

<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing Sector</li> <li>2) Irish Central Border Area Network</li> <li>3) Broadband - £150m Confidence &amp; Supply Funding</li> <li>4) Mid Ulster Digital Seminars</li> <li>5) Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018</li> <li>6) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List</li> <li>7) Cookstown Town Centre Forum</li> <li>8) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</li> <li>9) Maghera Town Centre Forum</li> <li>10) Village Renewal Project</li> <li>11) Coalisland Public Realm</li> <li>12) Retail NI</li> <li>13) Caledon Regeneration Partnership</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 January 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing Sector.</b></p> <p>The recently launched Mid Ulster Skills Report 2018-21 identified a number of challenges facing the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster. This included skills shortages, access to talent, sector attractiveness and reskilling/upskilling for industry. To this end Council officers have been engaging with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum and local SMEs to develop a pilot skills programme focussed on tackling the aforementioned issues within the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster. An application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme has been successful for a 30 month pilot programme in Mid Ulster. The new industry led collaborative network requires match-funding support from Council to allow the pilot project to commence.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Irish Central Border Area Network</b></p> <p>In July 2018, the Council recommended the provision of an annual contribution towards ICBAN of up to £12,500 for the financial year 2018/19.</p>
2.3	<b>Broadband - £150m Confidence &amp; Supply Funding</b>

Funding has been made available as a result of the Confidence and Supply Agreement which could provide substantial enhancements to our Internet connectivity. Approximately 100,000 premises in Northern Ireland remain without access to broadband speeds of at least 30Mbps, mainly in rural areas. MUDC area being the second worst after FODC area.

**2.4 Mid Ulster Digital Seminars**

Following the success of the three Digital Seminars delivered in February and March 2017, Council recommended a further three to be delivered in autumn 2018. Following a procurement exercise, 42Digital were appointed to co-ordinate and deliver three seminars (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) supported by Council staff on 19 October, 17 October and 14 November 2018 to promote the use of Digital Media to Mid Ulster businesses and demonstrate, on a practical level, through workshops within each seminar, how this could help businesses maximise their online growth potential.

**2.5 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018**

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) began in 1999 and is the world's foremost study of entrepreneurship. GEM measures entrepreneurial behaviour and attitudes of individuals and has a historical global dataset of over 100 economies. In 2017, the Department for the Economy and Invest NI sponsored the Northern Ireland (NI) component of the GEM UK research project. Of the 326,000 respondents to the GEM UK surveys for the period 2002-2017, almost 40,000 respondents were from NI.

**2.6 Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List**

In March 2018 Council approval was granted to deliver the reserve list of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme to offer 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 the scheme's reserve list is £156,000:- this includes the grant aid, and the services of a Chartered Architect to manage overall delivery of the scheme.

**2.7 Cookstown Town Centre Forum**

Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.

**2.8 Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

Magherafelt Town Centre Forum was re-established in January 2017. The forum will meet on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives.

**2.9 Maghera Town Centre Forum**

Maghera Town Centre Forum was established in August 2018. The forum will allow Council to work in partnership with agencies, businesses and community and voluntary groups to ensure Maghera can achieve its full potential.

**2.10 Village Renewal Project**

Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014 -2020.

Council will make an application to the Local Action Group for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of strategic

	<p>and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to compliment the funding from RDP.</p> <p><b>2.11 Coalisland Public Realm</b>  A design team has been appointed for the £2.75M redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme will include works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking.</li> </ul> <p>The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards.</p> <p><b>2.12 Retail NI</b>  Retail NI who are the representative body for the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade has launched a plan to improve the province's high streets.</p> <p><b>2.13 Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b>  Caledon Regeneration Partnership was established to promote the conservation and protection of Caledon village's built and natural heritage. It also is involved in the development of local community initiatives.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing Sector.</b></p> <p>In order to address issues within the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster, a small cluster/network of local businesses supported by council officers submitted an application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme to deliver a pilot programme in Mid Ulster. Invest NI approved the application to the value of £166k and the industry led network has requested a funding contribution from Council to support the implementation of the Work Programme. The letter of offer has been issued to the lead SME (Edge Innovate) and therefore all project finances will be administered through this company.</p> <p>This Pilot Project will cover a 30 month period and establish a collaborative SME network across the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster. It is proposed that the Network will be established as a sub-group of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to strategically address and match education and skills provision to the critical workforce needs of local employers. The Funding package will cover the costs of a Project Facilitator to guide and manage the Network to co-ordinate effective delivery against an agreed set of SMART objectives contained within the Work programme.</p> <p>The Network will focus on 4 headline Goals:- <b>(1)</b> Creating a Collaborative Industry skills network in Mid Ulster, - <b>(2)</b> Enhancing the image and attractiveness of the sector in order to create a skills pipeline, - <b>(3)</b> Re-aligning educational programmes and training courses to meet industry/business needs, <b>(4)</b> Reskilling / upskilling to meet the future requirements of Industry.</p> <p>A key objective and management structure of the network will be to build linkages and developing collateral with key stakeholders including the Council, DfE, DfC, Manufacturing NI, Sentinus, MATRIX, STEM, Get Engineering, WISE, BITC and local schools, FE and HE education. Appendix 1</p>

### **Project Outputs**

1. Recruit 15 Ambassadors during the lifetime of the project to undertake 2 school visits per annum.
2. Develop a series of 4 practical seminars/workshops delivered by experts to help businesses prepare for Industry.
3. Recruit 20 SME's to the Network and engage an additional 50 SME's who will receive information and advice from the network.
4. Promote and encourage 150 appropriate and relevant Apprenticeships / traineeships to meet skills shortages.
5. Deliver 5 promotional and recruitment campaigns over the lifetime of the programme.
6. Increase the pipeline of people equipped and ready to work in the sector.
7. Reduce labour turnover in employers (Baseline information to be collated within 3 months of project start to revise targets)
8. Reduce by 40% the companies who record difficulty in recruiting staff.

### **Funding Breakdown**

This will involve the appointment of a Project Facilitator, marketing and promotion costs and specialist consultancy e.g. legal, marketing and ICT.

PROPOSED FUNDING PACKAGE 2018-21	£	%
Invest NI	£166,000.00	81.6%
<b>Mid Ulster District Council (gap funding requested)</b>	<b>£37,500.00</b>	<b>18.4%</b>
Total Proposed Funding Package	£203,500.00	100%

### **3.2 Irish Central Border Area Network**

ICBAN's have submitted their report on work completed during the period April – December 2018, and approval is requested to release the second (and final) 50% instalment of the contribution. A Final Report will be submitted for the year in April 2019. Appendix 2.

### **3.3 Broadband - £150m Confidence & Supply Funding**

The work being undertaken as a result of the £150m Confidence and Supply Agreement will be known as "Project Stratum". In total up to £200m of funding could be made available through match funding.

Following a recent meeting with DfE Telecoms team they announced that the focus will be on maximising Fibre and not Fibre To The Cabinet. This is quite a significant move which will future proof broadband access.

In recent days DfE have undertaken a regional awareness campaign to ensure that as many premises as possible are identified in an "Intervention Area" which lists post codes with less than 30Mbit/s.

It is critical that anyone who has broadband in their premises go to DfE website and view 3 lists of postcodes and check if they are on the "Intervention Area" list and if not they notify DfE. This is a 6 week Public Consultation period running through December 2018 and into January 2019.

All Councils have been asked to make available hard copies of the postcodes MUDC has done this in our 3 main Council offices where people with no access to broadband can come in and see the lists. They are also making the lists available in local libraries.

MUDC have publicised this information on their social media channels and websites. Local radio have also been cover this.

The intervention area is a list of all those premises in Northern Ireland who cannot yet get access to download speeds of at least 30Mbps. Appendix 3A, 3B & 3C.

3.4 **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars**

These were attended by 125 people in total, and feedback from delegates was extremely positive. An overview of the three Seminars, and their respective Workshops, is provided at Appendix 4.

3.5 **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018**

Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) represents the percentage of the population aged 18-64 who are either in the process of starting a business or new entrepreneurs (running a business not older than 42 months). In addition to activity, the GEM collects data from (1) the non-entrepreneurial population on self-perceptions about entrepreneurship (opportunities and intentions) and from (2) the entrepreneurial population about their motivations and growth aspirations. Entrepreneurial activity varies considerably between the council areas within NI and within a number of areas such as age, gender etc. Based on average TEA rates recorded over 2003-2017, the highest rate of entrepreneurial activity was in Mid Ulster (6.8%). Appendix 5.

3.6 **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List**

To receive Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List (**Appendix 6**)

3.7 **Cookstown Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 5 September 2018 are attached at (**Appendix 7**).

3.8 **Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 18 June 2018 are attached at (**Appendix 8**).

3.9 **Maghera Town Centre Forum**

Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 8 August 2018 are attached at (**Appendix 9**).

3.10 **Village Renewal Project**

A number of Village projects are currently being delivered as outlined below -

Ballygawley – Works completed

Playparks – Caledon, Granville, Augher and Tobermore – Works completed.

Upperlands –Works completed on MUGA. An application has been submitted to the LAG for Playpark element at the Community Centre.

Maghera – Walkway from Walled Garden to Tobermore Road. Application has been submitted to the LAG.

Newmills (Car Park upgrade), Castlecaulfield (conservation area and additional play equipment), Benburb (Car Park at recreational fields) & Gulladuff (EI Scheme at Bus Shelter) – works have been completed.

Ardboe – A letter of Offer has been received and works have commenced for development at the Community Building with the provision of a new lift.

	<p>Clady/Glenone (play equipment), Swatragh (play equipment), Killyman (play equipment), The Loup (Informal Play area) and Ballynakelly (play equipment) – Letter of Offer received.</p> <p>Fivemiletown – Market Yard and Playpark upgrade – Application has been submitted to the LAG and a Letter of Offer has been received.</p> <p>The next schedule of Villages includes Pomeroy, Ballyronan, Ballinderry &amp; Ballylifford, Clogher, Desertmartin &amp; Longfield, Broughderg and Galbally.</p> <p>Legal agreements are being processed through the legal team. ED staff are currently compiling all the leases and completing the application forms and business cases to be submitted to the LAG.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Coalisland Public Realm</b> A preferred option has been identified with work ongoing with all key stakeholders including utilities. The Economic Appraisal has been submitted to the Dept. for Communities economist and the planning application has been formally submitted. ITT documents have been issued.</p>
3.12	<p><b>Retail NI</b> Recently Retail NI has launched a 47point plan to revamp Northern Ireland’s high streets. The main thrust of the plan is regeneration and how to create towns fit for modern day purposes. Retail NI request to meet members to present their proposals for Town Centres.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b> Caledon Regeneration Partnership has prepared a submission to The Architectural Heritage Fund for a possible Project Viability Grant for the former Woolstore in Caledon which has been identified as a pilot scheme by The Architectural Heritage Fund and DAERA in Caledon. If successful, the Fund will provide 50% of £7,500.00.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing Sector.</b> The financial commitment sought is £15,000 per annum (total; £37,500) for the 30 month period 2018-2021 (from Council’s LED Budget).</p>
	<p>Human: Officer time.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p><b>Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme – Mid Ulster Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing Sector.</b> That Members approve a match funding request of £37,500 for the period 2018-21.</p>
5.2	<p><b>Irish Central Border Area Network</b> Members to approve release of 2<sup>nd</sup> (and final) 50% payment of £6,250 for 2018/19 to ICBAN.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Broadband - £150m Confidence &amp; Supply Funding</b> Members to note progress</p>
5.4	<p><b>Mid Ulster Digital Seminars</b> Members to note Report on Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018.</p>
5.5	<p><b>Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018</b> Members to note GEM Report 2018.</p>
5.6	<p><b>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List</b> Members to note Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List</p>
5.7	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum</b> Members to note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum</p>
5.8	<p><b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</b> Members to note minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</p>
5.9	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Forum</b> Members to note minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum</p>
5.10	<p><b>Village Renewal Project</b> Members to note progress</p>
5.11	<p><b>Coalisland Public Realm</b> Members to note progress</p>
5.12	<p><b>Retail NI</b> Members to agree to request from Retail NI to meet members to present their proposals for Town Centres.</p>
5.13	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b> Members to receive presentation by Caledon Regeneration Partnership</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme: Mid Ulster Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Skills Project Objectives</p>
6.2	<p><b>Appendix 2</b> – ICBAN Report (April – December 2018)</p>
6.3	<p><b>Appendix 3</b> - Broadband - £150m Confidence &amp; Supply Funding Code checkers: 3A - White Area</p>

3B - Grey Area  
3C - Black Area

- 6.4 **Appendix 4** – Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report
- 6.5 **Appendix 5** – Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report 2018
- 6.6 **Appendix 6** – Evaluation Report: - Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme- Reserve List
- 6.7 **Appendix 7** – Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting 5 Sept 2018
- 6.8 **Appendix 8** - Magherafelt Town Centre Forum  
Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 18 June 2018
- 6.9 **Appendix 9** - Maghera Town Centre Forum  
Minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 8 August 2018
- 6.10 **Appendix 10** – Caledon Woolstore application