study area, or 44% of those across NI unable to access this

speed. This picture is improving but remains a challenging one, especially when allied to the high levels of rural 'not spots' for mobile coverage in NI, and is increasingly critical for location choices by firms.

7. Conclusions

1. In NI terms, the Mid, South & West (M,S&W) region has seen employment and GVA grow strongly in recent years and shows the potential for the advancement of further economic growth through significant productivity advances. If achieved, this would greatly enhance the region's position as an economic driver for the NI economy.
2. The report finds that the M,S&W region is one with a distinctive economic geography, strong demographic trends and a thriving and sustainable local economy with export connections. At the same time, the region faces challenges associated with a tight labour market and a need for greater productivity levels facilitated by better connectivity, access to skills and higher levels of innovation, particularly the development of new products and services.
3. The distinctive economic geography of the M,S&W region is reflected in the high levels of self-containment (90% of local jobs are filled by local residents) and strong sectoral specialisations which are aligned with the draft NI Industrial Strategy. The specialisations can be found in areas such as Advanced Manufacturing (eg: materials handling), Food Manufacturing, Construction and Agriculture.
4. The strength of the demographic trends in the M,S&W region are reflected in a 15% increase in population since 2001, to 471,000 people or a quarter of the total NI population. This growth is well ahead of the NI average, as Mid Ulster (+18%) and ABC (+16%) have been the two fastest-growing LGDs in NI. The growth is forecast to continue out to 2027 for both total population and working age population. Again this is anticipated to be stronger than the NI rates, reaching more than half a million people by 2027.
5. The M,S&W region has a higher than NI average employment rate of 69.2%, the result of 37,000 net additional jobs since 2001. At this point, three quarters of the region's jobs are in the private sector – a higher proportion than the NI average and symptomatic of a rebalanced economy.
6. There has been a strong jobs recovery in the region since 2012, faster than NI's as a whole. While Manufacturing in NI as a whole barely recovered the ground lost since 2008, the M,S&W region saw a strong sector grow further, adding on an additional 3,500 jobs.

7. The thriving nature of the M,S&W region's economy can be seen in the business base of 24,500 firms in 2017 or a third of all NI's, supported by high levels of entrepreneurship. Many are indigenously-owned businesses, especially in the agri-food, advanced manufacturing, life & health sciences, construction and tourism sectors, and are globally-competing. A sign of this is that the M,S&W region accounts for 27% of NI exports, a larger share than Belfast's.
8. The fact that Real GVA growth rates have been well above the NI average since 2002 means that the M,S&W region accounts for 22% of total NI GVA.
9. The region faces several challenges, some a result of the productivity gap and others to remove constraints to further growth. Despite the above-average GVA growth since 2002 there remains a significant gap in productivity between the M,S&W region and NI. The research highlights potential reasons for this, such as infrastructural connectivity and access to suitable skills.
10. The strength of the growth in employment since 2001 and the anticipated creation of further jobs to 2027 exposes the extent to which the M,S&W region has a tight labour market. This is a situation already facing local businesses and will continue to be one, testing the availability of skills locally and the ability to attract talent from other parts of NI and beyond.
11. The strategic M1, A1 Dublin/Belfast, A4 Ballygawley/Border, A5(N2) Derry/Dublin, A6 Derry/Belfast and A29 Coleraine/Armagh routes all run through the region. These ensure that the region is at the centre of important wider connections and markets but all are in need of improvement. This could ensure better connectivity for the region to key transport infrastructure (airports and ports), Higher Education Institutions and entry routes for tourists. A similar or even more pressing position arises over digital infrastructure.
12. This connectivity is important in light of the central place in the Border Corridor which the M,S&W has. Many of the transport routes above have a cross-border link which facilitate trade, commuting and access to shared services. The need for a frictionless border in any post-Brexit world is also clear.
13. In summary, the M,S&W region is one which has seen employment and GVA grow strongly in recent years and has the potential for further productivity gains, as an economic driver for NI more generally. Local linkages, including supply chains between firms in the region, and labour markets with high levels of self-

containment, strengthen a sense of the M,S&W region being a driver of the wider NI and border region economies.

14. Indeed, the economic geography, current economic performance and similar challenges across the M,S&W region provide a strong case for greater strategic cooperation. The potential of the M,S&W region to meet the challenges of improving skills, more effective innovation activity and better, more efficient, economic infrastructure, make the case for a growth plan for the region. If successful in the delivery and implementation of this, the Mid, South & West region could not only develop further and enhance its role as a driver of economic growth in NI but become a wider exemplar of a region, with a large rural area, tackling productivity issues.

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Appendix 2: Methodology

1. To complete this paper the UUEPC have:
 - Assessed the economic geography and baseline of economic performance for the M, S & W region by reviewing the available population, labour market and business data for the three Councils individually and collectively;
 - Developed a set of ten-year forecasts of employment and GVA for the region; and
 - Consulted key local government officials and business stakeholders in the region about challenges and potential solutions.
2. With regard to the 10-year forecasts the UUEPC used the enhanced NI economic model, which has been developed to provide forecasts at the level of Council areas. This development work was undertaken to assist in the devolution of some economic development powers to local government. The UUEPC can now provide local Councils not only with a range of current economic data (eg: demographic trends or employment by sector), but also ten-year forecasts of employment, GVA and other key indicators which enable officials and elected members to test the outcomes of their Community Plans and other funding and investment propositions.
3. The forecasts are based upon a scenario-based approach for Northern Ireland showing different labour market outlooks based on: aspirational (Upper); central (Baseline) and pessimistic (Lower) growth scenarios. The assumptions behind these scenarios are explained further in Section 4 of the paper.
4. For this paper the UUEPC have produced a forecast of a range of key economic growth indicators for Northern Ireland and both the Mid, South and West Region and the three individual Council areas to help inform thinking around potential cooperation and other proposals. The indicators include ones for employment, employment by sector, population and annual % growth in GVA. Due to data constraints (arising from the levels of apportioning GVA at the LGD level in NI), it is difficult to give a completely accurate picture of productivity (GVA per employee or GVA per hours worked).

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officer	Philip Clarke Community Support, Oliver Morgan Good Relations & Peace, Michael McCrory PCSP

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations.
1.2	To consider and approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendation.
1.3	To consider and agree the Good Relations Plan 2019 – 2020 under TBUC (Together Building a United Community Strategy).
1.4	To seek approval to go to tender for CCTV monitoring in towns in Mid Ulster.
1.5	To note the update on Community Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme - The Grant Aid Programme for the 2018/19 financial year facilitates applications being made on a rolling basis for Community Festivals and Good Relations.
2.2	Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020 and Partnership oversees the delivery of the Plan and recommendations to Council.
2.3	Good Relations Action Plan 2019 – 2020 – Council in partnership with the Executive Office delivers an annual plan under the TBUC (Together Building a United Community) Strategy. This plan is funded 75% by the Executive Office.
2.4	CCTV monitoring in Mid Ulster main towns – Mid Ulster District Council currently manages CCTV monitoring in the following main towns Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera and 2 main villages Fivemiletown and Draperstown through a tendered contract.

2.5	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Village Planning, Community Centres, DFC Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations PCSP
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme There are 2 Community Festival application with a recommended award totaling £1,025. There are 2 Good Relations application recommended for award totaling £1,510. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detail.
3.2	Peace IV The Peace IV Phase III Grants. As part of the Peace IV Local Action Plan there is provision for delivery of local community peace grants. A Phase III of the grant process has been completed and is proposed for approval. There are a total of 7 applications proposed for approval at a value of £177,457. A total of 6 applications were not successful due to ineligibility or not meeting the minimum score threshold. Feedback will take place with the relevant groups. Please refer to Appendix 2. There remains a budget within the Peace IV grants to hold a 4 th and final call for peace grants. It is proposed to open the grants for a further round with remaining monies under the 3 themes.
3.3	Good Relations Action Plan 2019 – 2020 - Council in partnership with the Executive Office delivers an annual plan under the TBUC (Together Building a United Community) Strategy. An Action Plan is attached for consideration. This is based on the previous Action Plan and audit, with minor review and update. The Executive Office has asked if Councils could submit a 3 year plan with review. It is proposed that in line with Council policy on budgets and new Council that this plan would be submitted as a potential 3 year plan with the proviso of an annual review and Council agreement which may amend the annual Plan. It is proposed to submit the attached plan for 75% by the Executive Office. Please refer to Appendix 3 for the Action Plan
3.4	CCTV Provision in Town Centres in Mid Ulster The current contract for monitoring of CCTV across the towns in Mid Ulster was issued in April 2017 for a 3 year period. The contract is due to end March 2020. The contract with the current provider is being terminated, due to a legal issue that has arisen. The monitoring and maintenance elements of the contract are being carried out by the subcontractor on an interim basis and until the contract can be retendered. A new tender for the Town CCTV is required. It is proposed to proceed to tender for the monitoring within the budget up to £30,000.

3.5	<p>Community Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u></p> <p>Community Development team finalizing grant claims for 2018 – 2019. Commenced support to groups on next grant allocation. Grants opening 4th February and closing 15th March. All groups are encouraged to contact an officer to get support with the grants process and application. Grant information clinics will be held on the following dates and locations:</p> <table><tr><td>Dungannon Office,</td><td>12th Feb</td><td>7-9 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Cookstown Office,</td><td>13th Feb</td><td>7-9 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Magherafelt Office,</td><td>14th Feb</td><td>7-9 pm</td></tr></table> <p>You can book a 10min appointment slot to talk directly with an officer on any of the evenings above. These can be booked by contacting the Community Development section.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are ongoing. There are 2 capital contracts being progressed Dungannon United Youth is on site and progressing to complete September 2019 at a contract value of £761,805 (including contingencies) (DFC funding £747,500). Gortgonis Economic Appraisal has been complete (via Leisure Services) with a first application to DFC for £1 million of funding to be sought.</p> <p><u>Peace and Good Relations</u></p> <p>Good Relations Action Plan 2018 – 2019 is being finalized with claims and monitoring being complete. New Action Plan development.</p> <p>Peace IV delivery is ongoing – All programmes are progressing to schedule. The Peace cross border literary project management is out to quotation and the Peace Arts Engagement Phase II is out to tender. The Phase III grants are being progressed, with a potential for one further phase. The Phase II heritage cross border programme is being developed to add to the phase I delivery. The shared space design tender is in progress being led by CPD with Council Capital team.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u></p> <p>PCSP plan delivery is ongoing with programmes being rolled out across Mid Ulster directed by the Partnership.</p> <p>Ongoing support to communities on a range of initiatives to help keep people and communities safe.</p>	Dungannon Office,	12th Feb	7-9 pm	Cookstown Office,	13th Feb	7-9 pm	Magherafelt Office,	14th Feb	7-9 pm
Dungannon Office,	12th Feb	7-9 pm								
Cookstown Office,	13th Feb	7-9 pm								
Magherafelt Office,	14th Feb	7-9 pm								
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>									
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Community Local Festival awards £1,025. Good Relations awards £1,510</p> <p>Peace IV Grant awards to a value of £177,457</p>									

	<p>Good Relations Action Plan 2019 – 2020 at a value of £414,000 with 75% funding from NI Executive Office (pending plan submission and approval).</p> <p>CCTV – new contract at a budget up to £30,000</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals Grant and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1.
5.2	To approve the Peace IV Grants Phase III as per Appendix 2, and to agree to go to a further grant call for phase IV grants.
5.3	To approve the Good Relations Action Plan 2019 – 2020 for submission to the Executive Office for match funding as per Appendix 3.
5.4	To approve to go to tender for a new Town CCTV contract for monitoring and maintenance.
5.5	To note the community development update report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Grant award recommendations Good Relations and Community Festivals.</p> <p>Appendix 2 Peace IV Grant Awards</p> <p>Appendix 3 Good Relations Action Plan 2019 – 2020</p>

Appendix 1**Community Local Festival – February 2019**

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	The Belle of Mid Ulster Association	Community	International Women's Day Conference	6	£850	£425
2	Upperlands Royal British Legion	Community	Burns Night Event	6	£1,200	£600
					TOTAL	£1,025

Good Relations – February 2019

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Castle Hill Theatre Group	Community	Community Theatre Production - The Kings of the Kilburn High Road	2	£3,663	£1,080
2	The Ambassadors Community Group	Community	Community Concert	1	£430	£430
					TOTAL	£1,510

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

Appendix 2

	Peace IV Grants	Theme	Amount approved	Issue at Panel Scoring	Outcome after meeting with group
1	Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society	Shared Space	£14,020	6 groups listed as partners - require letters of support to show engagement prior to submission of app. Need to see group's travel policy. 26 hour contact time - clarification required. Timetable of courses - schedule?	All Letters of support on file. Had included an allowance for transporting to and from walled garden. Travel policy now enclosed. Discussed importance of sustained contact time with a core group of participants who would be in contact for at least 6 months. Discussion around storage cost - potential to change this to build a storage shed as part of mental health project
2	Dungannon Rugby Football Club	Shared Space	£12,598	Age gap 6-12 years - too big a gap + overnight stay included in budget. Are the activities new or existing (perceived that rugby club may already be delivering these). New recruits or mix of existing and new? GR fun day facilitators what is this cost? £720. Letters support.	Target group is 'mini' 7 - 11yrs and 'mini youth' 12- 13 yrs then 'youth' 14 -16yrs. Confirmation all young people recruited will be new and no current young people will participate in the programme. Overnight visit to Dublin is for project participants only age14-16. This is to continue to develop cross border links with Dublin rugby club, which is not competitive and engagement focused, a reciprocal visit will be accommodated.
3	Beyond Skin	Children & Young People	£22,704	Panel request group to work across district (40/30/30) & not just in Magherafelt. Request to include more traditional and piping music within programme. Rationale for huge age gap of participants - how will aged 10 interact with aged 18 children - is it appropriate for these groups to interact together?	Email confirming they will work across the district & will diversify the project with local traditions as well as BME. Not all activities would be delivered to same audience. E.g. children will be separated age appropriate for thematic workshops but will do overall performances together. Rationale is to be inclusive of families where multiple children can participate as in the past they have found parents ask for siblings to be involved as a family.

4	Molly & Mia Foundation	Building Positive Relations	£5,000	Budget of £5,000 - nothing in against transport for the project. What is sustained contact for duration of the project.	Ciaran at Molly & Mia has advised that the schools are on board with the project and that transport budget is not required. There will be a sustained group of around 35 people including Primary School pupils, teachers and parents.
5	St Joseph's Donaghmore & RSD & UU	Building Positive Relations	£50,000	Letters of support. Will teachers be attending mental health training. Outline importance of obtaining quotations for research budget	Letters received from Rural Group Learning Community. Minutes from ALP in Dungannon area. Teachers are attending the training. Discussion around the research - outlined that the lady at UUJ is the best person qualified to do this.
6	The Junction CR & Peace Building Initiative	Building Positive Relations	£48,310	Concern around costs being charged to meet with Council Officers during the lifetime of the project as this precedent hasn't been set elsewhere.	Cost of meeting with Peace IV staff has been removed from budget. Confirmation has been provided that all costs including facilitation, venue hire, bus hire and costs abroad must be procured in line with SEUPB and Council guidance, this will form part of the Letter of Offer
7	Willowbank Ltd	Building Positive Relations	£24,825	Clarification on items of expenditure	Clarification sought

Six applications were Ineligible or did not meet the threshold score, see below.

Organisation Name	Total Score	Reason for Decline	Theme
Acorn Women's Group	Did not meet threshold	Lack sufficient Detail – didn't meet threshold	CYP
1 st Tyrone Scouts	Ineligible	Lack of sustained contact – only a 5 day programme' – did not meet eligibility criteria	CYP
Creggan Education and Research Services	Ineligible	Project activities scheduled to take place outside Mid Ulster	CYP
First Steps Women's Group	Did not meet threshold	Did not meet scoring threshold	BPR
Priory Productions	Ineligible	Did not speak with the Officer	BPR
Rural Community Network	Ineligible	Did not speak with the Officer	BPR



DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME 2019/20 ACTION PLAN

**Mid Ulster District Council
Chief Executive Officer: Anthony Tohill**



Appendix 1

1.1 Programme information

Number of programmes	12
Name/role/contact details of all staff responsible for programme management	Oliver Morgan GRM 50% management Officer 1 Sean McElhatton GRO Officer 2 Sean Henry GRO Officer 3 Paula Kelly GRO Officer 4 Louise Hall Good Relations Assistant

1.2 Financial information

Name/contact details for staff responsible for financial management of programme	Oliver Morgan GRM 50% management) Albert Hogg Finance Manager
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	100%	75%
Total cost	£414,000	£310,500
Total programme costs	£228,000	£171,000
Total staff costs	£186,000	£139,500

Section 2

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			2.02 CODE	
Children & Young People Diversity Programme			MUC01	
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE CULTURE TRADITION YOUTH			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Paula Kelly E: paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24604			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£15,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	200	Indirect	400
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£75			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT71
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT45
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children & Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above.			

2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for young people from different traditions to interact outside of school. • Misconceptions, stereotyping and misunderstanding of others from different backgrounds forms at an early stage. • Good practice exists to date on the positive role of schools based activity in facilitating diverse discussions in schools on cultural diversity partnership between schools and relationship building between young people. • The need for a greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures was the most frequently identified in the online GR survey, with 84% of respondents reporting that this was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. • 78% of respondents reported a need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds. Schools based work was acknowledged in the survey findings as an excellent example of good practice that facilitates such engagement. • Throughout the community planning and Peace IV consultation the importance of young people from different communities coming together to share and learn about other young people from a different community was identified as a high priority. • School resources are not available to fund GR activity within school budgets.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV Post Primary Good Relations Programme which will work with 14-17 schools on engaging schools together project, exploring difference and diversity programme. • Delivering Social Change (DSC) Shared Education Signature Projects.
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>GR officers have been working with schools across the District for a number of years and in 2019/20 it is planned to deliver programmes specific for each of the school sectors post primary and primary. The Primary Focus will be to engage small primary schools to provide an insight into cultural diversity of the region. Target focus will be the year 10/11 looking at the transfer from individual primary schools to large post primary and the magnitude of diversity on range at large campuses. Facilitators will deliver workshops based on different cultures and complete with a showcase event engaging the smaller primary school participants to jointly engage in these celebration of culture events at larger diverse post primary venues. GR officers will work with both primary and post primary schools to develop tailored diversity programmes to suit each school and partner schools.</p> <p>Up to 8 programmes will be delivered with schools across our main towns, focusing on post primary schools that have diverse migrant and ethnic cultures of students & linking primary schools where possible.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dungannon – Drumglass College/St Patrick’s College/Dungannon Integrated/ Dungannon primary schools. Coalisland - St Joseph’s and primary school• Magherafelt - St Mary’s/Rainey/St Pius and primary schools• Cookstown - Holy Trinity/ High School and primary schools Up to 8 programmes will be delivered with 8 schools to promote and support diversity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dungannon Programmes x 4 programmes• Cookstown Programme x 2 programmes• Magherafelt Programme x 2 programme 8 sessions across the schools with a significant number of children and young people including migrant children. A number of workshops delivered across the programmes (different number of workshops per programme depending upon need re numbers engaging). Activities delivered will include diversity around us, diversity of culture and expression, our changing environment. 8 programmes delivered in post primary schools along with engaging primary schools			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased participation from a varied number of rural schools experiencing cultural diversity at various levels			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Specific topic based workshops/facilitation as continuity of programme takes shape			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			2.02 CODE	
Children and Young People Youth Diversity and Engagement Programme			MUC02	
2.02 KEY WORDS		DIVERSE YOUTH		
2.03 Contact details for programme staff		Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean Henry E: sean.henry@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 23703		
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)		£10,000		
2.05 Total target no. of participants		Direct	100	Indirect 300
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme		£100		

2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT71
	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT80
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT45
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children & Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Young people engaged in bringing the community together.			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for children and young people from different traditions to interact.• Misconceptions, stereotyping and misunderstanding of others from different backgrounds forms at an early stage.• The need for a greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures was the most frequently identified in the online GR survey, with 84% of respondents reporting that this was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area.• The need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was the second most frequently identified in the online GR survey, with 78% of respondents reporting that this was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. Arts, sports based activities, intervention work with disengaged young people and the engagement of young people in community based activities was identified in the survey as examples of good practice that facilitate positive cross community youth engagement.			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Throughout the community planning and Peace IV consultation the importance of children and young people from different communities coming together to share and learn about other children and young people from a different community was identified as a high priority.			
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MUDC Peace IV programme Engaging youth, Shared Space Youth Sports Engagement Programme, Engaging through the Arts programme, Rural Communities programme.DSC Shared Education Signature Projects.Peace IV Collaboration through Sharing in Education Project (CASE).Mid Ulster District Council Arts & Culture and sports programmes.			
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	GR officers will work in communities to engage young people and bring them together through arts, drama, music, sports and civic leadership focused activities. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Project 1 - GR officers to work with EA Youth to deliver a Mid Ulster Youth Forum engaging up to 100 young people in a tiered structure - £6,000Project 2 – Hosting democracy events with young people linking to leadership, DOA engagement, the US consulate leadership for young people, ERASMUS, democracy school events £2000 Deliver 2 programmes engaging young people from across the District in leadership – 50 young people engaging. - GR officers will work with Princes Trust with regard to engaging youth in positive engagement and volunteering, particularly those most vulnerable - £2,000			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	A review of current platforms to deliver the democratic voice of young people within the District.			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Wider and increased engagement workshops between elected members and young people allowing democratic process to flourish.			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			2.02 CODE	
Children and Young People MU Post Primary Schools Cross Community Programme Tender			MUC03	
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE SHARED YOUTH			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean Henry E: sean.henry@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 23703			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000 – 16 schools per year – 2 session engagement in each other schools – estimate 40-60 pupils per school – year 8/9			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	800	Indirect	200

2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£31.25		
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male		
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide	
	Location		
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?			
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children and Young People		
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds		
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community. An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.		
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from a different background.		
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for children and young people from different traditions to interact outside of school. • Misconceptions, stereotyping and misunderstanding of others from different backgrounds forms at an early stage. • Teachers are uncomfortable / lack the skills to facilitate discussion on contentious issues. • Good practice exists to date on the positive role of schools based activity in facilitating partnership between schools and relationship building between children and young people. • The need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was the second most frequently identified in the online GR survey, with 78% of respondents reporting that this was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. Schools based work was acknowledged in the survey findings as an excellent example of good practice that facilitates such engagement. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the community planning and Peace IV consultation the importance of children and young people from different communities coming together to share and learn about other children and young people from a different community was identified as a high priority. There are a number of post primary schools (16) across the District that are mainly segregated (exception of 2 integrated schools and 2 special needs schools). A pilot peace programme identified the need for such a programme in post primary schools.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace IV Primary School Good Relations Programme DSC Shared Education Signature Projects Peace IV Collaboration through Sharing in Education Project (CASE)
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>Delivery of a cross community engagement programme offering it to 16 schools. Partnering schools together to have 2 sessions in partner schools focusing on digital and multimedia to explore areas of commonality and platforms for social issue discussions. Multi Media Programme used as a pilot in Peace IV huge success and following on capacity to use current technology to engage young people to participate in talks based on sensitive issues in an environment of cross community partnership through diverse schools. Programme will lead to continued dialogue on agreed subjects affecting young people.</p> <p>Up to 16 schools participating in cross community programme (all schools offered the programme)</p> <p>Partnership schools</p> <p>2 workshops per school using digital or multimedia / sport etc. as a common medium for engagement</p> <p>Ongoing school engagement online</p> <p>Minimum 30 young people participating per school (up to 40 – 60 young people)</p> <p>Year Group to be identified year 8/9</p>
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Partnership projects between schools through targeted actions.
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Issue based workshops with partnership approach in school campuses student lead.
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Children and Young People MU Primary Schools Cross Community Programme	MUC04
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE YOUTH SHARED

2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean McElhatton E: sean.mcelhatton@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 22507			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000 20 schools per year – 2 sessions each partnership 20 – 30 children per school			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	500 children 40 teachers	Indirect	200
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£50			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location			
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Children and Young People			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Improved attitudes between children and young people from different backgrounds			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Catholic community. An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from the Protestant Community.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	An increase in the number of participants who are more favourable towards people from an ethnic minority background.			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for children and young people from different traditions to interact outside of school. • Misconceptions, stereotyping, misunderstanding of others from diverse backgrounds form at early stage. • Teachers are uncomfortable / lack the skills to facilitate discussion on contentious issues • Good practice exists to date on the positive role of schools based activity in facilitating partnership between schools and relationship building between children and young people. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental influence can be a barrier to sustaining the learning from schools based programmes and there is a need to involve and engage with parents and the wider community to reinforce the good work delivered through schools. • The need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was the second most frequently identified in the online GR survey, with 78% of respondents reporting that this was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. Schools based work was acknowledged in the survey findings as an excellent example of good practice that facilitates such engagement. • Throughout the community planning and Peace IV consultation the importance of children and young people from different communities coming together to share and learn about other children and young people from a different community was identified as a high priority. • There are 103 primary schools across the District and a need for sustained activity to target new schools. • School resources are not available to fund GR activity within school budgets. • A primary schools survey in 2016 showed 98% of schools were keen to engage in GR / Peace IV.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV Primary School Good Relations Programme • DSC Shared Education Signature Projects • Peace IV Collaboration through Sharing in Education Project (CASE)
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>To support primary schools to come together on cross community basis to explore key topics of diversity and good relations. Also to allow teachers to meet exchange ideas and knowledge. This Programme will also look at developing a network between schools to deliver joint collaboration between teachers allowing sustainable future joint development. Programme will explore identities of the two main communities but also explore commonalities that can develop real and continuing relationships for the wider school perspective.</p> <p>MUDC has been engaging with primary schools for many years in supporting good relations work in primary schools in Mid Ulster. This work has been extremely effective, partnering schools and facilitating joint workshops with children and teachers. The project has been instrumental in fostering partnership working between schools, which is sustained beyond the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 primary schools each year (every 2nd year) will participate, working in pairs (partnerships of 1 controlled / 1 maintained) • 20 – 30 pupils on average per school (P6 & P7 together) • Initial planning workshop will be facilitated with schools

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children will come together for up to 4 joint workshops (delivery shared space Parkanaur) looking at – understanding identity, understanding each other, prejudice, stereotyping, flags, emblems & symbols, relationship buildingBoard of Governors and parent engagement initiatives will be facilitated, encouraging involvement in the programmeTeacher engagement and capacity building 40 teachers and resource support pack for continuous delivery support3 celebratory events involving the wider school community The programme will run from September to March.			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased participation of additional schools.			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Targeted workshops and action plan for teachers in partner school approach.			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			2.02 CODE	
Shared Community Good Relations Small Grant Programme			MUC05	
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE SHARED			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Louise Hall and Officers			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£45,000 (up to £1200 per group with 30 approx. per group participating x 40-50 groups)			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1,500	Indirect	3,000
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£30			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
	Location	Mid Ulster Wide		

2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location			
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space & services			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for people from different traditions to interact. • The online survey generated the following findings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 78% of respondents reported that the need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area ○ 46% of respondents reported that shared space was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area • Communities continue to operate single identity activities rather than reach out to wider and neighbouring communities and there is a need to develop a greater number of shared spaces within areas / local communities where people can come together. • There is a need to further develop and sustain existing shared spaces through the resourcing of activities / events that will encourage increased and sustained use of existing shared spaces. • Resourcing for shared community based activities and events is important for engaging grass roots organisations in the development and delivery of good relations projects. • There is a need to overcome perceptions of shared space and ensure that spaces are welcoming, accessible and visited by all sections of the community. • Demand for small grants is high and in 2017/18 76 small grants applications were received. • Community organisations value the opportunity to apply for small level funding to run events / activities that enable shared activities between all members of the community. 			

2.16 Complementarity	Peace IV programmes – e.g. shared Space Youth Sports Engagement programme, Shared Space Arts and Events Programme, Shared Space Small Capital Grants Programme and Shared Space Capital Programme in 12 areas.			
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	A small grants programme will be managed by Mid Ulster District Council Programme will encourage community groups to come together to deliver good relations activities and shared space development. Approx. 40 - 50 small grants will be awarded to community organisations for shared space activity delivered between April 2019 and March 2020 A maximum grant up to £1,200 will be available Contribution towards strategic events grants programme to support range of good relations criteria re. outreach for diversity and engagement of communities across the District see cultural expression.			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased support for shared communities and space			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increased support for shared communities and space			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME		2.02 CODE		
Shared Community Shared History and Decade of Anniversaries Programme		MUC06		
2.02 KEY WORDS	SHARED CULTURE DIVERSE			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Paula Kelly E: paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24604			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£25,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1200	Indirect	300
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£20.84			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
	Location	Mid Ulster Wide		
	Location			

2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location			
	Location			
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for people from different traditions to interact. • The online survey generated the following findings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 84% of respondents reported a need for a greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures. ○ 78% of respondents reported that the need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. ○ 47% of respondents reported that shared space was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. • The decade of Anniversaries activity to date has helped to educate and raise understanding of our shared history. This activity has also raised interest in the decade of anniversaries. • It is reported that increased awareness and understanding has contributed to a ‘softening of attitudes’ towards people and organisations from different community backgrounds. 			
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes – e.g. Cross Border Shared Heritage Prog. Decade of Anniversaries Prog. • Mid Ulster District Council Arts & Culture programmes 			
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GR Officers will work with local communities interested in acknowledging the Decade of Anniversaries through the Community Relations Council / Heritage Lottery Fund principles of shared understanding of our history in shared locations. A budget of £2,000 grant support will be available for programmes of activity up to £20,000 to be matched 50% by the delivery group. 			

	2. A Decade of Anniversaries lecture series will be delivered across the District – 4-5 lectures across the District linking historians £5,000 15 community based activities delivered 4-5 lectures delivered across the District			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased Commemorative series			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increased Commemorative series			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME		2.02 CODE		
Shared Community Shared Spaces		MUC07		
2.02 KEY WORDS	RURAL SHARED			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean Henry E: sean.henry@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 23703			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£1,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	200	Indirect	200
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£5			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide		
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services			

2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live in as welcoming to all communities.
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for people from different traditions to interact. • The online survey generated the following findings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 84% of respondents reported a need for greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures. ○ 78% of respondents reported that the need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area. ○ 47% of respondents reported that shared space was a top priority for the Mid Ulster area • There is a recognition of the good practice work that has been developed in creating shared spaces across the district, in Mid Ulster. • There is a need to further develop and sustain existing shared spaces through the resourcing of activities / events that will encourage increased and sustained use of existing shared spaces. • There is significant strategic shared space work proposed in Pomeroy, through a Peace IV Regional Shared Space Project.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes – e.g. Shared Space Small Capital Grants Programme and Shared Space Capital Programme in 6 areas (Draperstown, Moneymore, Aughnacloy, Castledawson, Donaghmore, Moy). • TBUC Shared Education Campuses Programme - Moy Regional Controlled Primary School and St John's Primary School, Moy are one of 5 campuses which have been selected to proceed. • Peace IV Shared Space Project Pomeroy – strategic regional shared space project in Pomeroy engaging wide number of facilities and community.
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>GR officers will work with projects that have developed over recent years as strategic shared spaces to continue to encourage shared civic spaces across Mid Ulster.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Space Pomeroy – GR officers working with the Peace IV programme Connecting Pomeroy project and seek to support where possible. 2. Moy Shared Space Educational Campus – GR officers engaging with communities and relevant agencies with regards to the development of the proposed shared space project.

	3. GR Officers will work with Council Arts and Culture venues to seek to ensure they are open and shared for all the community, cultural expression theme (£1000 to support venue outreach – linked to culture section). This complements the: Increased number of shared spaces and Engagement in shared space programme of activity at key facilities.			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased no of participants engaging in defined GR in developing shared space.			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increased no of participants engaging in defined GR in developing shared space.			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME			2.02 CODE	
Shared Community Clergy and Churches Leadership and Engagement			MUC08	
2.02 KEY WORDS	SHARED DIVERSE			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean McElhatton E: sean.mcelhatton@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 22507			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£5,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	400	Indirect	100
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£12.50			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Mid Ulster Wide		
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Shared Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased use of shared space and services			
2.13 Project Level Outcome relate to the Survey	An increase in percentage of people who consider the area they live as welcoming to all communities.			

Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation in terms of education, housing and sport across the district results in limited opportunities for people from different traditions to interact. • Community consultation highlighted the very positive impact that cross community engagement amongst Church leaders has in the District. The leadership shown by Church leaders was reported to be essential in promoting good practice in terms of showing respect for diversity. • Good relations funding has facilitated Church leaders to build working relationships which would not have happened without GR funding. The work of the Clergy has focused upon social issues and brought the clergy in closer contact with organisations addressing social needs cross the District. Clergy have also engaged in researching good practice in other areas with respect to the role of the Church in meeting social needs. • Church Forums in Cookstown and Dungannon have demonstrated good practice in terms of bringing lay people from different Churches together for an annual programme of activities. Representatives from the Church Forums report that opportunities for shared Church activities would not occur without GR funding. • Church Forum activity has helped to facilitate better understanding between different faiths. Joint working has helped to build relationships.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes – e.g. Shared Space Small Capital Grants Programme and Shared Space Capital Programme in 6 areas • Mid Ulster District Council Arts & Culture programmes
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>GR officers will work with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Clergy Together Forum – in the development of a programme of activities addressing diversity, respect for culture, social inclusion and anti-poverty. Activities will involve Forum focused activities, engagement activities with local schools and engagement in wider community GR activities / events. • Cookstown Churches Forum – in the development of an annual programme of talks, visits and events that address enhanced understanding and collective awareness of local issues, between lay people from different Church traditions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dungannon Churches Area Forum - in the development of an annual programme of talks, visits and events that address enhanced understanding and collective awareness of local issues, between lay people from different Church traditions. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Mid Ulster Clergy Together Forum - £2,000<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of a programme of activities focused upon anti-poverty and related social issuesMinimum of 10 meetings / visits between Clergy over 12 monthsEngagement of Clergy Forum with a minimum of 6 other GR events – Mid Ulster in Harmony, International Peace Day, Christmas Choral events, Poverty based events annual programme of activityMid Ulster in Harmony & International Peace Day /Choral events)Churches Forum Cookstown - £1,000<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of a programme of activities over 12 monthsMinimum of 10 meetings / events over 12 months engaging Church Forum members and the wider community.Churches Forum Dungannon £2,000<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum of 10 meetings / events over 12 months engaging Church Forum members and the wider community. Engagement with Clergy Forum and engagement in wider community events			
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increased participation and additional events			
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increased participation and additional events			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME		2.02 CODE		
Our Safe Community Responding to Local Community Issues		MUC09		
2.02 KEY WORDS	YOUTH SAFE			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean Henry E: sean.henry@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 23703			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	Zero – work with PCSP			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect	100

2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£0			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Cookstown		BT80
	Location	Dungannon		BT71
	Location	Magherafelt		BT45
	Location	Coalisland		BT71
	Location	Maghera		BT46
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Safe Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online survey generated the following findings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - silent sectarianism / racism was the third most reported issue, with 60% of respondents reporting that this was a priority issue for Mid Ulster - safe communities was the fourth most reported issue with 57% of respondents reporting that this was a priority issue for Mid Ulster - territorial markings were reported as an issue by 43% of respondents - hate related incidents was reported by 39% of respondents as an important issue for the area • Segregation within communities was reported as having a negative impact on the promotion of safe communities within Mid Ulster. • Other contributing factors that were reported in the survey and during consultation were; 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of shared spaces /a lack of trust and respect between communities /crime and anti-social behaviour in communities /flags, emblems and bonfires /drug and alcohol misuse - poverty and deprivation • GR work in respect to shared spaces, children and young people and cultural expression all contribute to the promotion of safe communities. • The work of the PCSP is pivotal to the creation of safe communities. It is considered that GR and PCSP potentially compete for the delivery of safe communities' initiatives.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes • Shared Education • Neighbourhood Renewal • Police and Community Safety
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>GR officers will support PCSP regarding issues identified in local communities along with our partners (recorded instances, members, PCSP, PSNI, NIHE, Probation Board, and Youth justice Agency etc.) to provide a multi-agency approach to keep spaces and communities safe and accessible and open to all. The activities will be both proactive and reactive in nature. Where there are known yearly issues arising then a proactive approach will be taken with local people to seek to avoid issues reoccurring. In some areas this has been ongoing for up to 3 years since a previous instance and this can be at key times of the year and others that arise throughout the year. PCSP will identify key areas and projects with GR support. GR officers will work alongside Council's sports development staff to support young people particularly during summer months and link diversionary programmes into areas and communities with Council sports development e.g. MUSA Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Maghera, Coalisland.</p> <p>6 reactionary support activities working in a multi-agency approach.</p> <p>6 proactive initiatives working within a multi-agency approach.</p>
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	More targeted intervention programmes.
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	More targeted intervention programmes.
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Our Safe Community Enabling Good Relations and Safe Communities	MUC10
2.02 KEY WORDS	POVERTY SOCIAL INCLUSION

2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Sean McElhatton E: sean.mcelhatton@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 22507			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£12,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1,300	Indirect	100
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£9.23			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Cookstown	Postcode	BT80
	Location	Dungannon	Postcode	BT71
	Location	Magherafelt	Postcode	BT45
	Location	Maghera	Postcode	BT46
	Location	Coalisland	Postcode	BT71
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Safe Community			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	A community where places and spaces are safe for all.			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The online survey generated the following findings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> silent sectarianism / racism was the third most reported issue, with 60% of respondents reporting that this was a priority issue for Mid Ulster safe communities was the fourth most reported issue with 57% of respondents reporting that this was a priority issue for Mid Ulster 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - territorial markings were reported as an issue by 43% of respondents - hate related incidents was reported by 39% of respondents as an important issue for the area • Segregation within communities was reported as having a negative impact on the promotion of safe communities within Mid Ulster. • Other contributing factors that were reported in the survey and during consultation were; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of shared spaces /a lack of trust and respect between communities /crime and anti-social behaviour in communities - poverty and deprivation • GR work in respect to shared spaces, children and young people and cultural expression all contribute to the promotion of safe communities. • Poverty and areas of poverty have been impacted due to the Troubles. There are studies and evidence to highlight the greater need of areas of poverty to engage in good relations.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes • Neighbourhood Renewal • Police and Community Safety
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>GR Officers will work collectively with local charities – St Vincent de Paul, Vineyard Church, Antioch Centre, Lighthouse, Maghera Foodbank, - coming together in a joint approach to address social issues including poverty and supporting people in isolated areas and estates. This joint working will build on the work that has been done to date with charities supporting people in crisis and need. The work of charities reaches out to all communities and GR will support and help to break down perceptions that charities are single identity through supporting outward engagement.</p> <p>Support for 5 poverty related / capacity initiatives of local charities working together to address poverty and social needs in Mid Ulster – St Vincent de Paul across the Mid Ulster region including delivery partners in developing intervention strategies and programs to target urgent need x 3 £6,000, Vineyard Church £4,000 across the Mid Ulster region, Maghera Link £2,000</p> <p>Syrian refugee inclusion programme – In partnership with the charities and the voluntary sector GR officers will seek to engage & integrate Syrian refugees to Mid Ulster.</p>
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	More targeted intervention programmes ensuring social issues are addressed
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	More targeted intervention programmes ensuring social issues are addressed
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE

Our Cultural Expression Celebrating Cultural Diversity of Ulster Scots and Irish			MUC11	
2.02 KEY WORDS	CULTURE DIVERSE MUSIC			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Paula Kelly E: paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24604			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£35,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	3,000	Indirect	2,000
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£11.67			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Cookstown		BT80
	Location	Dungannon		BT71
	Location	Magherafelt		BT45
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Cultural Expression			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Cultural diversity is celebrated			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Catholic Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland. An increase in the percentage who think that the culture and traditions of the Protestant Community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland.			
2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	As above			
2.15 Link to good relations audit	Respondents to the online survey referenced the following good practice in respect to promoting / celebrating diversity, cultural expression and inclusion; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools programmesCultural celebration events across the District to bring people together and share cultural expression			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council workshops - exploring diversity, cultural heritage • Multi-cultural events and celebrations that bring the community together • Council run events / festivals • Local community based activities • Culture nights • Arts based social activities – music, song, dance • The work of Mid Ulster Clergy Forum <p>Online survey results within the local Good Relations Audit show that respondents rated the need for a greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures and the need for greater engagement between people of different backgrounds as the Good Relations priorities in Mid Ulster. Indicative activities respondents would like to see included in a new Good Relations Plan include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural events / activities that celebrate tradition and culture, and bring all people together • Cultural diversity workshops • Cultural integration support • Arts and sports activities • Schools based activity • Throughout the community planning and Peace IV consultation the importance of children and young people from different communities coming together to share and learn about other children and young people from a different community was identified as a high priority.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes • Mid Ulster District Council Arts & Culture programmes
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>Reaching out to the wider community through engagement in cultural activities / events including the following (match and partner culture & arts in all activities below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Neill cultural expression and linkages across the District and wider international links (Tullahogue Fort Cookstown and Hill of The O'Neill Dungannon) Linking with Ancient Clan of O'Neill and the Clans of Ulster – engaging 100 people. £8,000 budget and linking with Peace IV Heritage Program. • Ulster Scots cultural promotion as led by the Ulster Scots Network £7500 – 50% partnership with Arts and Culture including language classes, events, conference and Ulster Scots nights. • Irish (TUS, Seachtain Na Gaeilge) – engaging diversity in Irish language and links with diversity including Presbyterian Church and its origins - £3,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipe Band Championships (Cookstown) – engaging people from diverse communities and promoting piping tradition - £3,500. • Irish and folk in schools programme £6000 (incl the International Day of Peace & youth Initiative • Piping in Schools Programme £5000. • Fusion Programme £2000 (Ulster Scots and Irish Music together). • The Canavan School of Music has been working with primary schools in the Cookstown area since 2007 and more recently has extended into the Magherafelt and a smaller number of schools in the Dungannon area, teaching children traditional music skills (guitar, tin whistle, banjo, mandolin, flute). • Pipes and Drums Music School has more recently been working in primary and post primary schools in Mid Ulster, focusing on the Dungannon area, teaching children and young people traditional music skills in pipes and drumming. • Multiple organisations linked to cultural events from the piping and comhaltas traditions have come together, facilitating collective performances at community and Council public events. Delivery of the following projects; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - O'Neill projects x 2 linked to heritage weekends - Ulster Scots language and cultural expression programme in partnership with the Ulster Scots Network to include Burns Night/ Ulster Scots appreciation evenings - Irish (TUS/Seachtain Na Gaeilge) outreach programme across Mid Ulster and activities to engage more diverse groups - Annual Pipe Band Championships event in Cookstown, in partnership with RPBANI - 2,000 people attending - Traditional Music in Schools This programme will work with 30 schools teaching traditional music skills and will fund 2 Youth Cultural International day of Peace events. - Partnership with Arts and Culture – Canavan School Music & Music Service for Pipes & Drums) provide weekly music sessions delivered in 24 schools during school term times - Children will rehearse together for joint events - 300 children and young people will participate - Fusion cultural music event – young people participating in piping, drums and whistle and fiddle music with a Fusion event in Burnavon <p>Good Relations officers to engage with the Arts and Culture regarding delivery of the arts and culture strategy to seek to support cultural expression and diversity across the District.</p>
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	<p>Increase in numbers participating</p>

2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increase in feeling of shared space within district			
2.01 PROGRAMME NAME				2.02 CODE
Our Cultural Expression Supporting BME Communities				MUC12
2.02 KEY WORDS	DIVERSE SOCIAL INCLUSION CULTURE			
2.03 Contact details for programme staff	Oliver Morgan E: oliver.morgan@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24605 Paula Kelly E: paula.kelly@midulstercouncil.org Tel: 03000 132 132 Ext: 24604			
2.04 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£30,000			
2.05 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1,150	Indirect	200
2.06 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£26.09			
2.07 Targeted participant background analysis	As per population estimate 60% Catholic, 30% Protestant, 10% BME/Other 50% Female 50% Male			
2.08 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	MUDC	Postcode	BT71 6DT
2.09 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact		Cookstown		BT80
		Dungannon		BT71
		Magherafelt		BT45
		Coalisland		BT71
2.1 Programme plan – what difference do we want to make?				
2.11 T:BUC Key Priority	Our Cultural Expression			
2.12 T:BUC Outcome	Increased sense of community belonging			
2.13 Project Level Outcome –relate to the Survey Question on the TEO outcomes spreadsheet.	An increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.			

2.14 Additional Project level Outcomes	An increase in the percentage of participants who feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland as a whole.
2.15 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% of respondents to the online survey reported a need for greater understanding between people from different traditions and cultures. This was the top priority identified by most respondents. • Survey respondents identified the following good practice initiatives that have facilitated cultural expression; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools programmes - Council workshops - exploring diversity, cultural heritage - Multi-cultural events and celebrations that bring the community together - Culture expression of all communities - Arts based social activities – music, song, dance • There is evidence of good practice working in respect to engagement of the ethnic minority community. • Good Relations funding has facilitated the development and enhancement of cultural events/activities.
2.16 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace IV programmes • Mid Ulster District Council Arts & Culture programmes
2.17 Programme summary information 2019/20	<p>Good relations Officers will build on the good work delivered to date through STEP, an Tearmann (Traveller Support Group) and the local migrant community groups (East Timorese Community Association, Lithuanian Folk Group, ant The Polish Association), working in partnership to support inclusion and integration of migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster. Good Relations Officers continue to liaise with honorary consuls to develop actions and projects that can contribute to good integration at a local level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project 1 - The Good Relations Officer will work with partners (STEP and An Tearmann) in the development of programmes and activities to assist in the support for migrants, BME communities and travellers across Mid Ulster to promote and encourage respect for diversity, culture and integration. £10,000 budget. 2. Project 2 Engaging diverse and new communities - Engagement with Honorary Consuls and agencies to engage diverse communities GR Officers will support the development of community associations / community groups engaging migrant communities within Mid Ulster, to include continuing to work with the Polish Group in Mid Ulster, Local Association of East Timorese, Traveller groups and Syrian refugees Magherafelt. Good relations will work with diverse migrant groups and children and young people to engage in a range of cultural events to bring a diverse element to these across our District throughout the year –

	<p>engagement with Council and cultural development artists such as ArtsEkta, IAGU, Gathering Drum, Beyond Skin. £6,000.</p> <p>10 migrant/ethnic groups/ youth and children groups engaged in 2 cultural events</p> <p>500 participants targeted across MU through direct group work or umbrella organisations.</p> <p>3. Project 3 - GR officers will work with young people and wider public to develop a cultural diversity festival in Cookstown and Dungannon (main areas of migrant communities), promoting diverse cultures. To engage a wide range of group, migrants, youth and children bringing them together to promote the benefits of Cultural Diversity - 2 x 1 day events will be organised, engaging all aspects of Global Culture and promoting diversity. These will be delivered in partnership with the Hub in Cookstown (£7,000) STEP Dungannon (£7,000), £14,000.</p> <p>Cultural Diversity engagement festivals x 2 – Cookstown (Magherafelt) and Dungannon –engaging migrant communities, children and young people.</p> <p>GR officers to continually engage with strategic partner projects and in partnership with the strategic community events grant with groups seeking to deliver events in partnership with good relations to develop diversity in cross community outreach and or migrant and new communities.</p> <p>Development of a programme of activities with STEP that engages migrants and BME communities and An Tearmann which will engage the travelling community.</p> <p>Good Relations working groups supporting diversity across Mid Ulster.</p>
2.18 Potential to progress programme in 2020/21	Increase in diversity awareness.
2.19 Potential to progress programme in 2021/22	Increase in diversity awareness.

Report on	Hospitality Mentor Programme
Date of Meeting	14 February
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary Mc Gee

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the delivery of a Hospitality Mentor Programme to the Hotel and Accommodation sectors in Mid Ulster.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The vision for Mid Ulster Tourism 2016-2021 is to;</p> <p>“Enhance Mid Ulster’s image and reputation for visitors and grow the economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight expenditure”</p> <p>To achieve this the tourism section have developed an industry led Tourism Development Group and a series of tourism clusters including:</p> <p>Seamus Heaney Archaeology, History and Heritage Outdoor Activities Hotel cluster</p> <p>The hotel cluster has been established in response to two main factors namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a response to the Mid Ulster Area skills Report & Action Plan 2018-2021 and feedback through the hotel cluster which identified shortcomings in the recruitment and retention of staff across the board in the hospitality sector, the Mid Ulster Skills report cites: <p>“The biggest challenges facing businesses in the sector are the supply and retention of talent across all levels of their business. The sector already struggles to recruit, with particular challenges in recruiting chefs, other kitchen staff, housekeeping and front of house staff, which are among the roles with the highest proportion of EU migrant workers”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The need for the tourism section to work with the sector to collate up to date overnight and country of origin data to give Council a relevant and concise picture of visitors to the district and overnights. These figures will contrast with the current collation of NISRA statistics, which are collated and published with a one-year lag.

	There is an evident need for the tourism section to have more relevant and up to date tourism statistics to facilitate planning from both a Council and private sector perspective and the hotel cluster will work with Council to deliver this.
	Main Report
3.1	<p>It is planned to deliver a Hospitality Mentor Programme across the sector locally whereby council will appoint a suitably qualified organisation to deliver one to one in-house mentoring to management and staff across the hospitality sector. As part of this programme, businesses will review their training needs across their team and work with their team and the appointed mentor to deliver relevant in house training to staff.</p> <p>It is planned that each business will receive 10 hours of specifically tailored training in house. Total cost of delivery of this programme is £10,000. It is also hoped to deliver this programme with the appointed company as a Phase 2 into 2019, budget permitting.</p> <p>An outline training needs analysis has been carried out across the hospitality sector as part of the work of the hotel cluster and managers have identified areas including train the trainer, customer service, strategic planning, bar skills, effective management as areas they need covered within their businesses.</p> <p>This spend will be complemented by a similar investment through the Innovate us programme in South West college where this programme will deliver an ICT mentor training programme for a further 10 small businesses in the region.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: £10,000
	Human: Council staff will manage the In-house procurement and monitoring of the project.
	Risk Management: All risk will be managed throughout the procurement process and ongoing reporting throughout delivery of the programme.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council to approve this proposal and agree to deliver the Hospitality Mentor Programme as a phase 1 with an option, budget permitting to deliver a phase 2 in FY 2019/2020
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	The Outdoor Weekend in Mid Ulster
Date of Meeting	14 February 2019
Reporting Officer	Graeme Major/Sharon Arbuthnot
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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	Is to seek approval for the delivery and promotion of Mid Ulster's First Outdoor Weekend proposed to be held on 13 and 14 April 2019.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The Outdoor and Event Cluster has been developed as part of our Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy delivery and feeds into the main Tourism Development Group.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy for Mid Ulster Tourism 2016-2021 is to;</p> <p>"Enhance Mid Ulster's image and reputation for visitors and grow the economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight expenditure"</p> <p>The aims and objectives of the strategy included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop three strategic tourism strands, around which the attributes of the area and the industry can cluster to attract visitors. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Seamus Heaney 1.2 Archaeological sites, history and heritage 1.3 Outdoor Activities 2. To grow tourism as an economic driver for Mid Ulster; 3. To manage the destination and create the preconditions for successful tourism; 4. To profile and promote Mid Ulster to enhance the visibility of the area and boost visitation and spend; 5. To support the dispersal of visitor spend and investment across the area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Outdoor Clusters main objective in its first year is creating an Outdoor Weekend April 13 – 14 April 2019, linking with the aims and objectives of the tourism strategy. A longer term objective is to hold this weekend annually.
3.2	Bringing the outdoor activity providers within Mid Ulster together, to work collectively has been a major achievement for the Tourism Industry and the

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>cluster, which in addition shows the commitment of the providers to the cluster. The weekend will feature both private and public organisations with 5 Council sites being involved.</p> <p>Event content;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jungle NI: Family Fun package with additional taster activities • Todds Leap: Open Park Day and additional taster activities • Torrent Warfare – Airsoft play, 13 April 2019, 3x 1.5 hour game sessions • Portglenone Paddlers: Canoeing and Kayaking for 8years +, leaving from Newferry max 24 people. • Dungannon Park: Course Angling Taster 13th & 14th April 2019 • Rock n Go Mobile Climbing Wall: Davagh Forest Trails 13 April & Dungannon Park 14 April 2019 • Brendan Adams Hillwalk: The Sperrins, 14 April 2019 • Annaginny Fishery: Fishing lessons 13 & 14 April 2019 • Davagh Forest Trails & Blessingbourne Mountain Bike Trails: Mountain biking 14 April, morning and afternoon session (10 per session) • Ballyronan Marina: Canoe and Sailing Taster sessions, 13 & 14 April, 2 hr morning and afternoon sessions both canoe and sailing <p>Overall objective of the weekend - positioning Mid Ulster as the elite outdoor hub within Northern Ireland while increasing usage and spend within the Council area. To help achieve this we propose teaming up with local accommodation providers and packaging the weekend.</p> <p>To date the cluster has agreed to work in conjunction with Outdoor Recreation NI so that we can utilise their channels and expertise. Council's Marketing and Communication Officer will also be involved to promote and market the weekend, utilising Councils social media channels, skills and contacts. The strap line "How far will you Go" has been chosen to target both the local, national and ROI market.</p> <p>The Cluster has also applied for £30k sponsorship from the Tourism NI Sponsorship Scheme.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Delivered within budget - £2,500, hire of materials and subsidises. £5,300 advertising and promotion</p> <p>Human: Internal officers will work alongside the participating providers.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approve this event
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Arts Council of Northern Ireland Public Consultation on Draft five year Strategic Framework 2019-2024
Date of Meeting	Thurs 14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members of the current public consultation exercise being undertaken by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland with regard to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework for Developing the Arts 2019-2024
1.2	To seek approval from Council to prepare a draft response to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council and to seek Council's approval to issue a response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22 nd March 2019
2.0	Background
2.1	The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has developed a draft Strategic Framework for the Arts 2019-2024 in consultation with the sector and key stakeholders. The draft strategy establishes the key priorities and actions that the Arts Council will pursue over the next five-year period.
2.2	The draft Strategic Framework is now out to full public consultation. The draft strategic Framework document is attached as appendix 1.
2.3	Public consultation closes at 4pm on Friday 22 nd March 2019, with the publication of the completed strategy scheduled for April 2019.
2.4	<p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has provided a number of ways in which individuals and organisations can respond to the public Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an online survey accessed from the Arts Council website • Submit views via email to: strategy@artscouncil-ni.org • Write to the Arts Council, referencing: Five-year Strategy Response, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to: 1 The Sidings, Antrim Road, Lisburn BT28 3AJ • Attend one of three public consultation workshops taking place in February. (Mon 11th February, Belfast, Wed 13th February, Derry/Londonderry, Thurs 14th Feb, Armagh) <p>Or</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By joining the online debate (facebook discussion) – (https://www.facebook.com/groups240313556558939/).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has stated from the outset that this is a framework and not a plan. The framework will provide an overview of the strategic direction the Arts Council is proposing to take over the next five year period (2019-2024). An accompanying Business plan will be produced each year, setting out the actions to be taken in order to deliver upon the strategic objectives. The annual Business Plans will be linked to the Programme for Government and its associated outcomes.
3.2	The Arts Council acknowledge that the five year strategy needs to address some difficult issues (such as funding, Brexit implications and the absence of a sitting Assembly and Executive). However it also acknowledges that the strategy needs to be realistic as well as being ambitious in meeting the creative expectations of the Arts sector, key stakeholders (including Local Authorities) and the wider public.
3.3	In developing the draft strategy, the Arts Council carried out extensive consultation with a range of key stakeholders. As part of this consultation process there is acknowledgement of the role that Local Authorities play in Local arts provision and that the Arts Council will work more strategically with Councils.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/a
	Human: N/a
	<p>Risk Management: The purpose of the draft strategy is to identify the priorities for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland from 2019 to 2024. In order to minimise the risks to the development of the Arts sector and arts infrastructure, it is imperative that the Arts Council collaborate and develop the strategic framework in full consultation, with the full support of and in partnership with all 11 Local Authorities as key strategic delivery partners of the arts within Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Funding reductions to the Arts Council will have a negative impact on the Arts sector as a whole. This will also put additional pressures on already stretched local authority funding support structures for the sector within Mid Ulster.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The Arts Council state that it is committed to equality of opportunity and good relations in all of their work. The Arts Council has stated that it wants to make a clear commitment to addressing key inequalities, particularly those experienced by Section 75 groups, through this strategy and its associated performance measurement framework.</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland draft Strategic framework must clearly demonstrate that rural needs and equality in access to arts funding is being addressed. It is therefore incumbent upon all individuals/organisations submitting a response to the draft strategy that the inequalities in arts support between urban and rural areas are highlighted and addressed through this consultation process.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that a response to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework is prepared on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council (to be submitted for consideration by the Development Committee at its meeting of Thursday 14th March 2019) and subject to approval, issue a response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22nd March 2019</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 – Arts Council of Northern Ireland draft five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024</p>



INSPIRE | CONNECT | LEAD

A five year strategic framework for developing
the arts 2019-2024

Draft for Consultation

Introduction

In developing this strategic framework for the arts over the next five-year period, 2019-2024, we are mindful of the wider context and of the many uncertainties affecting society as a whole – constraints on public spending, Brexit, lack of a sitting Assembly, for instance. The challenges are significant, and the arts will not be exempt. However, in certain knowledge of the unique and irreplaceable benefits that the arts bring to society, our overriding commitment will be to ensure that artists and arts organisations, working in all art forms, receive the support they need to continue to develop and work with confidence, vision and ambition.

To achieve this outcome, we will need to think creatively, offer fresh solutions, and lead the sector in a strategic direction that will not only add strength and resilience, but will create opportunity and growth. That is the role of the current strategic framework. It has been developed in consultation with the arts sector and key stakeholders, as well as our partners in local and central government, and the wider public sector. We are now pleased to put the framework out to full public consultation until April 2019.

We look forward to hearing your views.

**‘Placing the arts at the heart
of our social, economic
and creative life’**

A framework not a plan...

Because we are experiencing a period of unprecedented uncertainty and there are operational challenges which will not be resolved in the short-term. The framework provides an overview of the strategic direction we are proposing to take over the next five-year period, 2019-2024. An accompanying business plan will be produced each year, setting out in detail the actions we will take in order to deliver our strategic objectives. The business plans will be linked to the Programme for Government and its associated outcomes.

The new five-year strategy needs to address some difficult issues. It needs to be realistic, yet sufficiently ambitious to meet the creative expectations of the sector, our stakeholders, and the wider public.

Context

The context and strategic challenges that give rise to the current uncertainties:

- Funding: the Northern Ireland Budgetary Outlook notes that, while the block grant will stay broadly level, rising inflation has created a reduction in real terms in public spending power.
- Brexit: the impact of Brexit remains unknown but could affect creative migration, workforce mobility, visa issues, tariffs, markets, and create disruption to touring and barriers to sponsorship.
- The absence of a sitting Assembly and Executive in Northern Ireland is affecting many areas of life. Without an Executive there is no mechanism to enact any significant change in public spending decisions. The vacuum is escalating concerns over public financing of the arts.

A framework provides a more flexible way of managing uncertainty.

Continuing the Journey

We are proud to continue our support of artists, arts practitioners and arts organisations. Our vision is to 'place arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life'. We work to achieve this by championing the arts, developing and investing in artistic excellence and enabling the creation of experiences that enrich people's lives.

As part of the development of the Arts Strategy 2019-24, we commissioned an independent review of the outgoing strategy *Ambitions for the Arts* (See appendix 1).

“You spoke, we listened”

In developing the strategy we carried out extensive consultation with a range of key stakeholders. We have summarised the most frequently expressed responses.

- The role of the Arts in society cannot be viewed in isolation; they permeate all aspects of life, transforming people’s environment, their education and their place within society. The sector wants to make society and decision makers aware of the benefits the arts bring – intrinsically, socially and economically.
- The Arts Council is seen as an advocate; a representative to engage with politicians, government departments and public agencies. The sector’s perspective is that the Arts Council’s role is to spread an understanding of the value the Arts and how they contribute towards public service goals. There is acknowledgement of the role that Local Authorities play in local Arts provision and the request that the Arts Council works more strategically with them.
- The sector generally supports the role of the Arts Council as an arm’s length body and its function in distributing grants.
- There is a call for the Arts Council to communicate more regularly with artists and organisations and to provide stronger feedback in the post-award phase, especially to artists who have been unsuccessful in their applications for grants.
- Organisations and artists express concerns about funding, in terms of the reduction and the lack of security; especially the loss of multi-annual awards. The sector stresses the need to continue investing in artists and organisations to maintain the high standards and showcasing of their work.
- In the current funding environment it is vital to ensure that access is maintained to the arts and that understanding and developing the audience base is critical to reaching as many in society as possible.
- The arts sector is ambitious and thrives on experimentation. Despite the current funding pressures, artists seek to create ground-breaking work.

Shared Vision

Because we have engaged widely with our stakeholders this is a shared vision that...

- Celebrates arts and creativity.
- Links us to a shared heritage of ideas, words and images.
- Helps us to be connected, confident and outward looking.

The Creative Ecology

We support artists and arts organisations, but they in turn are part of a wider ecology with overlapping connections in the creative industries, digital production, screen, cultural tourism, creative learning and numerous forms of applied practice in social settings.

It is no longer appropriate to define the sector in terms of single artform priorities. The sector itself is exploring new ways of working, converging platforms and presenting work through digital media. This calls for a new approach to planning for arts and creativity.

Working with Government

The Arts Council has a strong track record of working with Government and its institutions to advance shared agendas and maximise resources.

In addition to their strong intrinsic value, arts and culture have a wider, more measurable impact on our economy, health, wellbeing and education. Participation in the arts can help build cohesive communities, make communities feel safer and reduce social exclusion and isolation. The economy is bolstered by visitors engaging in arts and culture and creative interventions can have a positive impact on, for instance, specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's and depression.

A key feature of the draft Programme for Government is its commitment to an outcomes-based accountability model. It provides a framework that can be applied to services to improve their impact on people's lives, and it can bring about generational change for our communities. This presents a golden opportunity that is too important to be missed; one that recognises the importance of collaborative working between government departments, local government, the private sector, ALBs and the voluntary and community sectors.

We welcome this new way of thinking, with its emphasis on improving outcomes for people, placing wellbeing at the heart of the Programme for Government, embracing the principles of partnership working and co-design. There remain areas of persistent inequality in Northern Ireland where concerted effort is required across government to positively influence the reform agenda and where partnerships with local actors, creative agents and the third sector can help animate change.

51% of the funding invested by the Arts Council goes to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland, helping to deliver social change, economic prosperity and build a strong and a shared community. There are many tangible examples of how engagement with the Arts impacts on our health and wellbeing, but we urgently need to reinvest in the Arts to ensure artists and the arts sector can continue to make a difference.

The scale and ambition of the Programme for Government calls for a change of culture in the public sector that encourages and enables those working in the arts to fully play their part.

The following list summarises some of the ways in which we work with government and its departments:

- Supporting local authorities in the delivery of their Community Plans.
- Partnering the Public Health Agency in the design and delivery of a wellbeing programme, targeted at the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland.
- Partnering the Education Authority and Strategic Investment Board (tasked with delivery of the Executive's Urban Villages Initiative) to pilot a Creative Schools Scheme.

We feel the arts can make a meaningful contribution to a the following Outcomes identified in the Draft Programme for Government (2016 to 2021).

Outcome 4:

We enjoy long, healthy, active lives.

Outcome 5:

We are an innovative and creative society where people can fulfil their potential.

Outcome 7:

We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other.

Outcome 9:

We are a shared society that respects diversity.

Outcome 10:

We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society.

Strategic Priorities of the Department for Communities

Our parent department, the Department for Communities, has established its own strategic priorities. These are also important areas for the arts:

1. A more confident people living their lives to the full
2. More engaged communities
3. Lower levels of economic inactivity and unemployment
4. Improved communities and better housing

Ambitions / Priorities for the next five years, structured under three headings:

Our guiding principles for the next five years are summarised in three words...

■ **Inspire**

■ **Connect**

■ **Lead**

Simple, yes, but they reflect our ambition and our passion for the arts.

INSPIRE

Great art inspires us, nurtures our understanding of who we are and the world around us, and brings us together.

CONNECT

The Arts are without boundaries. They connect communities, help build creative places, define a new sense of identity, help us tell our stories, seek out and engage wider audiences. We want to reach out and reach further.

LEAD

We see our role as enabling and empowering the sector to achieve its ambitions, and to speak out for the arts; but we won't be able to do that alone – we will need to work together with other stakeholders to deliver on this promise.

In the following pages, this framework outlines strategic objectives and actions under each guiding principle; informed by the needs of the sector.

Principle	Objective	Actions
INSPIRE	1. Create the conditions in which work of excellence is made	a. Place quality and creative risk-taking at the centre of a revised assessment framework to ensure work of vision, power and imagination is made Years 1 - 5
		b. Incentivise innovation and experimentation through our grant-making processes Years 1 - 5
		c. Develop good-practice guidelines with the sector for self-assessment of creative work Year 2
	2. Create a confident, vibrant arts infrastructure	a. Invest in strategic programmes (Resilience and Blueprint) that build capacity in the sector Years 1 - 3
		b. Consider reinstatement of multi-annual funding Year 1
		c. Introduce a small-scale asset purchase / maintenance scheme to ensure arts organisations have the right equipment to deliver their work Year 2
		d. Encourage more private giving by helping organisations build their fundraising capacity Years 1 - 5
	3. Invest in workforce, skills and leadership development	a. Commission a review of leadership needs and skills shortages and establish the extent of workforce diversity in the sector Year 2
		b. Support the arts sector to invest in workforce development and succession planning to meet future leadership needs Years 3 - 5

Principle	Objective	Actions
	4. Invest in accessible career pathways in the creative and cultural industries	<div>a. Enhance the quality of creative careers advice in schools in partnership with NI Screen and the Department for the Economy Years 1 - 5</div> <div>b. Create a dedicated career pathway component within the Creative Schools Partnership programme Years 1 - 3</div>
	5. Renew art form policies to reflect current needs	<div>a. Review art form classifications to ensure their continued relevance in light of digital developments and implement a rolling policy review. Year 2</div> <div>b. Involve an independent multi-disciplinary arts panel in the review process (Consultative Assembly) Year 1</div>
	6. Create more opportunities for children and young people to explore and engage in creative practice	<div>a. Invest in arts organisations which create high-quality learning experiences in and out of schools Years 1 - 3</div> <div>b. Invest in the Creative Schools Partnership (The Executive Office, Education Authority & ACNI) to improve creative and educational outcomes for children living in deprived areas Years 1 - 3</div>
	7. Inspire local communities to engage in transformative, high-quality arts experiences	<div>a. Improve the regional and rural reach of funding through joint projects with local government, such as local place-based cultural initiatives. Years 1 - 5</div> <div>b. Strengthen arts activity in areas of low engagement Years 1 - 5</div>

Principle	Objective	Actions
CONNECT	1. Transform the relationship with local government through partnership working to strengthen local arts provision	<p>a. Formalise bilateral relations with individual councils through Service Level Agreements. Years 2 - 3</p> <p>b. In conjunction with local government hold a biennial conference on the role of the arts in place making Year 2</p> <p>c. Develop guidance on common data collection on the social impact of the arts Year 2</p>
	2. Improve access to / participation in the arts for people with a disability	<p>a. Renew the Disability Action Plan Year 1</p> <p>b. Carry out a Disability Audit of funded arts venues Years 1 - 2</p> <p>c. Rebrand and launch Equality Access Charter with improved processes and usability; advocate its use within the sector Year 2</p> <p>d. Introduce the Hint Card for people with disabilities to Northern Ireland Year 3</p> <p>e. Scope a Northern Ireland-wide Buddy Scheme for people with disabilities amongst core funded organisations Year 3</p>
	3. Accelerate growth opportunities in the Creative Industries through R&D partnerships with FE/HE and industry partners	<p>a. Establish a working partnership with the Creative Industries Institute to create research and career opportunities for artists Years 1 - 5</p>

Principle	Objective	Actions	
	4. Work with sector partners to improve market intelligence and increase audiences for the arts	a. Evaluate current audience development practice b. Build marketing capacity for arts organisations through programmes such as Pathway to Blueprint c. Create dedicated digital training for arts organisations to exploit market opportunities	Year 3 Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 3
	5. Capitalise on increased tourism through creating compelling visitor experiences and generate increased revenues	a. Work with Belfast City Council on the development of a major city centre cultural and visitor attraction b. Increase strategic engagement with Tourism NI to increase market visibility and brand awareness of arts and culture	Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 5
	6. Connect to the world by supporting artists and arts organisations to present their work internationally, and thereby strengthen our cultural profile and global reputation	a. Sustain international residencies and showcasing opportunities to enhance the global reputation of artists from Northern Ireland b. Support international touring through funding programmes	Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 5
	7. Encourage innovative practice that cross artform boundaries	a. Create a seed fund to support new ideas that use digital technology in the arts	Year 2

Principle	Objective	Actions
		<div>b. Broker a partnership that connects the Creative Industries Institute and industry leaders to build digital capability within the sector</div> <div>Years 3 - 5</div>
	8. Promote knowledge exchange through funding better networks for the arts	<div>a. Invest in resource organisations to support practitioners through the creation of networks and the provision of training and professional development</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>

Principle	Objective	Actions	
LEAD	1. Demonstrate the important role of the arts to society through research and evaluation	a. Establish a research partnership with the Policy Evidence Centre at the Ulster University to promote critical thinking and analysis to inform policy development	Years 1 - 5
		b. Commission evaluations of strategic programmes	Years 1 - 5
	2. Make the case for a better resourced arts sector	a. Grow public investment in the arts	Years 1 - 5
		b. Build public and political support for a better resourced arts sector by engaging with decision makers	Years 1 - 5
		c. Commission an attitudinal survey of stakeholders (MLAs, local government, departments and agencies) to assess perceptions of the value of the arts	Year 2
	3. Ignite the imagination of the public by articulating how the arts improve our lives	a. Capture the value of the arts through communication campaigns, case studies and video interviews	Years 1 - 5
		b. Establish a Northern Ireland Arts Week with activities in core funded venues as part of an annual celebration of creativity	Year 2
		c. Commission a biennial survey on changing public perceptions of the arts	Years 2, 4
	4. Future-proof the investment in the sector by helping organisations grow by generating income from more diverse sources	a. Prepare funded organisations for future challenges through the Resilience and Pathways to Blueprint programmes	Years 1 - 5

Principle	Objective	Actions
		<div>b. Support the development of tailored fundraising measures for the sector</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>
	5. Provide sectoral leadership by producing new thinking on challenges that the sector faces	<div>a. Identify emerging opportunities through horizon scanning; hold advice clinics and other dissemination events</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>
	6. Establish a Consultative Assembly of arts professionals to provide independent advice on sectoral issues	<div>a. Establish a multi-disciplinary arts assembly to involve artists in policy issues (assessment of quality, review of grant processes) and provide a touchstone for sectoral opinion</div> <div>Year 2</div>
	7. Create shared opportunities for the arts through engagement with stakeholders to achieve broader outcomes	<div>a. Establish data sharing agreements with local government and the Policy Evidence Centre</div> <div>Years 2 - 5</div> <div>b. Build ongoing relations with a range of public and philanthropic funders to achieve broader social outcomes</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>
	8. Improve the living & working conditions of artists	<div>a. Re-test the findings of the Living & Working Conditions of Artists survey</div> <div>Year 3</div> <div>b. Develop a new scheme aimed at emerging artists</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>
	9. Be advocates for change, supporting sector organisations to empower deaf/disabled artists	<div>a. Increase programming and touring opportunities for disability-led performances</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>

Statement of purpose

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the development and funding agency for the Arts in Northern Ireland.

We distribute public money and National Lottery funds to develop and deliver a wide variety of arts projects, events and initiatives across Northern Ireland.

From theatre and literature to art in the community, we work in partnership with hundreds of artists, arts organisations and venues. Art has the ability to reach across boundaries, inspiring, teaching and bringing people together.

That's why we believe in placing "Art at the Heart", because we know that art makes a difference.

Statement of functions

The Arts Council is the statutory body through which public and National Lottery funding for the arts are channelled. We are also responsible for a number of important functions, including: developing and improving the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts; increasing public access to, and participation in, the arts; and advising the Department for Communities and other government departments, district councils and bodies on matters relating to the arts. The Arts Council is the principal advocate for the arts in Northern Ireland.

Our partnerships

We are committed to supporting a range of partnerships and community engagement for the benefit of audiences and cultural life.

The Arts are recognised as an increasingly important delivery mechanism to enhance the services of other key agencies: Public Health Agency, Education Authority, Urban Villages, local government.

Appendix 1

The last 5 years: what the independent review says in summary

The desk-based review cast a critical eye on the Arts Council's performance over the last five years, drawing evidence from evaluations, survey findings and interviews to identify what was achieved, what wasn't achieved, and what the key challenges are.

- The arts sector faced exceptional stress: Government and National Lottery investment fell significantly. This reduction meant the Arts Council received less per head of population compared to other UK regions. In 2017-18 the Arts Council of Northern Ireland received £5.31 per capita compared with £10.03 in Wales and £12.79 in the Republic of Ireland.
- Societal changes are creating increased opportunities for the arts. The Creative Industries is a growth sector; young people are moving from a value system based on possessions to ones focused on experiences; digital technologies are making creative resources available to more and more people.
- However, arts organisations are showing signs of real financial stress: in order to safeguard artists' costs, expenditure on publicity, marketing and promotion are falling. This will have a long-term impact on organisations' ability to build audiences and hence generate income through box office.
- Core funded arts organisations have increased their level of activity. Participation levels have increased but audiences have fallen.
- Despite the prevailing uncertain financial environment, the Arts Council delivered a portfolio of targeted programmes which impacted on individuals and communities. New, innovative programmes such as Creative Schools Partnerships, the Arts and Older People programme and the Intercultural programme have extended the reach of the arts to address societal challenges around mental health, isolation, loneliness and cohesion.
- Strong partnerships at a strategic and operational level have been built with the education, health and the community sectors. The Arts Council now works closely with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors to deliver its work in an efficient and targeted way.
- The Arts Council has been successful in supporting volunteering activity through its Annually Funded Organisations. Findings suggest that volunteer engagement is relatively deep and therefore likely to be impactful.

Overall, the review reported that the Arts Council has delivered a diverse and high quality programme with broad reach within the arts sector and local community. This was considered a "remarkable achievement" by the report's author, given successive funding cuts.

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Report on	Glenone Wood Development Agreements Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service Northern Ireland
Date of Meeting	Thursday 14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for development proposal at Glenone Wood, Portglenone in partnership with Forest Service NI.
2.0	Background
2.1	In June 2013, Outdoor Recreation NI was commissioned by the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council to complete a Forest Recreation Audit for all Forest Service NI's owned forests within the council area. This report was completed and submitted in December 2013.
2.2	With the merging of Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown District Council (CDC) and Magherafelt District Council (MDC) to become Mid Ulster Council in April 2015, the Council considered it an opportune time to complete a similar audit of those forests formerly in the CDC and MDC areas thus allowing a complete overview of the current recreation facilities and future potential for all forests within the new Mid Ulster council area to be determined.
2.3	<p>It is recognised that whilst some of the forests in the former Cookstown and Magherafelt District Council areas currently provide a range of outdoor recreation and activity tourism opportunities, the potential of the Forests in terms of providing for the local population and visitors, has not yet been realised.</p> <p>The 11 forests included within the study are as follows:</p> <p><i>Bann Woods South, Cookstown Forest, Creggan Forest, Davagh Forest, Derrynoyd Forest, Drum Manor Forest Park, Iniscarn Forest, Moydamlaght Forest, Moyola Forest, Portglenone (Glenone) Forest and Pomeroy Forest</i></p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Portglenone Forest (413ha) is made up of 9 pockets of woodland located on both sides of the River Bann stretching from Bracknamuckley Wood north of Portglenone, to forest blocks located just above New Ferry. Four of these pockets are located within the Mid Ulster District Council area – Moneystaghan Wood, two blocks at Glenone Forest and one block at Ballymacombs More. The block at Ballymacombs More is not forested, but rather is a lowland peatbog. Portglenone Forest is owned and managed by Forest Service NI.

	<p>The River Bann is managed by Waterways Ireland. A Coarse Angling Facility that is located to the north of Ballynease is managed and maintained by Mid Ulster District Council (formerly Magherafelt District Council).</p>						
3.2	<p>Glenone Wood was identified as a priority two development proposal by the Forest Recreation audit in 2013. The audit suggested the creation of trails on existing forest roads and the provision of picnic, barbeque and seating facilities and associated visitor infrastructure.</p>						
3.3	<p>The following SWOT analysis details the strengths and weaknesses in Glenone Wood and the opportunities and threats that have the potential to influence the future development of outdoor recreation. These were identified through fieldwork, consultation and desk research undertaken at the time of the audit in 2013. The current position remains relatedly unchanged in terms of access to Glenone Wood however some opportunities and improvements have been achieved in relation to the new public access path from Bann Bridge at Portglenone to Glenone Wood. This project was delivered in partnership with Waterways Ireland and Mid Ulster District Council and opened to the public in December 2018.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>STRENGTHS</th><th>WEAKNESSES</th></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic level of recreation opportunity on site at Glenone Forest - Strong recreational resource in the form of the River Bann - Existing visitor services and facilities at Coarse Angling Facility and Portglenone Forest - Enjoyable views of the river - Peaceful place to recreate </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities in Glenone Forest and at the Angling facility require upgrading - Limited features within the forest itself - Limited recent investment in the forest - Basic and unwelcoming signage </td></tr> <tr> <th>OPPORTUNITIES</th><th>THREATS</th></tr> </table>	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic level of recreation opportunity on site at Glenone Forest - Strong recreational resource in the form of the River Bann - Existing visitor services and facilities at Coarse Angling Facility and Portglenone Forest - Enjoyable views of the river - Peaceful place to recreate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities in Glenone Forest and at the Angling facility require upgrading - Limited features within the forest itself - Limited recent investment in the forest - Basic and unwelcoming signage 	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
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OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and promote a looped walking trail within Glenone Forest - Maintain or upgrade the fishing stands within Glenone Forest - Upgrade the facilities at the Coarse Angling Facility - Provide additional fishing stands to allow the facility to be used for international competitions - Community pathway – investigate option of linking Glenone Wood and the Coarse Angling Facility to Bann Bridge, Portglenone along river bank - Development of a walking trail along the length of the River Bann, from Toome to Coleraine, using pockets of forest and private land. - Partnership approach to further recreational development of the area as a whole through engaging with public and private partners, Waterways Ireland, Rivers Agency, Causeway Coast and Glens BC, Mid and East Antrim BC, community organisations, recreational users etc. - Creation of a 'welcome' for visitors to the forest through appropriate signage, creation of seating areas etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portglenone Forest already provides recreational facilities in the form of walking trails - Forest is located within Mid Ulster District Council area.
	<p>Suggested Recommendations for Future Development</p>	
3.4	<p>The provision of new signage at Glenone Wood and Coarse Angling Facility, to create an excellent visitor welcome, information and directional waymarking. Develop a looped multi use trail suitable for walkers, family cyclists and users with limited mobility within Glenone Wood. This should focus on upgrading the existing trail within the forest and along the riverside path. Current developments to upgrade and increase the number of fishing stands at Glenone Forest and public path for walkers and cyclists, linking Glenone Forest to Bann Bridge along the river bank have already been initiated by Mid Ulster District Council.</p>	
3.5	<p>The proposal to develop a 'Blueway' in addition to the current Lower Bann Canoe Trail has also been considered by council. This is a long distance, riverside trail which would be suitable for walkers, cyclists and users with limited mobility. The combination of land based and water based trails, would result in a 'Blueway' following a route from Portglenone to New Ferry.</p>	
3.6	<p>The development potential of Glenone Wood, Portglenone provides an opportunity to provide a valued local resource. Simple improvements such as waymarked trails can make a marked difference to the recreational value of the forest, for a relatively modest investment. Developing new facilities and activities is recommended, the existing car park</p>	

3.7	could be upgraded and expanded if necessary. Development proposals are subject to available funding streams and partnerships. In order to formalise existing usage of the forest and prior to any planned development Mid Ulster District Council is required to create Lease and Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI to enable any future development of the forest to proceed.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: MUDC will be required to offer an annual rental payment to forest Service not in excess of £2,500 per annum.
	Human: Existing staff resource.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to rural proofing.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members note the strategic importance with the establishment of Lease and Licence Agreements between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI in relation to the recreational management of Glenone Wood, Portglenone.
5.2	That Members approve in principle the establishment of Lease and Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI.
5.3	Endorsement is sought to present Lease and Licence Agreements and associated LPS valuation (not in excess of £2,500) for P&R Committee approval.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Glenone Wood Lease Map
6.2	Appendix 2 Glenone Wood Licence Map A
6.3	Appendix 3 Glenone Wood Licence Map B
6.4	Appendix 4 Partnership Reporting Document MUDC and FS 3 October 2018




ANNEX 1

LEASE

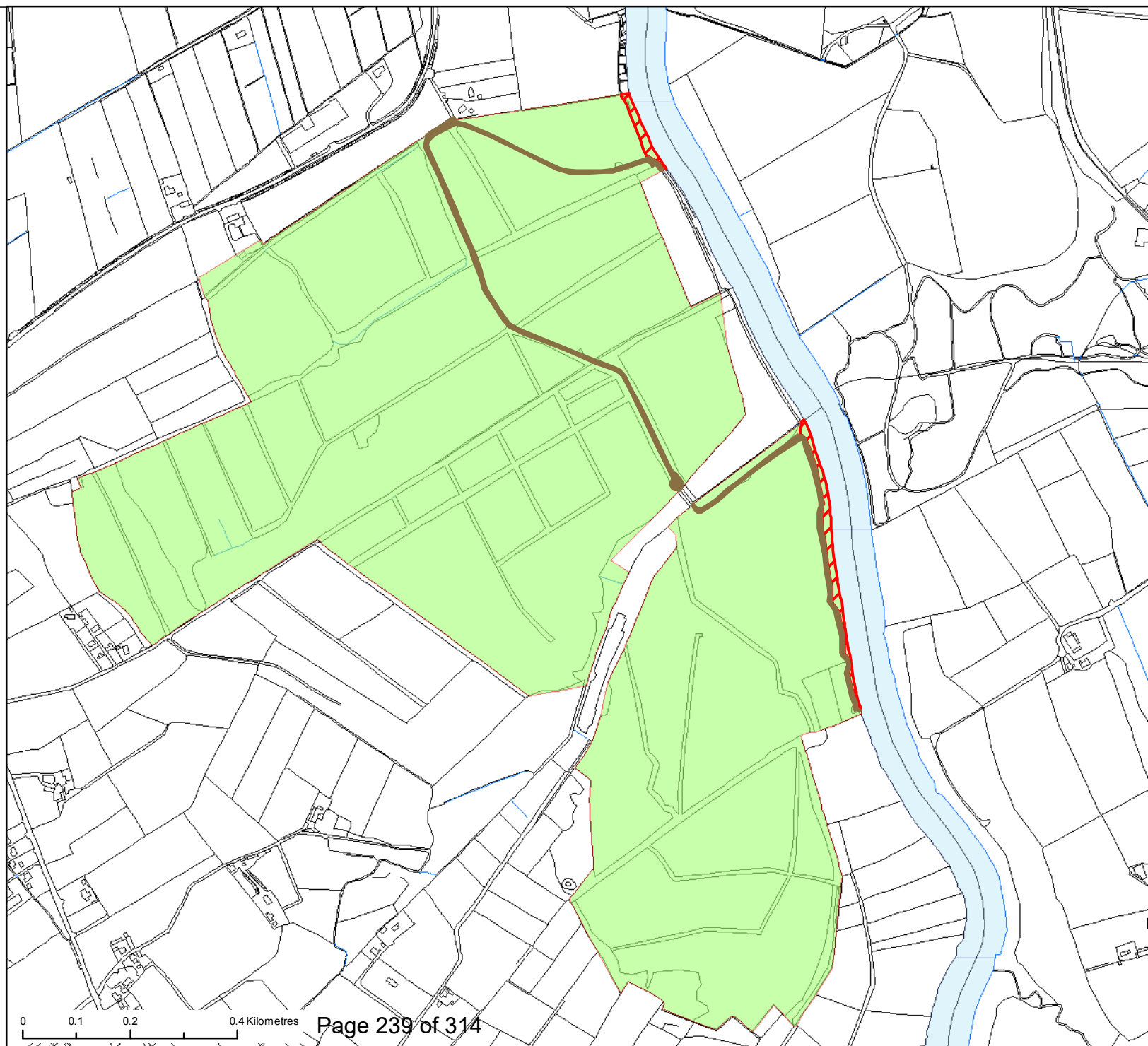
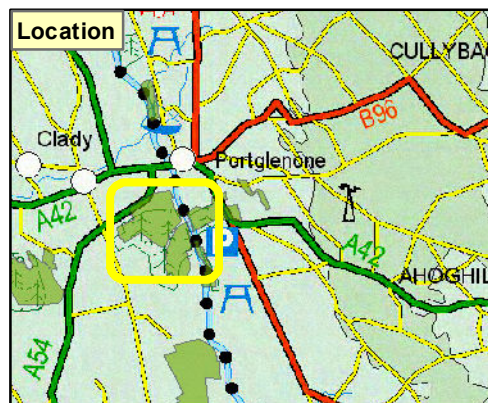
PORTGLENONE FOREST GLENONE WOOD

Leased area to
Mid Ulster District Council



-  Permitted access route
-  Leased recreation area
-  Glenone Wood,
Portglenone Forest

Prepared: 10/10/2018






MAP A

LICENCE

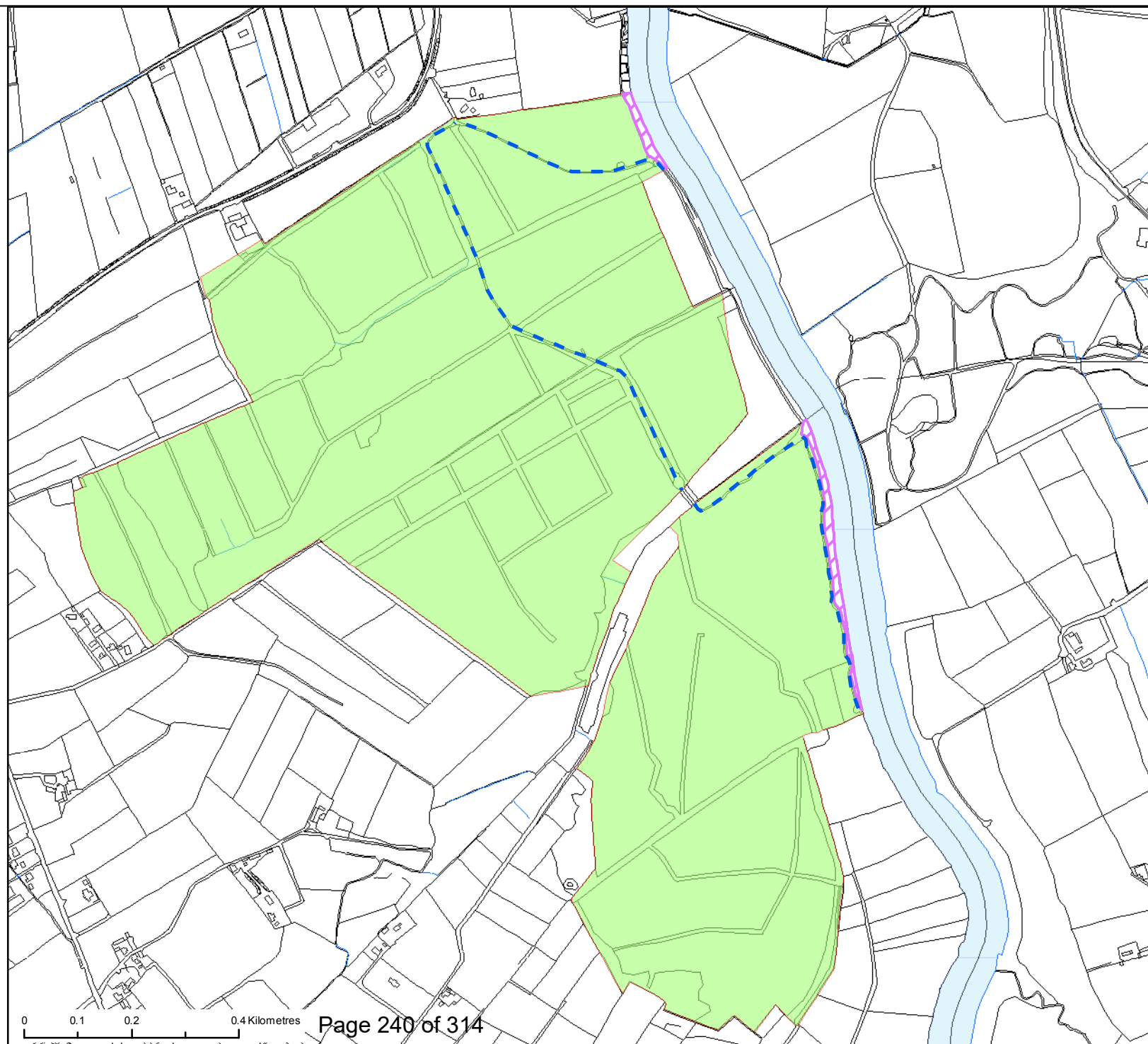
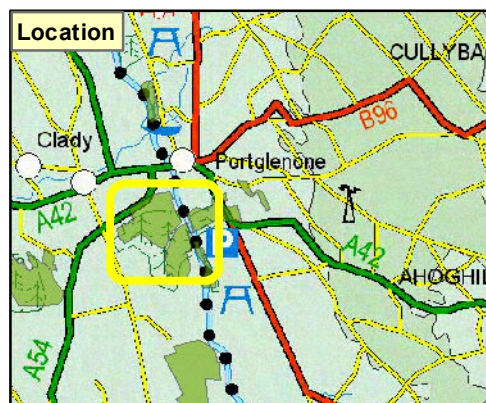
**PORTGLENONE FOREST
GLENONE WOOD**

**Licence to
Mid Ulster District Council**



-  Trail (Existing forest road)
-  Leased recreation area
-  Glenone Wood,
Portglenone Forest

Prepared: 10/10/2018






MAP B

LICENCE

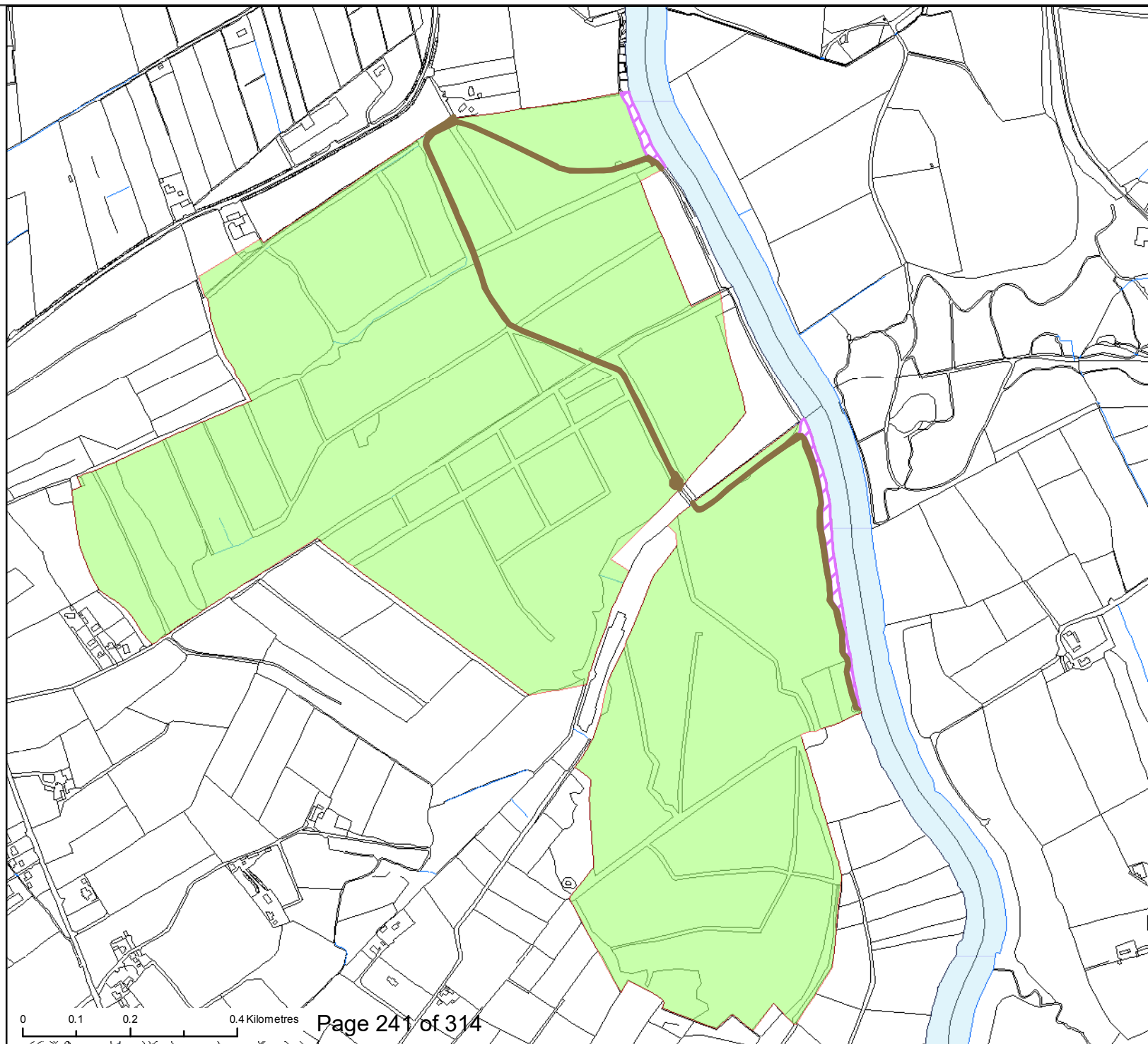
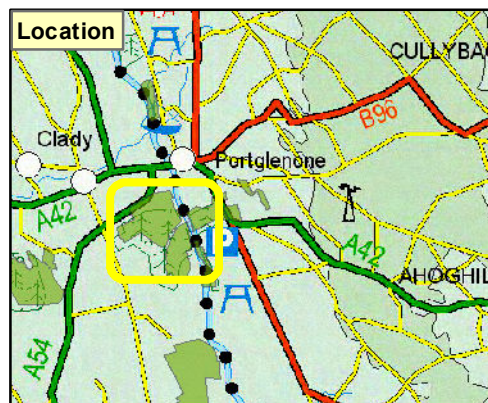
**PORTGLENONE FOREST
GLENONE WOOD**

**Licence to
Mid Ulster District Council**



-  Permitted vehicular access
-  Leased recreation area
-  Glenone Wood,
Portglenone Forest

Prepared: 10/10/2018



RECREATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING REPORT

Forest Service & Mid-Ulster District Council

Date of Meeting – 3 October 2018

Location – Council Offices, Cookstown

**Attendees – MUDC – Anne-Marie Campbell, Nigel Hill, Claire McNally, Paul Bailey, Anne Reid
FS – Ian Irwin, Breandan Mulholland, Dawson Jones
Apologies - Des Campbell, Mark Parker**

Introduction –

The minutes from the last meeting held on 10 May 2018 were agreed with all action points either completed or carried forward to the current meeting.

Scope of Report (List of legal arrangements and respective time period)	<u>With former Cookstown District Council</u> 20 year licence (from 16/12/13) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Davagh forest 20 year licence (from 01/12/14) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Pomeroy forest	
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	<p>20 Year lease (from 10/07/15) for management of a play park and associated recreation facilities at Drum Manor Forest Park</p> <p>20 Year lease (from 01/12/14) for management of a play park and associated recreation facilities at Pomeroy forest</p> <p>Public path agreement (from 22 October 2004) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Lough Fea forest</p> <p><u>With former Magherafelt District Council</u></p> <p>20 year licence (from 18/03/15) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Derrynoyd forest.</p> <p>20 year licence (from 18/03/15) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Moydamlaght forest.</p>	<p>Action Point 1 – FS to forward map of PPA to Council</p> <p>Actioned 09/11/2018</p>
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	<p>20 year licence (from 18/03/15) for management of trails and associated recreation facilities at Iniscarn forest.</p> <p>Lease arrangement for fishing stands at Portglenone forest. MUDC confirmed that they managed fishing stands and the recreation provision associated with these stands at a forest block beside Portglenone forest.</p> <p><u>With Mid-Ulster District Council</u></p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding relating to a collaborative partnership dated 3 October 2016 for an initial period of 5 years.</p>	<p>Action Point 2 – Council and FS to finalise legal arrangements for the Glenone forest block at Portglenone.</p>
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	Outputs from last 6 months	Planned Actions for next 6 months
Customer Service Standards		
<i>Estimated number of visitors outlining any significant changes from previous years</i>	Council provided figures for visitor numbers to Davagh. No significant changes reported.	Action Point 3 – FS to carry out a new visitor survey in 2019
<i>Results of any visitor monitoring</i>	Overall visitor rating; (2014 visitor survey) Drum Manor – Excellent/Very Good 74%	
<i>Number of major events/attendees</i>	Council provided a report on events held in forests in the Council area.	Pomeroy – Santa’s magical forest event - December
<i>Economic analysis of value of forest recreation</i>	Money spent on day of forest visit including accommodation (2014 visitor survey) Drum Manor - £9/adult visit – Total annual spend £450,000.	
<i>Visitor feedback including complaints</i>	A complaint has been made about the surface of a forest road in Moydamlaght. Forest Service has received feedback from Drumcairne residents group following reports of anti-social behaviour at the forest.	Continued liaison between Council, PSNI and FS to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour

Partnership Working		
<i>Communication arrangements with Forest Service</i>	MOU partnership meetings with FS x 2 annually. FS contact points clarified. Nigel Hill first point of contact for Council, with Paul Bailey next contact point FS Points of Contact; Colin Archibald – Moydamlaght, Derrynoyd and Iniscarn Ciaran Cassidy – Davagh, Drum Manor,	Action Point 4 – FS to supply MUDC with a map showing local foresters areas of responsibility.

	Pomeroy, Lough Fea Jim Marshall – Glenone Wood	
<i>Significant forest operations completed and planned</i>	Davagh – Timber haulage ongoing Iniscarn – Timber haulage ongoing	Derrynoyd – Thinning operations have commenced
<i>Forest planning reviews</i>	FS provided an update on Forest Management Planning Review procedures and timetable of reviews. The Sperrin review is nearing completion with the scoping study having received 54 responses. Breandan Mulholland recorded his appreciation for Paul Bailey's contribution to a meeting with Moydamlaght community group.	
<i>Tree disease issues</i>	No further tree disease notices issued since surveillance flight in June.	
<i>Access and security arrangements</i>	Double locking system in operation in Davagh. Council have key for locks at all forests where required. Council clarified that they manage a key box at the entrance to Glenone forest for disabled anglers.	
<i>Third Party considerations</i>	Council clarified that they have appointed key holders within the Portglenone fishing clubs for managing access to the fishing stands at Glenone Wood.	
<i>UK Woodland Assurance Standard</i>	The next surveillance audit is anticipated to take place in March 2019. FS stressed the importance of Council being complaint with the standard.	Action Point 5 – FS to forward copy of surveillance report to Council.
Health and Safety		

<i>Accident statistics including information on any public liability claims</i>	None reported by Council. FS stressed the importance of reporting all accidents and near misses to FS in terms of improving safety awareness and learning opportunities.	
<i>Hazards identified and risk assessments in place</i>	FS provided an update on health and safety issues and shared information on accidents and near misses across the FS estate. He provided an overview of a recent publication 'Managing public safety on forestry work sites' and the respective roles and responsibilities highlighted in this document. He stressed the importance of good communication and co-ordination between both parties for any operations being carried out by either FS or Council.	Action Point 6 – FS to forward link to new 'Managing public safety on forestry work sites' practice guide. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/managing-public-safety-forestry-work-sites
<i>Facility inspection procedures</i>	Council procedures in place	
<i>Tree inspection procedures</i>	Council recorded their appreciation to FS for making a tree safety training course available to some of their staff. Council updated the meeting on the alchemist system which they intended to use for the recording of tree inspections and follow-up actions.	Action Point 7 – Council to formalise tree inspection procedures for their areas of responsibility.
<i>Records of maintenance and repair works</i>	Council procedures in place.	
<i>Emergency procedures</i>	Council has standard procedures in place. Double locking system at Davagh. Council key held in combination safe at notice boards.	
<i>Vandalism/damage to forest/ recreation facilities including follow up action to mitigate further damage</i>	None recorded.	
Partnership Development		

<i>Recreation priorities</i>	<p>Council working through legal arrangements provided to facilitate improved recreation facilities at Davagh forest and Pomeroy forest. The immediate priorities include improving car parking facilities and a community hub at Pomeroy and the development of a dark skies project at Davagh.</p> <p>Council provided an overview of their recreation proposals along the Bann River between Portglenone and Newferry which would incorporate developments within Forest Service owned woodland along the proposed route. Development proposals are also being worked up for Knockmany forest and Brantry forest.</p>	Action Point 8 – FS to check on ownership of Lough beside Brantry forest.
<i>Any other proposals</i>	<p>FS provided an update on the Derrynoyd forest and developments with Workspace.</p> <p>Council has commissioned Outdoor Recreation NI to provide a strategy for outdoor recreation across the Council area including forests. This is subject to further consideration and consultation.</p>	Action Point 9 – Mark Parker and Nigel Hill to agree a Woodland Management Plan for the lease area at Davagh forest.

Report on	Henderson Play Park, Stewartstown Lease Agreement
Date of Meeting	Thursday 14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Council approval to seek formalisation of lease agreement in relation to a parcel of land adjacent to 29 – 41 Henderson Park, Stewartstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
2.0	Background
2.1	The provision of a play facilities (grass surface kick about area) at Henderson Park, Stewartstown have been in existence from 2011 under legacy arrangements between Cookstown District Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This arrangement, although progressed between the parties was not formalised as a lease agreement. This arrangement has been operational for the past eight years 2011 - 2019. The current arrangement requires to be formalised in order to progress development proposals for public play provision for the village of Stewartstown.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To seek formalisation of an agreement through the establishment of a lease with Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the parcel of land as out lined in blue (Appendix 1) for a period of 25 years, subject to LPS valuation.
3.2	To agree formalisation of a lease based on past possession with Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the parcel of land as out lined in blue (Appendix 1) for the period of 8 years, subject to LPS valuation.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: One off payment subject to LPS valuation for the provision of 25 year Lease Agreement.</p> <p>One off payment subject to LPS valuation for the agreed period of past possession not exceeding 8 years.</p>

	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> In line with Council policy and procedures
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> In line with Council policy and procedures
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members approval is sought to seek the formalisation of a Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to a proposed 25 year lease for the designated land at Henderson Park, Stewartstown for the development of public play facilities.
5.2	Members approval is sought to formalise retrospectively a Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to the 8 year period of possession from 2011 to June 2019 associated to the designed parcel of land at Henderson Park, Stewartstown in relation to the provision of legacy council public play facilities.
5.3	Endorsement is sought to present Lease Agreements and associated LPS valuations on receipt, for P&R Committee approval.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Designated land at Henderson Park (out lined in blue) location map (Appendix 1).

St Mary's
Church

St Mary's
Primary School

WEST STREET DRIVE

HENDERSONS PARK

Playground

ARDSTOWN

S FARM

Title LAND AT HENDERSON PARK, STEWARTSTOWN.

Carto View

REF: LE/710/2756

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SCALE: 1: 1250.



Report on	Security Provision for MUDC Camping and Caravan Amenities
Date of Meeting	Thursday 14 th February
Reporting Officer	Head of Service
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Approval is sought to procure the services of a professional security provider in order to deliver seasonal services at Mid Ulster District Council Camping and Caravan Park facilities.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid-Ulster District Council's Park's Service currently operate three sites, two principal facilities are located at Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina and a third smaller scale facility at Round Lake, Fivemiletown. These facilities offer a range of activities for visitors and accommodate upwards of 4,000 units annually from March to October. Parks Service endeavour to ensure visitors enjoy an all-round quality experience and this requires the after-hours service of professional security personnel in support of council staff. These services are an important aspect to maintaining a safe environment and is welcomed by residents, who consider the security element when choosing a destination.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The current contract for council wide security services has expired and requires to be retendered. The Parks Service therefore wish to procure the services of a professional security provider in order to deliver seasonal/occasional security services across all three camping and caravanning locations, as and when required.
3.2	The primary aim of this contract is to provide site security, associated monitoring and an after-hours point of contact for guests staying within the councils camping and caravanning facilities. The service will also provide a vital deterrent to acts of vandalism and contribute towards reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour.
3.3	The contract period will be for an initial one year with two one year extensions subject to satisfactory performance. Extension awards are at the total discretion of the council.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Annual contract based on estimated expenditure of £10,000 per annum. Total estimated expenditure £30,000 over a possible three year period. Allocations from respective Parks budgets, subject to council approval for 2019/20 and subsequent annual revenue budgets.</p>
	<p>Human: Existing staff resource.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members to note the content of the report and approve the proposal to seek the appointment of a suitable qualified service provider to deliver the specified security services as tendered.
5.2	Members approval is sought for an initial contract period of one year with two, one year extensions subject to satisfactory performance. These extensions are an optional annual award, which are at the total discretion of the council.
5.3	Members approval for estimated year one expenditure of £10,000 and optional extensions for two additional years for specified security services as tendered. Estimated total expenditure £30,000 subject to council approval of 2019/20 and subsequent annual revenue budgets.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/A

Report on	Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants
Date of Meeting	14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 advise Members on the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The grant was advertised during week commencing 17th December 2018. Closing date was Friday 18th January 2019. A total of 1 application was received and subsequently passed to Williamson Consulting for assessment. The assessment of the applications was carried out on Tuesday 29th January 2019. This involved three steps: review of all information to check completeness; eligibility check; and scoring the application.</p> <p>The score was carried out using a spreadsheet which automatically produced an indicated grant level. Williamson Consulting commented that, "The application fills all the requirements for eligibility. It also achieves the maximum score and is therefore entitled to a grant of £5,000, subject to availability of funding."</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The spreadsheet used to score the application is attached. The outcome was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 application passed the eligibility check and provided sufficient information and were therefore eligible for funding. <p>Williamson Consulting commented that,</p> <p>The application fills all the requirements for eligibility. It also achieves the maximum score and is therefore entitled to a grant of £4,295 subject to availability of funding.</p>

	The grant will support school pitch maintenance costs and hire of school pitch facilities. This will allow for club use of school owned sports facilities for women and girls camogie and associated voluntary activity as permitted in the grant criteria.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There is no commitment to any funding for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant in 2018/2019 budgets. Available budget is as a result of underspend in the 2018/19 Capital Grants programme.</p> <p><u>Human</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to agree the recommendation for successful grant application.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	MUDC Sports Grant Assessment 2019

GRANT TYPE	Area	Organisation Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Score	Amount Awarded
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Facility costs	M	Michael Davitt's Camogie Club in partnership with: St John's Primary School Swatragh	Support for school pitch maintenance costs and Hire of school pitch facilities.	£5,915	50	£4,295
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Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grant - up to £4,500 plus £500 (if school not previously open to public)

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date	14 th February, 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Representative Grant ~ Team and Individuals
2.0	Background
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.
2.2	Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached for your information.
3.2	Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant:
3.3	6 Individual applications were received, 4 were awarded a total of £975. The other 2 events had already taken place, therefore they are ineligible. No Team applications were received
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Total finance allocated: The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with current allocation for 18/19 of £16,100 from the revised budget of £22,000.
	Human: None.
	Risk Management: N/a

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To agree the recommendation for sports grant allocations.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

Sportsperson Representative on eligible cost to a max of £250
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Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Richard	Currie	Special Olympics World Games 2019	£450	1	£250
Jack	Eakin	British Gymnastics Spring 2019	£250	2	£225
Ruairi	McHugh	Mayor's Cup ~ Las Vegas IFA	£325	1	£250
Shannon	Nixon	Special Olympics World Games 2019	£300	1	£250
Total					£975

Band	Amount
1	£250.00
2	£225.00
3	£200.00
4	£175.00
5	£150.00

Ineligible Sports Individual

Darren Rafferty	UK Schools Games Mountain Championships	£185	Event Sept 18 ~ retrospective funding
Mark Wilson	British Isles Indoor Bowling Chamionships	£250	Event Nov 18 ~ retrospective funding

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 January 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Burton (7.03 pm), Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.06 pm), Mulligan, G Shiels
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer
Others in Attendance	<u>Agenda Item 4 – Caledon Regeneration Partnership</u> Mr Beattie and Ms Mortimor

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Councillor Mulligan to the Development Committee.

D001/19 Apologies

Councillor Elattar.

D002/19 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

D003/19 Chair's Business

None.

D004/19 Deputation - Caledon Regeneration Partnership - Caledon Wool Store

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed representatives from Caledon Regeneration Partnership and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Beattie thanked the Committee for the opportunity to make a presentation tonight and went on to demonstrate the work done to date in Caledon. Mr Beattie highlighted the need for childcare facilities within Caledon and set out a proposal for the future use of Wool Store and the two adjoining houses on Mill Street as follows -

- The proposed project for the Wool Store will provide a day care facility on the ground floor and part of the first floor of the building with the second floor being converted into a two bedroom apartment.
- The two houses at 1 and 2 Mill Street are in a state of substantial dilapidation and it is proposed to involve a housing association with a view to restoring the properties.

Mr Beattie advised that Caledon Regeneration Partnership have letters of intent from the owners of both properties to transfer them to the Partnership on a 25 year lease, prior to the commencement of any contract for their restoration.

Mr Beattie requested, based on the case outlined, that Council provide funding of £5000 to the project. £3000 of this will complement the Project Viability Grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the remainder will go towards the provision of professional support to carry out a survey of Nos. 1 and 2 Mill Street, and the preliminary estimates for their complete restoration.

Ms Mortimor provided information in relation to the population of Caledon along with deprivation statistics for the area. Ms Mortimor also provided detail on Northern Ireland economic activity for July to September 2018. Ms Mortimor stated that the data provided highlighted the urgent need for the provision of a day care facility in Caledon.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.03 pm and Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.06 pm during above presentation.

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in this proposal as she was a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership, the Councillor stated that having adequate childcare facilities in place were essential to attract people to an area and that Caledon was an area which was community orientated. Councillor McAleer stated she would like to think Council would support the project.

Councillor Mulligan declared an interest in this item as a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in this item as a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership. Councillor Burton stated she lived in the area and as a mother of four children knew the importance of having childcare in place,

the Councillor also stated that there is a lot of new housing within the Caledon area which has brought families to the area and similarly would like to think Council could support the project. Councillor Burton stated that the building as it stands is almost derelict and that a contribution from Council towards the project would have a good impact on renovating the building and breathing new life into Caledon.

In response to question from Councillor Milne, Mr Beattie advised that the two dwellings were privately owned and the Wool Store was owned by Caledon Estate. Mr Beattie advised that letters of intent had been received from both the owners to transfer the properties to Caledon Regeneration Partnership on a 25 year lease.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the proposed project will be positive for Caledon and that families need the support of childcare facilities. The Councillor stated she welcomed the proposal being put forward.

Representatives of Caledon Regeneration Partnership were thanked for their presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Councillor Mulligan stated that he had earlier declared an interest in this item and asked if this now impeded him from indicating his support of the proposal.

Councillor Monteith stated that the item being discussed was being taken in open business and that the representatives were entitled to stay in the meeting for Member discussion.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that Members may wish to discuss the matter without the representatives in the room.

Councillor Monteith stated that in that instance the item should have been listed under confidential business, the Councillor stated that as this was a public meeting the representatives were entitled to stay for Member discussion.

Councillor Burton stated that she was a Council representative on Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

Councillor Cuddy stated that at the Policy and Resources meeting the previous evening both himself and Councillor Molloy, who are representatives on Dungannon Enterprise Centre, left the room while Members decided upon a matter relating to same.

Councillor McEldowney stated she had earlier declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership and if an item came up on the agenda related to this she would abstain from any voting.

Councillor Molloy felt the issue of whether Members should stay or leave during a discussion is something which needed to be tidied up and that a report should be brought back to Policy and Resources Committee on the matter. The Councillor confirmed that he had left the meeting the night before during discussion of item relating to Dungannon Enterprise Centre but that he did not agree that he should

have to have done so. Councillor Molloy stated he was a Council representative on the Enterprise Centre Board but would not vote on matters relating to same.

Councillor McAleer felt there should be something in Standing Orders as she did not think it was right that representatives had to leave a meeting after making their presentation and prior to Member discussion.

Councillor Clarke referred to the leasing of the properties and asked at what point the lease would start and what guarantee there was that the lease would be renewed.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that whilst he was not aware of the specifics related to the leasing of the properties he could confirm that this was a pilot scheme which was for social projects only and not for private gain.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee suggested that going forward no representatives making a presentation should have to leave the room prior to Member discussion taking place.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Council fund the Caledon Wool Store project to the value of £5,000, provided officers could source the funding from within Council's existing community economic development budget.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Burton stated that the project needed Council buy in in order to make it achievable.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the benefits of the project were obvious and that officers would revisit their existing budgets this year with a view to funding the project.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to financially support Caledon Regeneration Partnership for their Wool Store Project to the value of £5,000 from Council's community economic development budget in 2018/19.

Matters for Decision

D005/19 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- **Community Local Festivals Grant and Good Relations Grant**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the grant award recommendations listed on appendix 1 of the report – Community Local Festivals (£550) and Good Relations Grant (£4045).

▪ **Peace IV**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed to tender for Phase II of the Peace IV Arts Engagement Programme at a budget of £50,000.

▪ **Community Grants Policy**

The Head of Community Development stated that within report it was proposed to amend guidance to include 'Group recipients should not have a membership charge for any person accessing its community provision greater than £100.' The officer stated that this should read £250.

Councillor Monteith asked if the community venue grant could be opened up to sports groups and if so if this would then allow community groups to be applicable to apply to the sports capital fund.

The Head of Community Development advised there was a minor error in the appendix to the report in relation to community venue grant and that the criteria should read community only. The officer advised that consideration was given to include sports groups but as the Member had stated this would then allow community to apply to the sports capital and if both were opened up, with the same budget remaining, the funding would be lessened for both which would negate any impact. It was further advised that the sports capital funding which is used to support the sports small development fund has been opened up for greater activity over the last year which has increased demand and sports groups are valuing this fund up to £1,500.

Councillor Monteith referred to groups receiving funding and that only a small advance is received prior to an event with the rest of the funding being received upon receipts submitted after the event. The Councillor stated that a lot of events will not take place because of this as some groups do not have the adequate cash flow in place.

The Head of Community Development stated that there was potential to look at a phased payment approach going forward.

Councillor Monteith stated that the phased approach to funding would be a good support to groups.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Council have been providing grants for three years and that the number of grants being provided are increasing year on year. Councillor Cuddy stated it was important that grants were reaching all sections of the community and asked if any equality impact had been done in this regard.

The Head of Community Development stated that along with the two main community groupings Council does also work with other minority groupings. The officer stated that no equality monitoring currently takes place but that this can be done if desired.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was important to filter monies out as widely as possible.

Councillor Molloy felt there was a broad spectrum of groups coming forward seeking grant aid, he stated that not all migrant groups were well constituted at present but those that were had been able to avail of funding for events.

Councillor Monteith stated it was worth looking at indicators and would support a greater push out into communities.

Councillor Burton stated that Council provides a lot of financial support to the community and referred to the presentation of cheques which used to take place which was a good way of getting the message out. The Councillor asked if this cheque presentation still takes place.

The Head of Community Development stated that groups receiving funding used to receive an actual cheque which was a good way of getting the groups to attend a presentation. The officer stated that groups now received their funding through BACS and that by holding a presentation the groups still receive the monies whether they turn up or not.

Councillor Burton felt that those receiving funding should be acknowledging what they are getting from Council.

The Director of Business and Communities stated he agreed with Councillor Burton's comments and that officers will look at and bring back ideas as to how Council can be acknowledged for the funding it provides.

Councillor G Shiels stated it was a mistake to think of funding as being a cost to the ratepayer as there were economic spin offs to providing funding.

Councillor Forde expressed her thanks to the Head of Community Development and officers within the department for their guidance and support through the funding application process.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Community Grants Policy for 2019-2020 and associated grant budget allocations as set out in appendix 3 of report.

- **Mid Ulster General Advice**

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to sign the letter of offer of funding of £9,546.74 from Department for Communities for the provision of additional advice services in Mid Ulster, and to allocate the funding directly for CAMU and monitor provision accordingly.

- **Mid Ulster Housing Working Group**

Councillor Milne proposed that meetings should also be held with MP for the area.

Councillor Doris proposed that the group should be extended to ten Members.

Councillor Milne seconded Councillor Doris' proposal.

Councillor Monteith stated that the proposed working group did not appear to have a time limit or scope of work. The Councillor stated that Council needed to get its own house in order in relation to open space as housing developments in the District were still being passed without the inclusion of open space. Councillor Monteith stated that this was an area in which Council did have some authority but was not acting on it. The Councillor further commented that the group needed to look at legislative rent control. Councillor Monteith stated that representation on the group did not include Department for Communities and felt this should be the case, he further stated that the group will only meet once before upcoming elections.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that, if agreed, the group will be in place and can continue its work into the new Council term. Councillor McNamee suggested that a sub group may be better than a working group.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to establish a ten Member Mid Ulster Housing Sub Group under Council as per the Terms of Reference set out at appendix 4 of report to include meeting with MP for the area.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development update.

Councillor Monteith expressed his thanks to officers for their help in pushing the Southern Trust to undertake an exploratory dig at South Tyrone Hospital which he stated took place this week. The Councillor stated that it was within living memory what had happened at the site of the former workhouse and that recognising the site was of vital importance to the people of Dungannon. Councillor Monteith proposed that Council write to the Southern Trust stating that the site should be preserved and

that proposals for any development on the site cease immediately and provide assurances to the public that no further development will take place.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to Southern Trust stating that the site at South Tyrone Hospital be preserved and that current plans cease for any further development at this location.

Councillor Cuddy felt that it is important to take account of the size of the site and that possibly only part of it needed to be considered.

Councillor G Shiels referred to a paupers graveyard in Magherafelt which is commemorated.

The Director of Business of Communities stated that there was a similar site in Cookstown which is acknowledged by memorial plaque.

D006/19 Lough Neagh Partnership Heritage Lottery Landscape Programme Year 3

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a Letter of Offer to Lough Neagh Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Programme for Year 3 match funding contribution of £36,125. The report also advised of a change in delivery of the access element of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan from Ardboe Walk to Newferry.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue Letter of Offer to Lough Neagh Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Programme for Year 3 match funding contribution of £36,125

D007/19 Sperrins Sculpture Trail: Technical Study Contribution

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project and sought approval for uplift in funding for a technical study from £5,556 each to £8,867 (in addition to previously approved £2,500 contribution for a green book economic analysis).

Proposed by Councillor McEldowney
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve an increased contribution of £8,867 for the procurement of a technical study for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project subject to partner contributions as described in report being confirmed.

D008/19 Seachtain na Gaelige (Irish Language Week) 2019

The Head of Culture of Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaelige 2019.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaelige 2019.

D009/19 Economic Development Report

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following –

- **Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Sector**

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve a match funding request of £37,500 to be paid as follows; 2019/20 - £15,000, 2020/21 - £15,000 and 2021/22 - £7,500.

- **Irish Central Border Area Network**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve release of 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2018/19 to ICBAN.

- **Broadband - £150m Confidence and Supply Funding**

Councillor Clarke asked if it had been confirmed that Fermanagh and Omagh along with Mid Ulster Council would be the first areas to receive funding to improve internet connectivity and broadband speeds.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council has strongly lobbied the Department for the Economy to prioritise Mid Ulster for broadband funding under the Confidence and Supply deal, as Ofcom has highlighted the area has the second worst broadband provision in Northern Ireland, just behind that of Fermanagh and Omagh. The officer stated that officers will continue to lobby the Department on the issue of prioritisation and have requested NILGA to do likewise.

In response to Councillor Monteith's question the Director of Business and Communities stated that 30mb is the speed Council has been working towards since September 2018.

- **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars**

Members noted report on Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018.

- **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018**

Members noted GEM Report 2018.

- **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Reserve List**

Members noted Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Reserve List.

- **Cookstown Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum noted.

- **Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum noted.

- **Maghera Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum noted.

- **Village Renewal Project**

Members noted progress.

Councillor Clarke stated that the figures in relation to the number of residents of Dunamore were incorrect.

The Director stated that the figures for the village renewal project were based on the NISRA settlement figures but indicated that the matter would be investigated and the Member updated accordingly.

- **Coalisland Public Realm**

Members noted progress.

- **Retail NI**

Councillor Molloy proposed the report recommendation. The Councillor stated that Council do a lot of work with the engineering sector in the District but felt that further work could also be undertaken within the hospitality sector and suggested looking at groupings not covered under Flavour of Tyrone such as craft/artisan producers.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Molloy's recommendation and further supported Councillor Molloy's suggestion in relation to hospitality sector as he stated this sector along with the retail sector had been badly neglected. Councillor Monteith stated that Council has a responsibility to lobby central authorities on their behalf as businesses cannot compete with edge of town centres and enterprise centres.

Councillor Burton stated that Members also needed to consider villages and the businesses therein in any future proposals, and highlighted the positive impact the Village Spruce Up Scheme had made in many rural villages across the district.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that given the nature of what will be discussed at the meeting with Retail NI he suggested that a meeting be arranged which is open to all Councillors.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the request from Retail NI to meet Members to present their proposals for Town Centres. Meeting to be arranged which is open to all Councillors.

▪ **Caledon Regeneration Partnership**

Members noted earlier presentation and decision regarding Caledon Regeneration Partnership.

D010/19 Café/Catering Services at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the appointment of concession-holders for the Café at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion based on a Public Tender exercise.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to initiate procurement for the specified café and catering services at Cookstown Leisure Centre and Dungannon Park Pavilion from 1 April 2019 for a contract period of three years to 31 March 2022 with extension for a further 2x1 year periods at the sole discretion of the Council.

D011/19 Northern Ireland Forest Schools Awards Scheme

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to register and engage with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association (NIFSA) to develop a schools programme in Mid Ulster District Council area for a third year 2019-20.

In response to question from Councillor Doris the Head of Parks stated that the scheme is open to all schools to register.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To register Mid Ulster District Council with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association and continue with a three year programme to engage local schools and youth groups to embrace local parks and greenspace where feasible across the District.
 - To provide a contribution of £6,000 towards programme support costs (subject to available resources) in 2019/20 budget setting process.

D012/19 Cyclical Replacement of Fitness Equipment Proposals

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the outline proposal related to the cyclical replacement of fitness equipment as agreed by Council on 25 October 2018.

In response to question from Councillor Milne the Acting Head of Leisure advised it has not been decided what will happen the old equipment coming out of leisure centres.

Councillor Milne stated there were numerous community groups in the area which could utilise the equipment and that discussion was needed as to what will happen to the old equipment.

The Acting Head of Leisure stated that consideration will be given to the future use of equipment being taken out of leisure centres.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the programme of implementation as follows –
- Year 1 and 2 – Replace spin bikes at Cookstown LC, Dungannon LC and Maghera LC. Install dedicated spin studio at Cookstown LC and Greenvale LC. Purchase new equipment for studio classes and refurbish fitness suites at Dungannon and Cookstown LC.
 - Year 3, 4 and 5 – Refurbish fitness suites at Maghera LC and Greenvale LC. Replace spin bikes at Greenvale LC.
 - Year 6 and 7 – Refurbish fitness suites at Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Meadowbank Sports Arena.

Matters for Information

D013/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2018

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2018.

D014/19 Christmas Corporate Events

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Christmas events which took place within the District.

D015/19 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP) - Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Councillor Clarke asked if there was any update in relation to Future Search.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that work had been ongoing in relation to getting all Councils on board in order to be in a position to recruit officer to drive forward the Future Search project. The Director advised that Causeway Coast and Glens Council was the last of the four Councils to come on board and that a letter of intent was still awaited. Once this letter is received, recruitment of officer can proceed.

D016/19 Tourism Business Engagement Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on progress, work and results the Seamus Heaney Cluster have achieved over the last year.

D017/19 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report which provided minutes of Tourism Development Group meeting held on 11 September 2018 and ratified at Tourism Development meeting on 20 November 2018.

D018/19 PARP's (Physical Activity Referral Programme)

Members noted previously circulated report which provided information on the Physical Activity Referral Programme, formerly known as the GP Referral Programme which is funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D019/19 and D021/19.

Matters for Decision

D019/19 Purchasing books for resale at Seamus Heaney
HomePlace
D020/19 City and Growth Deal

Matters for Information

D021/19 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
5 December 2018

D022/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.51 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Report on	Great Days Out Event on 28 March 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown / Martha Beattie

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform the council of the Great Days Out Trade Event taking place on 28 th March 2019, venue Corick House in the Clogher Valley.
1.2	This event will directly target group organisers from across Northern Ireland and the border counties, such as church groups, community groups and retirement associations etc.
1.3	The purpose of this event is to encourage these organisers to visit the Mid Ulster District by providing information on the wealth of fantastic group day visits available. It will showcase cultural experiences, heritage sites and special interest tours and will hopefully entice groups to visit locations which may not be familiar to them.
2.0	Background
2.1	This event was previously run by Tourism Northern Ireland. It caters for group organisers from church groups: like PWA and WI, to sports and social clubs, community groups to retirement associations and from gardening groups, historical groups to Rotary clubs and many more from across NI.
2.2	Tourism Northern Ireland are working with the Archaeology, History and heritage cluster group to assist them prepare itineraries and day trips to showcase at the event.
2.3	Members of the Heritage Cluster have been offered training to prepare for this event, "Get Ready for Groups", which will be delivered by Tourism Northern Ireland.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Great Days Out is designed to showcase the Archaeology, History and Heritage across the district. It will include attractions, activities and accommodation throughout the Mid Ulster Council area offering a range of great day trip ideas for a variety of groups from church, sports and social clubs to community groups, retirement associations and many more.
3.2	Group trip organisers and group leaders will be given the opportunity to meet and sell directly to a range of exhibitors who can help them plan a day trip in Mid Ulster.

3.3	The Heritage Cluster members will be provided with training from Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), "Get Ready for Groups" and they will be offered Tour guiding training to support their Great Days Out packages.
3.4	TNI will financially support the training and assist with the running costs of this event.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: TNI to cover the cost of room hire and refreshments for 150 people (£1650)</p> <p>The council to financially support the Skills Focus Tour Guiding programme delivered through SWC at the cost of £62 per person, capped at 10 people.</p> <p>Human: Staff members who lead the Cluster to assist at the event</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Excellent Cross Community event welcoming all cultures and communities to visit Mid Ulster</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>Staff meetings will take place regularly to ensure the smooth running of this event.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Support the Great Days Out Event
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Lough Neagh Partnership CORE Funding 18-19
Date of Meeting	14 February
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Allison O'Keefe

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on progress to date and approve payment of first claim totalling £11,783.23.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>On 22 March 2018 Council approved £22,000 funding to Lough Neagh Partnership. The funding was to cover core running and marketing activities for 2018-19.</p> <p>Lough Neagh Partnership is the main co-ordinating body for tourism, leisure, environmental, heritage and marketing activities on Lough Neagh. It delivers programmes on behalf of local and central government and provides continuous marketing Lough Neagh. It has also developed the Lough Neagh and Its Waterways Destination Management Plan.</p> <p>Lough Neagh Partnership co-ordinate and market tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh and the Lough Neagh shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council. Specifically, reviewing the Destination Management Plan and deliver the LN Landscape Partnership Scheme (Heritage Lottery).</p>
	Main Report
3.1	<p>Detailed below is a summary report on Lough Neagh Partnership's activities and progress to date:</p> <p>1. Landscape Partnership Project Deliver Year 3 of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership project</p> <p>2. Destination Marketing Plan Working with Mid Ulster Council and stakeholders, identify and help develop new tourism products on Lough</p> <p>3 Marketing and Promotion 3.1 Ensure that VICs provide event information to Tourism NI on regular basis</p> <p>3.2 Co-ordination of Tourism NI marketing features for LN Work includes co—ordination of marketing features for Tourism NI productions/ advertorials.</p>

3.3 Increase SEO value of Lough Neagh destination website and individual visitor attractions

4 Lough Neagh Cycle Trail

Monitor the condition of Lough Neagh Cycle Trail as part of the establishment of a Heritage Trail under the HLF Landscape partnership project.

5. Lough Neagh Community Trust

LNP staff to work with Development Trust NI to ensure that new Community Trust (which was established in March 2016) becomes operational and new funding attracted from DAERA

6. Lough Neagh Cooperation Project

Help LAGS and Mid Ulster District Council develop Lough Neagh Cooperation Project

7. Lough Neagh Food Programme

Apply to DAERA and develop strategy for Lough Neagh food with particular emphasis on Lough Neagh fish with a view to securing EU or RDP funding for a food programme.

8. Liaison with MUDC

Ongoing liaison MUDC

9. NIEA Shoreline Plan

Attract new funding and engage with farmers and landowners on western shore to improve condition of western shore

10. New Group Farm Scheme

Set up new Group Farm Scheme on western shores of Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster Council area

11. Lough Neagh Plan

Help with Mid Ulster Council planning Group for Lough Neagh to develop new planning zone designation for Lough Neagh

12. Mid Ulster Community Planning Meetings

Help and assist with development of Mid Ulster Community Plan

13. THOAULP

Provide advice and assistance with Mid Ulster HLF Landscape Project Ancient Heart of Ulster Landscape Project

14. Implement Water Quality Project

Lough Neagh Water Quality Interreg Project

15. Coalisland HLF Great Places Project

Project now agreed and permission to start with total investment of over £394,000. (£312,100 HLF funding)

Total Income Generated

- Funding for the programmes attained DAERA Group Farm Scheme estimated £70,000 per annum will benefit MUDC
- HLF Landscape Partnership estimated £185,000 per annum will benefit MUDC
- HLF Great places scheme
- £394,000 for 3 years (£20,00 in 2018)
- Agrifood scheme £30500

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £25,000 funding available through Waterpro project per annum Extra NIEA funding £10,000 Mar 2018 <p>Total per annum £320,520</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Annual contribution - £22,000</p> <p>Second claim submitted January 2019 to the value of £7,135.54. This will leave a balance of £3,081.23 to be claimed up to 31 March 2019</p>
	Human: Council staff to monitor and verify expenditure.
	Risk Management: All risk will be managed throughout the verification process and ongoing reporting throughout delivery of the programme.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	N/A
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	LNP Core funding progress report.



LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP CORE FUNDING 2018/19 - £22,000
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL FUNDING MEASUREABLE
TARGETS AND QUANTIFIABLE OUTPUTS
REPORT NO 2 2018/19 21 JAN 2019



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
 District Council

Items highlighted red are for second period of 2018/19

Targets	Target Date	Quantifiable Outputs	Position as at 21 Jan 2019
Landscape Partnership Project Deliver Year 3 of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership project	31/03/2019	Implement projects as agreed in HLF plan for 2018/19 e.g. signage project, Ardboe Archaeology project, Mountjoy Archaeology project. Begin progress on Brookend and Derryloughan nature reserves.	<p>Ardboe project developed. Mountjoy dig complete with strong interaction from local people and large publicity. Management of work to Brookend tendered and conservation work at site commenced. Discussions with DEL regarding Derryloughan fruitful and they have agreed in principle to transfer land to community trust.</p> <p>Conservation work commenced on Brookend Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Derryloughan Bog agreed to be transferred to LNP. Strong community engagement commenced</p> <p>Ardboe Cross conservation project. 3 meetings with Friends of Ardboe Cross and HED and LNP. Was anticipated specialist Scottish conservation experts were to examine and carry out conservation. HED however are allocating their own senior expert to assess the cross. New conservation options study to be carried out. No action yet.</p> <p>Ardboe to Moortown project transferred to Portglenone</p>
Destination Marketing Plan	31/03/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote 3 major Lough Neagh Tours 2 of which relate to and promote the Mid Ulster Tourism Development product. 	Craic and Food Tour, Thatch houses of Lough Neagh Tour and Seamus Heaney Tour all developed. Craic and Food Tour occurred 3 times

Working with Mid Ulster Council and stakeholders, identify and help develop new tourism products on Lough		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to develop a new food project for the Lough with DAERA. • Help Mid Ulster with the implementation of their tourism strategy. • Assist with implementation of new signage plan. • Identify and apply for new marketing funding programmes. 	<p>in summer 2018. Seamus Heaney Tour completed Sep 2018. Western Shore of LN 3 day tour itinerary developed for tour operator to sell internationally.</p> <p>Attendance at trade events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Travel Market • ITOA • Meet the Buyer • TI Fam @ Homeplace <p>Participation in Heaney Cluster</p> <p>Presentation to MUDC Tourism Forum Jan 19</p> <p>Discussions with DEARA regarding food co-operation programme. This has now developed into an Artisan Food project with 9 partners. 3 food partners from MUDC Council. Lough Neagh Artisan Food Chain Business Plan being developed with DAERA. up to £30,000 of development assistance offered in LOO. First development meeting held in Rosehill House Roughan.</p> <p>Linked with Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy regarding events and heritage development.</p> <p>Signage plan to be implemented in winter 2018. Information and directional Signs have been partially installed. Eg Brocagh, Others are in storage as arranged with Nigel Hill to be installed in the spring.</p> <p>Marketing programme applied under RDP co-operation project</p>
<p>Marketing and Promotion</p> <p>3.1 Ensure that VICs provide event information to Tourism NI on regular basis</p>	31/03/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a minimum of 20 events per District. MUDC events submitted to TNI by Mid Ulster will be featured on Discover Lough Neagh website & app 	<p>2 events per month from Apr to August, September, October & December were featured on newsletter to stakeholders and consumers, with links to blog posts for each. Events were promoted on Social media.</p>

<p>3.2 Co-ordination of Tourism NI marketing features for LN Work includes co—ordination of marketing features for Tourism NI productions/ advertorials.</p> <p>3.3 Increase SEO value of Lough Neagh destination website and individual visitor attractions</p>	31/03/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce quarterly stakeholder newsletters • Update website & app weekly. Review other content on website and update through new content management system. • Issue event updates and a minimum of 6 press releases. • A minimum of 200 posts to consumer and trade pages on social media. • Co-ordinate an electronic Christmas Colouring Competition within local primary schools. • Blog Competition. LNP will feature the top 10 blogs on the destination website, which will have significant SEO value for the destination website and also for the individual visitor attractions featured in the blog. A link can also be included to Mid Ulster Council on the relevant blogs. 	<p>Stakeholder newsletter issued 28th September, next issue due to be issued end of Jan/Feb 2019.</p> <p>Website continues to be updated with blog posts for events as well as updates for ongoing notable projects.</p> <p>Total Brand Reach: 10,370,925</p> <p>Broadcast: 21</p> <p>UTV 'Lough Neagh': 10</p> <p>Print: 108</p> <p>Online: 66</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>201 posts from 1st April – 20th September on The Lough Neagh Partnership social media consumer and trade pages</p> <p>271 posts from 21st September 2018 – 21st January 2019</p> <p>Christmas poetry Competition launched to 100 Lough Neagh primary schools. Received 80 entries and got PR for winner and LNP. See press report</p>
<p>Lough Neagh Cycle Trail</p> <p>Monitor the condition of Lough Neagh Cycle Trail as part of the establishment of a Heritage Trail under the HLF Landscape partnership project</p>	31/03/2019	Lough Neagh Partnership will help promote the cycle trail throughout 2018/19 and the Lap the Lough event 26/08/2018	Helped promote Lap the Lough event through Lough Neagh website
<p>Lough Neagh Community Trust</p> <p>LNP staff to work with Development Trust NI to ensure that new Community Trust (which was established in March 2016) becomes operational and new funding attracted from DAERA</p>	31/03/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have new Lough Neagh Community Trust operational by 2018/19 • Apply for new funding for DTNI from DAERA • Attend Community Development Trust meetings • To continue to provide marketing management and environmental advice to Lough Neagh Community Trust. 	<p>Further 2 meetings held with DTNI. Application for assistance applied to HLF.</p> <p>Provide advice on Coney Island and Derryloughan. The application was not successful. NB LNP received Coal island fund from same pot</p>
Lough Neagh Cooperation Project	31/03/2019	Help and assist Lags to develop Rural Development Programme Cooperation project.	Prepared business plan and applied for Marketing programme for the whole of the Lough. Also

Help LAGS and Mid Ulster District Council develop Lough Neagh Cooperation Project		<p>Continue to provide help and advice on the implementation of this project for the LAGs and Councils around the shores of the Lough</p> <p>Help facilitate the securing of a Rural Development Project in conjunction with Mid Ulster Council and Mid Ulster Local Action Group to bring benefits to the Mid Ulster District in terms of lough-shore facilities owned by Council.</p>	<p>helped ABC Council prepare business plan for Coney Island and dredging of Blackwater and Upper Bann river.</p> <p>Washing Bay business plan also developed as part of the LAG co operation project.</p> <p>Funding from Arboe trail transferred to Portglenone access and fishing project. (over £70,000 transferred)</p>
Lough Neagh Food Programme Apply to DAERA and develop strategy for Lough Neagh food with particular emphasis on Lough Neagh fish with a view to securing EU or RDP funding for a food programme.	31/03/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and meet with relevant partners • Development of funding proposal • Submission of proposal when programme opens • Identify benefits specific to Lough Neagh 	<p>Discussion with John Mc Kee in May 2018 regarding development of food programme. Project is up and running and will be available for Grant assistance in the Autumn of 2018</p> <p>LNP secured phase 1 with an application to the Agri-Food Co-operation scheme for an artisan food project on Lough Neagh January 2019. Phase 1 will produce a business plan for a funding application for phase 2. Work has commenced with building a group of artisan food producers. Initial meeting held in Rosehill House Roughan in MUDC area on 28th January 2019. 9 artisan producers from around the whole of the Lough and 3 from MUDC.</p>
Liaison with MUDC Ongoing liaison MUDC	31/03/2019	Attend a minimum 3 meetings with MUDC officers in 2018 to update on progress	<p>Met with M Browne on 2 occasions</p> <p>Eimear presented update on LN Tours to Tourism Forum 9th January 2019</p>
NIEA Shoreline Plan	31/03/2019	LNP staff will help implement and administer funding of £43,000 which has been secured for a second year from NIEA towards the	New application made to NIEA. Agreed that we will move to stage two in application.

Attract new funding and engage with farmers and landowners on western shore to improve condition of western shore		development and implementation of management for Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Part of this project will relate to the Mid Ulster District Council area.	<p>4 meetings with NIEA to ensure shoreline plan implemented</p> <p>New Islands plan drawn up including significant number of Islands in MUDC</p> <p>Shoreline plan updated</p> <p>New co Ordinator taken on</p>
<p>New Group Farm Scheme</p> <p>Set up new Group Farm Scheme on western shores of Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster Council area</p>	31/03/2019	<p>LNP intends to receive, manage and administer new £200,000 DAERA Group Farm Scheme for Lough Neagh with the main focus in western shores /Mid Ulster area giving help and assistance to over 20 farmers along the Mid Ulster shoreline of Lough Neagh.</p> <p>Receive funding and start programme in 2018/19</p>	<p>Farming co Ordinator officer has started and he is liaising with farmers in the mid ulster area.</p> <p>C Mc Carney is also liaising with farmers in the south east corner area also. Eg Ardboe to Washing Bay</p> <p>More farmers from MUDC signed up to the scheme. (11 in total now from MUDC)</p> <p>Information event held in Stewartstown.</p> <p>Total data includes 25 new farmers and 40 potential in new round in spring. 360 ha of native woodland included. 50 ha of wet grassland included. Over £1.2 million of funding attracted into Lough as a whole averaging £800 per hectare. To still work out investment attracted specifically to farms through EFS plans in just in Mid Ulster Area.</p>
<p>Lough Neagh Plan</p> <p>Help with Mid Ulster Council planning Group for Lough Neagh to develop new planning zone designation for Lough Neagh</p>	31/03/2019	LNP staff intend to attend Lough Neagh planning meetings led by Mid Ulster District Council and give advice and assistance on the development of new coordinated Lough Neagh plan	E mailed Planning in MUDC but no more meetings have been arranged

Mid Ulster Community Planning Meetings Help and assist with development of Mid Ulster Community Plan	31/03/2019	Lough Neagh intends to attend Mid Ulster Community Planning meetings and feed into Lough Neagh issues and concerns	Helped with feedback into community plan.
THOAULP Provide advice and assistance with Mid Ulster HLF Landscape Project Ancient Heart of Ulster Landscape Project	31/03/2019	LNP staff intend to provide advice and assistance to help with Ulster HLF landscape proposal	Assisted Mid Ulster with THOUPL application. Helped with LCAP, HLF application and final adjustments.
Implement Water Quality Project Lough Neagh Water Quality Interreg Project	31/03/2019	LNP staff intend to assist with implementation and administration of Interreg Water Quality Programme (Waterpro) relating to whole of Lough but parts will relate to the Mid Ulster area	Attended steering group meetings in Edinburgh to progress Waterpro meetings. Attended admin meeting in Copenhagen Arranged major water quality conference on water quality. This got significant publicity of projects around the Lough. (Media Impact reports) See report attached Working up new water quality project
Coalisland HLF Great Places Project Make application	31/03/2019	LNP manager will apply for funding and work with partnership to develop a Great Place Project in Coalisland and the wider area. Potential grant of up to £500,000. All within Mid Ulster area.	Coalisland project progressed with HLF and Council. Partnership agreement is with Councils legal team. Project anticipated to start in Oct 2018. Project now agreed and permission to start with total investment of over £394,000. (£312,100 HLF funding) Evaluation and activity plan provided New employee started
Total Income Generated		•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the programmes attained DAERA Group Farm Scheme estimated £70,000 per annum will benefit MUDC • HLF Landscape Partnership estimated £185,000 per annum will benefit MUDC

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hlf Great places scheme • £394,000 for 3 years (£20,00 in 2018) • Agrifood scheme £30500 • £25,000 funding available through Waterpro project per annum • Extra NIEA funding £10,000 Mar 2018 <p>Total per annum £320,520</p>
Creation of Strategic documents to stimulate economic development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help implement Destination Management Plan • Community Trust operational documents and business plan for purchase of Lough • New implement Lough Neagh Development Plan • Will help with Mid Ulster Community Dev Plan • Will help develop Lough Neagh Planning Strategic Plan led by Mid Ulster District Council 	<p>Assisted with the development of strategic documents eg Lough neagh planning group, LNDT.</p> <p>Had meeting with DFI regarding navigation markers on the Lough</p> <p>Updated Lough neagh Stratic Plan</p> <p>Updated Shoreline Plan</p> <p>Wrote Islands Plan and Reas Wood Plan</p>

Report on	Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group minutes of meeting of 14 th January 2019
Date of Meeting	Thursday 14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To receive and consider for approval the minutes of the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group held on 14 th January 2019.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council previously resolved to establish a Language Working Group to assist with policy development and to support the implementation of Mid Ulster District Council's Irish Language and Ulster Scots language policies and associated work.
2.2	The Working Group Terms of Reference confirms that the business of the Regional and Minority Language Working Group be reported through Mid Ulster District Council's Development Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The report of the meeting of 14 th January 2019 is attached for consideration and approval.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: Any risks identified from the delivery of the Regional and Minority Language Programme are discussed and addressed through the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The language policies are implemented in a way that is sensitive to the concerns of certain sections of the community, that is inclusive, and that aspires to promote good relations between all sections of the community in the longer term.</p> <p>The language policies are introduced so as to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the promotion of a good and harmonious environment, either among Council staff or within the District as a whole.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	The Committee considers approval of the Regional and Minority Language implementation Working group minutes of 14 th January 2019
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Regional and Minority Language Working Group of 14 th January 2019



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

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 14th January 2019 in the Council Offices, Cookstown.

Attendees Members: Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Seán McGuigan, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr Ian Milne, Cllr Rónán McGinley, Cllr Derek McKinney.

Officers: Tony McCance, Déaglán Ó Doibhlin, Rebecca Ní Dhonnaile.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Apologies	
	Cllr Kim Ashton, Adrian McCreesh.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
	No declarations of interest submitted.	
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting held on 8th October 2018.	
	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting of 8 th October 2018 was presented to the Working Group.	

4.0	Signage Programme update	
	<p>T. McCance provided an update on the progress of the signage programme. He highlighted that all boundary signage; play park signage and cemetery signage is now in place – excluding one boundary sign at Clogher which has been delayed due to the gas to the west project. He advised that procurement for 103 dual-lingual road signs is complete following council meeting held in December 2018 and that those signs are currently at various stages of manufacture.</p> <p>T. McCance also highlighted the issue of vandalism to signage - 12 signs have been replaced as a result of being vandalised. He informed the group that the Property Services are working hard to ensure prompt replacement/cleansing once a vandalised sign is reported. The Chair of the meeting, Cllr J. McNamee expressed his disappointment at the reports of vandalism towards signage. He enquired about reporting vandalised signs to the police and T. McCance agreed to confirm with property Services that this is happening. Cllr McNamee also enquired about the extent of the damage and the cost implementations of this. T. McCance advised that the damage reported in some cases could be significant but that costs depended on the extent of the damage and on the type of sign. He advised that not all vandalism resulted in replacement signs being required and that some could be cleaned to remove the damage. Cllr R. McGinley enquired about the locations of these vandalised signs. T. McCance explained that signs are being vandalised regularly in specific locations of the District.</p> <p>T. McCance advised the Working Group that a signage company was appointed on the 20th December 2018 for the provision of external signage at all seven leisure facilities throughout the district. These are currently in manufacture and are expected to be in place within next few weeks. He advised that once this is complete, attention will then turn towards the installation of bilingual signage at the arts facilities in the District.</p> <p>Cllr. R. McGinley expressed to the group that he has received complaints from members of the public due to the length of the process from a dual-lingual road name plate is requested until it is in place. T. McCance agreed to pass these concerns on to the appropriate service Heads.</p>	T. McCance

5.0	Ulster Scots Language and cultural activity update	
	<p>T. McCance presented to the group an update on the proposal previously approved by the Working Group on 8th October 2018. He advised that it had been ratified at the council meeting at the end of November 2018. He also advised that he approached the Ulster Scots Community Network following the outcome of the decision from Council to discuss the proposal delivery. He advised that responsibility now rests with the Ulster Scots Community Network to provide details on how exactly the project will be rolled out and that the classes are expected to commence this side of the financial year close, whereas the cultural activities are more likely to occur after April.</p> <p>Cllr R. McGinley questioned the relevancy of Ulster Scots cultural activity to the RML Implementation Working Group and requested that it be removed from the title of this item in the order of business. T. McCance assured the group that no Ulster Scot cultural activity is paid for under the RML budget, but the Arts and Culture budget only. It was agreed that the 'cultural activity' aspect and wording be removed from the agenda from future Working Group meetings.</p> <p>Cllr T. Wilson questioned the legitimacy of Ulster Scots as a language and therefore the likelihood of successful classes occurring under the proposed project.</p> <p>Cllr I. Milne questioned how the demand for these classes would be proven. T. McCance explained that the Ulster Scots Community Network must determine levels of demand and then demonstrate this demand to council with numbers for classes/location of classes etc.</p>	T. McCance
6.0	Irish Language Programme update	
	<p>D. Ó Doibhlin provided the meeting with an update on the Irish Language Programme with the following information:</p> <p>Opportunities to Learn: Monthly Tús / Nasc Bootcamps continue to be successful with the remaining dates for this term occurring as follows: 19th January 2019. 16th February 2019 16th March 2019 13th April 2019</p>	T. McCance, D. Ó Doibhlin, R. Ní Dhonnaile

	<p>25th May 2019 15th June 2019</p> <p>Staff Course in Council: In line with our policy objective of offering appropriate training to staff, a second 8 week course in conversational Irish begins on the 22nd January 2019. The course will run concurrently across all 3 offices with two levels on offer, beginners and refresher and follows the success of the first 8 week course began in October 2018.</p> <p>National Award Winners D. Ó Doibhlin advised the group of the success of three Mid Ulster community groups who received awards from national organisation Glór na nGael as a result of their efforts in promotion of the Irish Language. Cairde Uí Néill, Coalisland; Glór na Speiríní, Ballinascreen and An Carn, Maghera were all announced as award winners, today, 19/01/2019. Officers plan to arrange a reception for these groups in order to achieve our objective of recognising and celebrating the language in the broader context of linguistic and cultural diversity across the District</p> <p>Gaeilge don Teaghlach A new project pilot ran in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge, Carn Tochair is set to commence at the end of January. The project aims to assist non-Irish speaking parents with children attending a Gaelscoil. Officers plan to launch the project in early March.</p> <p>Primary School Project 43 schools across the District took part in the project this year and we continue to receive excellent feed-back from school principals.</p> <p>Seachtain na Gaeilge As councillors were aware, we will advertise funding opportunities for individuals and community groups who wish to run Irish Language activities as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge once this is ratified by Council.</p> <p>The chair of the meeting, Cllr J McNamee commended the three groups on their achievements and on all the work that they do in order to promote the Irish Language in their respective communities.</p>	
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	Cllr R. McGinley advised the group that he is currently undertaking the Diploma organised under the Irish Language Programme in conjunction with Ulster University.	
7.0	A.O.B.	
	Date of next meeting to be arranged for early April 2019.	
<i>Meeting concluded at 6.30pm</i>		

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

Report on	Leisure Services Update
Date of Meeting	14 th February 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlighting a number of key events/activities.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that leisure plays in today's society and that the equitable availability of accessible, high quality sport and leisure provision can enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation in sport and leisure activities from all sections of the community and provide pathways that enable every resident within the Mid Ulster area to maximise their health, sporting abilities, aspirations and potential.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Full details of key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter are included in Appendix 1. A summary of key highlights is provided below:</p> <p>Cookstown Leisure Centre</p> <p>During the months of October - December 2018 inclusive evolve FITNESS ran a very popular Ultimate Members Challenge 2018 where members completed 2018 minutes exercise over a 3 month period. It was marketed as the perfect motivation to 'get in shape for the Christmas Party Season'. To achieve this target members, were recommended to attend three times per week with each session 60 minutes in duration. A total of 85 members signed up to complete the challenge.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Sports Arena</p> <p>The new set of block bookings for this period showed a continued high demand to use both the outdoor and indoor facilities at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena. All bookings were accommodated. There has been a number of additional sessions booked onto the grass pitches to meet this high demand. The usage of grass pitches was closely monitored during this period and restricted to only one club per night in order to protect the playing surface in the coming months.</p>

A highlight of the quarter was the Acorns Athletic Club - Mighty Oaks Cross Country competition at MUSA on the 8th December 2018. It comprised of 6 races U12 - 800m, U14 - 1mile, U16 - 2mile, U18 - 3 mile, Senior & Masters ladies – 3 mile and Senior & Masters men - 4 mile races. The course was contained within the Mid Ulster Sports Arena's grounds with in excess of 200 participants.

Greenvale Leisure Centre

The ever popular children's swim programme for those aged 3.5-12yr recorded a total of 1144 kids per week for 12 weeks and finished off with a fun week at the end of the term where they got to unwind and use the slide and floats. During the term parents were given the chance to receive feedback from the teachers in regards to how well their child was progressing. This gave them the chance to work on any areas that may have needed improvement in order for them to progress within the programme.

The centre also organised a Christmas Bootcamp on Saturday 22nd December 2018. Prizes were awarded for best Christmas dressed male and female. There was also spot prizes and mince pies and tea and coffee afterwards in Cafe Dolce. Over 60 members participated.

Maghera Leisure Centre

In November, the Main Hall floor was given a complete refurbishment. The old floor was replaced with a brand new plastic surface and relined for multi sports activities. During this time the centre class programme was delivered at St Patricks College Maghera, utilizing space and managing class numbers. Feedback from customers on the new surface has been very positive.

The outdoor artificial pitch was also replaced with a brand new 3G surface and upgraded LED lighting. There has been a steady increase in usage and the pitch is now booked to capacity at peak times. The 3G surface is very popular encouraging different sports & activities rather than traditional 5 a side bookings including Soccer, Gaelic, Hurling, Camogie. We currently have a couch to 5k programme using the surface two evenings per week.

Dungannon Leisure Centre

Following the introduction of the Mid Ulster Swim Academy and our ongoing commitment to the deliver a high quality service our customers can now enroll for lessons online, by phone or in person at reception. They also have the options to pay by cash, debit/credit card and Direct Debit. Swimming lessons continue to a popular activity and currently has 80% uptake on the current program.

In addition Dungannon Leisure Centre in partnership with MUDC Environmental Health department have introduced a new Men's Health Activity Programme which commenced on Monday 21st January 8pm-9.30pm. This 8-week physical activity program is targeted towards middle aged inactive men who want to change their lifestyle, through exercise and health education. 28 men have enrolled. Activities on offer include Pilates, Yoga and Fitness activities.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note activities being undertaken in Leisure Services in the last quarter and the events that will be occurring in the future.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter.

Cookstown Leisure Centre

October 8th 2018 saw the launch of the new “Mid Ulster Swim Academy” across all wet facilities. Cookstown Leisure Centre offered 954, with uptake of 882 (92.4%) over September. The period October to December saw 1140 places offered with uptake of 993.

MUDC has hosted two in-house swimming teachers courses (STA), which has qualified 12 additional teachers to assist with the new programmes across the district.

On the 17th December, Cookstown offered its first “direct debit” facility for swimming lessons, in conjunction with our third party partners “Harlands” and their on-line portal “SNAP”.

Spinning has become more popular over the last twelve months. Currently our classes are running at capacity (24 bikes).

Evolve Fitness

Promotions have assisted with the good start to the year with 26 new members signing up. For Halloween evolve FITNESS ran a promotion to encourage retention and generate sales between 28/10/18 – 31/10/18. The promotion was advertised on posters within the centre and on the centre facebook page.

During the months of Oct-Dec 2018 inclusive evolve FITNESS ran our very popular Ultimate Members Challenge 2018 whereby members have to complete 2018 minutes exercise over the 3 month period. This challenge proves very popular each year with this year being no different. It is marketed as the perfect motivation to ‘get in shape for the Christmas Party Season’. To accomplish this target it is based on three visits per week with each session to be 60 minutes in duration. To date a total of 85 members have signed up to complete the challenge with 52 on course to complete it by 31/12/18.

Currently running during the month of December evolve FITNESS ran a Christmas Promotion (2 is Our Gift To U) as an incentive to boost sales at a time when the gym historically becomes less busy in the run up to the Christmas holiday period.

The “Physical Activity Programme” has currently 45 plus clients participating, either at the initial 12 weeks’ stage, by the “phase three practitioners (Cardiac), local GP’s, and Charis (Cancer) or re-referred by their local GP’s. We have also 27 who have now joined Evolve Fitness since completing the programme.

MUSA

Sports Review October to December 2018

Facilities at MUSA are very busy with bookings from soccer, GAA and rugby clubs as well as schools during October to December 2018. There were a huge number of schools matches and tournaments played on our 3G Gaelic pitch throughout the week in this time period. There also remains a high demand for soccer matches at

the weekend with most pitches booked each Saturday and many matches also played of site at Beechway football pitch.

New Block Bookings

The new set of block bookings for this period showed that there was a high demand to use the outdoor and indoor facilities at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena. All booking were accommodated with the exception of a few clubs not getting the exact time slot that they requested. There was a few training sessions booked onto the grass pitches at night to meet this high demand. The usage of grass pitches was closely monitored during this period of the year and only one club per night was using any of the grass pitches for the pitch's long-term protection coming into the winter months.

Halloween Event

The Halloween event was a success and attracted a crowd of up to 5000 people even with bad weather on the day. The Halloween Event at MUSA had a large selection of activities for kids of all ages such as a spooky trail, funfair with numerous rides, a selection of food vendors & gourmet coffee, a climbing wall, Crazy karts, face painting, cage football, live music, craft station, Vortex Tunnel, storytelling, magic show, spooky trail and firework





Ulster Ladies GAA U'16 colleges final St Catherine's Armagh vs St Ciaran's

The Ulster Ladies Under 16 colleges final between St Catherine's Armagh and St Ciaran's took place at MUSA on 11th December with St Catherine's Armagh winning.

Under 16 colleges finalists



Acorns AC Mighty Oaks XC competition

Acorns AC held their Mighty Oaks XC competition at MUSA on the 8th December 2018. It comprised of 6 races U12 - 800m, U14 - 1mile, U16 - 2mile, U18 - 3 mile, Senior & Masters ladies – 3 mile and Senior & Masters men - 4 mile races. The course used the whole of the Mid Ulster Sports Arena's grounds.



Events

during this time

- Parkrun continues every Saturday morning at 9.30am (100 plus participants weekly)
- Mothers and Others takes place every Monday and Friday morning
- Mid Ulster Youth League 9 aside and 11 aside matches each Saturday
- National League matches on Pitch 1
- Couch to 5K Programme on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- CYFC Development Centre – 200+ children
- Usage of the Trim Trail by walkers and runners remains steady especially during the day. Estimated numbers using this facility in the region of 100 per day.
- High demand for Birthday Parties in the indoor 3G & Blue court
- Mid Ulster District Council & Tyrone GAA Primary School Winter Indoor Blitz
- Ulster Colleges Matches and Tournaments
- Ulster Colleges Camogie Tournament
- Ulster Camogie Blitz
- Tyrone Hurling Centre of Excellence
- Ulster Ladies GAA Matches

Dungannon Leisure Centre

November 2018 -January 2019

Dry Activities Classes and Courses

The lunchtime HIIT class continues to be popular with our customers. Following a revamp, the class now runs Monday to Friday with new customers enjoying the fitness challenges with some taking out monthly memberships.

Pilates, Yoga and Spin are fully booked; Lunchtime HIIT, Circuit and S.W.E.A.T are also performing well.



Demand for early morning exercise has resulted in the Early Burn class being run Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 6.-45 – 715am as our customers recognize that exercising early in the morning offers both physical and mental gratification. Training exercises can boost metabolism.

Wet Activity Classes and Courses

The new Zumba Aqua-Fit class continues to be very popular and in high demand. This low impact class caters for all levels of fitness while exercising to the sound of the Latin beat.

Masters swimming on Monday night has been exceptional busy with 35-40 swimmers regularly enjoying the challenge. Masters swimming is a special class for competitive swimming, tri-athletes or those just looking to improve stroke technique.

Swimming Program

Following the introduction of the Mid Ulster Swim Academy and our ongoing commitment to the delivery of a quality services our customers can now enroll for lessons online, by phone or in person at reception. They now have the options to pay by cash, debit/credit card and Direct Debit. Swimming lessons continue to a popular activity and currently have 80% uptake on the current program.

Fitness Suite

December “Beat the Rush” - a free induction for new members. December is normally our quietest month, but it was one of the busiest.

November has been steady and January been very busy in the fitness suite with customers endeavoring to keep their New Year’s resolutions.

Teen Fit

Teen Fit is available for 13-16 year old and is a popular after school activity. Getting teenagers into the routine of exercising increases the likelihood that they will grow up to value healthy living and stay active.

Teen Fit has had a record new number of new and existing members, with plans to advertise in schools and Facebook.



Junior Fit

All children can benefit from exercise – whether or not they play organized sport. So it is important to encourage them to make physical activity part of their everyday lives.

Through Junior Fit, we aim to encourage and improve fitness levels, self-esteem, confidence and social interaction.

With machines special designed for 8-11 year olds, this has been popular and growing in strength.



Men's Health

Working in partnership with Environmental Health a new Men's Health Activity Programme will commence at Dungannon Leisure Centre starting Monday 21st

January 8pm-9.30pm. This 8-week physical activity program is targeted towards middle aged inactive Men who want to change their lifestyle, through exercise and health education.

20-28 men have enrolled and are attending each week, activities on offer include Pilates, Yoga and Fitness activities.



Clubs

A wide variety of clubs and classes continue to use the centre for training and practice. These include, Ren Bu Ken Judo Club, Kobra Kai Karate Club, Tae Kwon Do Club, Special Olympics, Irish Dancing and Oksana's Dance Academy.

Tyrone Towers Basketball play their home games in the centre and use the centre as a home base for training their adult and junior teams.

Dungannon Leisure Centre 50+ Club continue to meet every Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Centre. Various activities take place including, Zumba, Circuit Training, Spinning, Badminton, Table Tennis, and Swimming and lots more. The 50+ club attracts large numbers on Tuesdays and Thursdays in our sports hall, fitness suite and pools.

Men's Health Club

The Men's Health club takes place every Wednesday. Currently there are eight regular club members who continue to enjoy the range of activities available within the Centre.

P.A.R.P's.

The Physical Activity Referral Programme at Dungannon Leisure Centre has gone from strength to strength. The local Doctors Surgeries refer patients to the centres specially trained Fitness Consultant. The appointment book is full, with customers seeing significant improvements in their fitness after completing his courses. Many clients continue as centre users after finishing the programme.

Gortgonis Gym

Gortgonis Gym Opening times are as follows- Mondays: 9am-1pm and 4-9pm, Tuesdays : 4-9pm, Wednesdays : 9am-1pm and 4-9pm, Thursdays : 4-9pm, Fridays 9-1pm and 4-8pm. The gym continues to be popular with local residents.

Maghera Leisure Centre

Refurbishment of Main Hall.

In November our Main Hall floor underwent a complete refurbishment. The old floor was replaced with a brand new pulastic surface and relined for multi sports activities. During this time we managed to continue to run our entire class programme by providing classes at St Patricks College Maghera, utilizing space and managing class numbers. Customers are delighted with the new surface and we have no doubt this has contributed to the success of our classes.



Refurbishment of Astroturf to 3g surface & Lights to Led.

In October, our Astroturf was replaced with a brand new 3G surface & lighting was converted to Led. There has been a steady increase in usage November & December. This area is now booked to capacity at peak times. We have found the 3G surface very popular encouraging different sports & activities rather than traditional 5 a side bookings (Gather ups). Local clubs have been booking various sports including Soccer, Gaelic, Hurling, Camogie and we currently have a couch to 5k programme running 2 evenings per week.



New dugouts Maghera Leisure Centre grass pitch, additional Storage & covered walk way.

New dugouts were installed on Maghera soccer pitch 1 in October. New storage unit and cover for walkway from hall to storage unit were installed in November & December to provide much needed storage for equipment.



Membership

Our £20/month membership continues to sell extremely well. We have retained our custom base and sales to new customers continue to increase. Leading up to Christmas we sold memberships to customers who were looking Christmas presents for family members and friends. This gave staff a sense of pride that current members were introducing their family and friends to our leisure environment.

Birthday parties are also very busy with nearly every slot booked out plus our evening parties have become more popular too due to the weekend slots being already filled.

Centre Based Classes and Activities October, November & December.

Maghera Leisure Centre released its biggest class program so far with 28 Classes (not including gymnastics). With the return of the old favourite classes and some new initiatives such as 30 minute blast classes, customers are being challenged in different ways providing a freshness to their routines. The addition of the over 50s club has also provided more opportunities to exercise and socialise for the less active customers. Our new Kids Spin & Kids Cardio classes adds younger users to our instructor lead programme.



Halloween Hooley

Over 3,000 attended this event held on 31st October. There were lots of free activities including a broomstick Jiggle, Halloween dance party, magic shows, puppet shows, spooky storytelling, Pirates indoor play area, arts & crafts, face painting, balloon modelling, bubble ball, cage football, climbing wall & amusements. These activities commenced at 4pm, ending at 7pm.

6-week Body Shred Programme.

Following our successful September Shred programme, we announced our Christmas Shred in November.

Comprising of 3 x weekly small- group fitness classes (Mon, Wed & Fri 6.30am), together with regular weigh-ins and nutritional advice, the Shredding programme is perfect for anyone who wants to boost their training programme!

Bootcamps.

We ran our annual Halloween bootcamp in October & 2 week pre-Christmas bootcamp in December with the numbers at these classes continuing to rise every year.

Christmas Challenge

Our Christmas challenges have been very popular over the last number of years as a means to motivate customers & increase staff/customer communication in lead up to the festive holidays. This year's challenge was the 12 days of Christmas, customers were given 12 different exercise activities (Gym based) each day. Our staff recorded results and totalled at end of 12 days. Every customer that completed challenge received a prize.

Gymnastics.

Registration for our 13 week Gymnastics classes took place at end of November. Our customers had the option of booking online or at reception. This block of classes commenced first week in December and has proven to be a popular as ever, with all 6 classes fully booked.

Outdoor Pitches

Soccer pitches have been booked weekly as the leagues for local clubs are now in full flow and weather conditions have been kind.

Tobermore Golf Centre

Junior Academy

The final session of the 2018 Junior Academy saw 30 of our juniors enjoying their final day in the company of Irish International Tiarnan Mc Larnon



Improvers Coaching Course

Improvers Course ran from 7th November 2018 for 6 weeks and was open to ladies and Gents. This course targeted at golfers with a golf handicap and/or have had previous coaching.

Halloween Camp

A very successful Halloween camp was hold on Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th October 09.30 - 14.00 each day open to girls & boys aged 7-14yrs.

Meadowbank Sports Arena

Autumn/Winter Programme Oct – Dec 2018

Keeping with the trend, Meadowbanks usage again significantly increased in the evenings during the autumn and winter months leading up to the New Year. This can be seen by the increased number of clubs and groups booking the facility compared to the summer months.

There were 52 Birthday Parties booked between Oct – Dec.

9 Local Primary Schools have signed up again for Meadowbanks Fit for Life Programme.



