

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Community Planning: Progress Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 9 February 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	M Canavan, Director - Org Development, Strategy and Performance
<b>Contact Officer</b>	P Moffett, Assistant Director - Org Development, Strategy and Performance Celene O'Neill, Community and Strategic Planning Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on activity surrounding Mid Ulster Community Planning following its movement across to Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance, stemming from the Council's restructure.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	As an outworking of the 2014 Local Government (NI) Act, councils have a remit on initiating, putting arrangements in place and managing the progression of community planning within the district. Council has been actively engaged in the development and progression of Mid Ulster Community Planning through its strategic board and thematic based working groups since its formation following local government reform.
2.2	By way of background, Community Planning is a process involving the council and the community planning partners in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and identifying long-term objectives which contribute to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Mid Ulster district.</li> <li>• Identifying long-term objectives which contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the Mid Ulster district.</li> <li>• Identifying actions and functions to be exercised by council and our community planning partners to assist in meeting the established long-term objectives</li> </ul>
2.3	Activity on community planning, since its inception following local government reform, is focused on the themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Economic Growth &amp; Infrastructure</li> <li>(ii) Education &amp; Skills</li> <li>(iii) Health &amp; Well-being</li> <li>(iv) Vibrant &amp; Safe Communities</li> </ul>
2.4	Further information is accessible from the council website by clicking through to <a href="https://www.midulstercouncil.org/your-council/community-planning">https://www.midulstercouncil.org/your-council/community-planning</a>

	<b>Community Planning Delivery</b>
2.5	Arising from the recent senior structure changes, previously agreed by Council, the Community Planning function has now moved from the former Business and Communities Department to the new Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance Directorate and is under the direction of the Strategic Director.
2.6	This internal change process, having also come at the midway point (2022/23) in the delivery of the current Mid Ulster Community Plan 2017-2027, provided an opportune time for a review of the overall Community Planning process and function in Mid Ulster.
2.7	Achievements have been made over the last five years through the community planning process for the wider Mid Ulster district. In recognising and 'banking' the Community Planning activities and achievements to date together with the relationships formed between partner organisations, particularly during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Partnership's Strategic Board took the opportunity to take stock, review and build on successes since the inception of community planning within the district.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The community planning remit moved across to the new <i>Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance Directorate</i> in the middle of 2022. During the period to date, time has been taken to engage with the community planning strategic partners to review the structure, role and function of the Strategic Board comprised of 12 statutorily designated partners, Northern Ireland government departments, Mid Ulster Council and other local strategic organisations. Activity has centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A session and Board meeting, facilitated by <i>Food For Thought</i> in June 2022, for Strategic Board members to reflect on their role and function</li> <li>○ The key outputs and findings of this facilitated discussion led to the development of a series of common themes, categorised around the areas of on-boarding, governance, communication and action delivery of community planning priorities.</li> <li>○ The development of a revised Terms of Reference for the overall Community Planning Partnership with a specific focus on the role of the Strategic Board and how it links with different aspects of the overall partnership arrangement. This included the development of a draft reporting mechanism which will assist the Board in overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the delivery of the Community Plan.</li> <li>○ The Strategic Board met again in late November 2022 when they were presented with and considered Officer proposals around Onboarding for board members, Governance (including a draft Revised Terms of Reference), Communication and the focus on Action Delivery.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>The next Strategic Board meeting is scheduled for late February 2023 at which proposals as detailed above will be presented for agreement and finalised. The finalisation of these arrangements will entail a light touch review the current Community Plan itself including overarching strategic priorities, existing actions, outcomes, performance measures, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Going Forward</b></p>
3.3	Considering the recent council restructure, Policy & Resources Committee has become the parent committee for reporting to and authorisation purposes, as required.

3.4	It is the intention of officers that Members receive timely Community Planning Action Update Reports adopting a standard reporting approach to report on progress being made on activities developed and delivered with the aim of bringing about the best possible outcomes for Mid Ulster's citizens.
3.5	This reporting will be in addition to the required Community Planning Performance Statement, which is published every two years, and is due to be undertake and published in Autumn 2023.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Not applicable
	Human: Not applicable
	Risk Management: Not applicable
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: Not applicable
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That members consider, review and comment as necessary on activity surrounding community planning function of Council.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None