

## Appendix 1- Summary of 22/23 projects and potential projects for 23/24

Projects proposed for delivery in 22/23
Castlecaufield Recreation Area
Castledawson (Riverside)
Manor Park, Moneymore
Coalisland Canal
Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown
Clogher walking trails
Bellaghy walking trail
Drumcairne Forest
Altmore Forest
Clady recreation area
Kildress Community Breathing Space walking trail
Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)
Bush - Dungannon road realignment
Bellaghy outdoor recreational facility
Benburb Recreation Area
Draperstown - Plantin and Fairhill Phase II public realm
Dungannon - Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough to link Railway Park
Dunmoyle Forest
Fivemiletown (King George V) - 3G facility with floodlights
Glenone trim trail and a green space area,
Lower Bann Green/Blue way -
Maghera Development of Lands at Mullagh
Moy 3G Project,
Roundlake to improve path network around the lake
Tullyhogue to Tullyhogue Fort/Loughrey College/MUSA - community trail linking the sites

## APPENDIX 2



Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council

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Our ref: CO1-21-23485

(By e-mail) [Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org)

20 January 2022

Dear Adrian

### COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Thank you for submitting a draft Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for the Mid Ulster District Council.

The Strategic Oversight Group has reviewed your draft Plan and has identified a number of areas where the plan requires further refinement. These are set out below and your DfC regeneration contact will be in touch with you shortly to discuss how these issues can be addressed.

#### Projects Requiring Further Refinement or Clarification

The following proposed interventions require further clarity to determine how they will deliver value for money and fit with the outcomes of the Programme.

Castlecaulfield	Clarification required on geographical location. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the objectives of the Programme.
Castledawson	Clarification required on geographical location. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the objectives of the Programme.

Moneymore	Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the DfC/DAERA objectives of the Programme.
Coalisland	Further detail required. As the population of the town is greater than 4,999 it is ineligible for DfC/DAERA funding under this Programme. To be eligible for DfI funding, it would need to demonstrate how it connects to other towns/villages in the area.
Bellaghy	Clarification required on geographical location, as project appears to be ineligible. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the DfC/DAERA objectives of the Programme. Further detail required on how the proposal connects to towns/villages to demonstrate alignment with DfI objectives.
Clady	Further detail required on alignment with the objectives of the programme. DfI suggested project should consider reducing parking via the alternative use of parking spaces.

In general, the Strategic Oversight Group felt that the plan needs to set out a stronger strategic vision for the economic regeneration of these towns. Projects are predominantly of a recreational nature, and do not show noticeable improvements to the areas from a regeneration perspective.

### **Projects not aligned to Programme Outcomes**

The following proposed projects do not align sufficiently with Programme objectives and are, therefore, ineligible for funding.

Fivemiletown	Geographical Location
Stewartstown Drumcairne Forest,	Geographical location.
Cappagh Altmore Forest,	Geographical location.
Kildress	Geographical location – Kildress a hamlet only (not deemed a small settlement and no population stats available)

### Revised Budget Allocations and Plan Costings

I am pleased to advise that some additional funding has been secured for the CRSSRP which increases the indicative financial allocation for your Council. Your revised indicative financial allocation is now broken down as follows:

Capital Allocation				Revenue Allocation			
DfC	DAERA	DfI	Capital Total	DfC	DAERA	Total Revenue	Overall Total
810,000	1,050,000	730,000	2,590,000	115,000	76,000	191,000	2,781,000

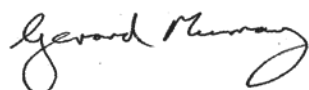
Please update your plan in line with this revised budget. The costings section of your plan should provide exact amounts of how each Departments' capital budgets have been allocated and a breakdown of how the resource budget has been allocated. Please also ensure that it sets out how the Council's contribution is to be allocated. The total Departmental allocation should be 90% of the plan costs with council contribution being 10%.

It is important that a Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for your Council area is agreed as soon as possible so that a letter of offer can issue and rollout of the programme can commence. **I should be grateful, therefore, if your revised plan could be submitted to the Department by 31 January.**

The next step will be for you to liaise with colleagues from the appropriate policy areas within DfC, DAERA and DfI to consider how your plan can be refined to best fit the Programme. I would add that support and advice is available from the Ministerial Advisory Group, DfC's Historic Environment Division and other policy expert functions as required and your departmental point of contact can provide contact details.

Thanks again to you and your teams for the excellent collaboration on the development and delivery of this much needed investment programme.

Yours sincerely



**Gerard Murray**

Director, Regional Development Office



4 February 2022

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By Email: Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk

Dear Gerard

I refer to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> January providing feedback on Councils submission under the COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. We are extremely disappointed that you deemed four of the projects included within our draft regeneration plan as being ineligible due to geographical location. Our guiding principle in the selection of these projects is that of addressing local need. All of the projects included within our Regeneration Plan have full support of the local communities they will serve and the elected representatives of each respective area.

In relation to the general view of the Strategic Oversight Group that the projects within the plan do not show noticeable improvement from a regeneration perspective I would note the following:

- Firstly, our Council would contest this view on the basis that each project within the draft plan can clearly demonstrate physical, social and economic regeneration benefits which combine to bring about a positive change for each settlement that is in keeping with the overall aims of the programme.
- Secondly, the regeneration potential of the projects selected has been fully recognised by the communities they will benefit. Supporting letters from key stakeholders have been received which provides a clear endorsement for their inclusion.
- Thirdly, the concept of village renewal is more than physical regeneration strictly limited to within village boundaries. Opportunities to develop key local assets which lie marginally outside development limits should not be excluded if there is a clear positive regeneration impact for the local community. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is our villages and the communities they serve that make up the fabric of rural areas.

Under the 2014-2020 LEADER RDP in Mid Ulster there are numerous examples of village renewal funded projects located outside settlement limits due to their inclusion within village plans. These were identified as priority projects by the local community such as those completed in Broughderg community centre, Ballinderry GFC grounds, Killeeshil, Moortown

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GFC grounds and Desertmartin GFC grounds. Of most note is the re-development of Round Lake in Fivemiletown, completed as a strategic scale project at a cost of £1m which has transformed this site and draws in visitors from across the district generating an economic spin off for businesses within the village itself.

We have therefore presented a strong case within the revised submission which clearly demonstrates the regeneration potential of all selected projects and the benefits they will bring locally.

Coalisland Canal is one of a number of key strategic regeneration projects within Council and has full support of all elected representatives of Mid Ulster. In the region of 22,000 users walk the tow path annually, a clear indication of its popularity and importance as a local recreational asset for the entire community of the area. Preserving the rich industrial heritage associated with the Canal, which is a major draw for those who use it, is something this Council and the many local groups who share a passion for the Canal are striving for. This project represents a unique opportunity to realise the full potential of this valuable local asset.

In relation to the projects deemed ineligible due to geographical location, Altmore and Drumcairne Forest projects both have overwhelming local support evidenced through feedback from local consultations carried out during the preparation of scoping studies for each site. As a Council we cannot ignore the voice of the local community nor that of elected members. Both projects have significant regeneration potential and fit well within the spirit of the small settlements regeneration scheme. On this basis we urge the Oversight Committee to reconsider its decision as both these projects will result in a seismic regeneration benefit to their respective villages.

The project identified for Clogher Valley Rugby Club in Fivemiletown has also been deemed ineligible by the Strategic Oversight Group based on geographical location. Rural communities by nature are dispersed and more often than not sports clubs, be they rugby, Gaelic or soccer are not located inside village boundaries. This in no way detracts from their importance within the community and they are integral to village life through association. Again, this project can evidence widespread cross community support purely on the basis of the good it will do and the benefits it will generate. The fact that it lies less than half a mile beyond the settlement limit has no bearing on the regeneration impact it can achieve for the local community and village.

The Kildress Community Breathing Space project is located within the settlement of Gortacladdy, which is officially listed on NISRA. I note within the guidance notes for this programme that settlements with under 1000 residents are not precluded. This project will serve a catchment of 2,500 residents from the surrounding rural area. The same residents live within the sixth most deprived part of Northern Ireland in term of access to services and this stark fact alone is justification for this project and fully supports the value for money argument.

It is important that the Strategic Oversight Group takes cognisance of these critical points and reconsiders its decision on these four projects. It is equally important that across the three Departments there is a recognition that village renewal and regeneration in rural areas is about maximising benefit for the communities they service. There must be flexibility within

Departmental policy objectives to accommodate projects which have clear regeneration potential based on local need.

As always we welcome the funding which has been allocated to Mid Ulster District Council by all three Departments and we look forward to working in continued partnership to deliver projects which can maximise the benefits for funding for our communities. I trust our revised regeneration plan provides the clarification needed to progress all projects included. If it does not, we will be issuing a request to all three Departments to attend a special Council meeting to present the decisions of the Oversight Group directly to our members for further feedback and discussion.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul McLean', is positioned above the printed name.

Cllr Paul McLean  
Chair

CC:  
Minister Deirdre Hargey - DfC  
Minister Edwin Poots – DAERA  
Minister Nichola Mallon - DfI



## DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES COVID-19 RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

### COVID-19 RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PLAN

Please complete this template and return to [ryan.o'neill@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.o'neill@communities-ni.gov.uk) no later than noon on 21 DECEMBER 2021

*The form should be completed electronically*

Please note that information provided may be made available to other departments, agencies or funding bodies for the purposes of preventing or detecting fraud.

The completed template may also be subject to requests for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

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#### 1. CONTACT DETAILS

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Project Officer/Lead    Fiona McKeown  
Contact

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## 2. DELIVERY OF YOUR COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PLAN

*Please identify the individual projects within your regeneration plan, together with information on the nature of the funding (capital or revenue) and how it will be delivered (grant scheme/direct procurement/framework etc). Information on your proposed approach to procurement should also be included, together with proposals for the retention or disposal of assets procured under the fund.*

*You should also indicate how the plan meets the 7 objectives of the fund as set out in Annex A to this document, and also how it will contribute to the delivery of Outcome 10 of the Programme for Government ("We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.").*

The projects detailed in this Plan have emanated directly from the communities they are intended to benefit. They have been informed by extensive local engagement across the District during the Village Planning process and public consultation exercises carried out during the preparation of our strategies for local economic development, outdoor recreation and tourism.

The projects included below will be designed to meet local needs and achieve maximum impact when delivered. We will utilise Council owned property where possible to ensure delivery within timescale and continue to work in partnership with Forest Service NI to further develop our forests as a source of outdoor recreation – as expressly desired by the community.

The projects listed below are proposed for delivery in 22/23.

In tandem with delivery of 22/23 listed projects, there will be significant time and resource invested by Council to develop further projects to a state of readiness in preparation for delivery in 23/24 (see potential options at Appendix 1). Further commitment from DfC/DAERA and DfI will be needed to provide funding for 23/24 therefore we will continue discussions with all three Departments in this regard.

The development of the projects listed below fulfils the aims and agendas of several government departments, agencies and strategic organisations. Mid Ulster District Council has taken care to ensure that the proposed developments aligns with these policies and strategies at a regional and local level. The following policies are identified as having the most strategic relevance

Theme	Policy / Strategy
Overarching Strategies	Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 (NI Executive, 2016) Regional Development Strategy 2035: Building a Better Future (DfRD 2010) Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 (MUDC, 2020) Our Community Plan: 10 year plan for Mid Ulster (MUDC, 2017) Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030, Draft Plan Strategy (MUDC, 2020)
Health & Well-Being	A Fitter Future for All: Preventing and Addressing Obesity 2012 – 2022 Health & Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together (DoH, 2016)
Economy & Tourism	Mid Ulster Economic Development Action Plan 2021/22 (MUDC, 2021) Our Plan to Develop Tourism in Mid Ulster to 2021 (MUDC, 2017)
Culture, Sport & Outdoor Recreation	Our Great Outdoors: The Outdoor Recreation Plan for NI (2014) A New Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for NI (DfC, Consultation Document, 2021) Sport NI Corporate Plan (Draft) 2020-2025 Outdoor Recreation Strategy (MUDC, 2021) Parks & Play Strategy (MUDC, 2021)



	MUDC Sports Strategy 2018 Pitch Strategy 2021/22 (draft)
Natural Environment & Heritage	Sustainability for the Future, DAERA's Plan to 2050 NIEA 'Our Passion, Our Place' Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022 Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for NI, 2006 The Volunteering Strategy for NI (DfC, 2011) Our Strategy 2021-2046 (NI Water, 2021) Recreation & Access Policy (NI Water, 2020)
Community Planning	Village Plans for Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Moneymore, Clogher, Bellaghy, Cappagh & Galbally, Stewartstown, Fivemiletown and Kildress / Gortacladdy.
<b>Individual Projects</b>  (All require <b>capital funding</b> delivered via public procurement.	<b>Which objective(s) are met (1-7), and how?</b> <i>(refer to Annex A attached for Objectives)</i>
<b>Castlecaulfield Recreation Area</b>	
<b>Castlecaulfield Recreation Area:</b> Upgrade to current pavilion, this would include a new extension to increase the sports hall usage numbers, upgrade to the existing kitchen & possible increase of kitchen size. Modernize the football changing block, which may require an extension. Develop a Trim Trail with low level lighting (710 metres), possible integration newly completed community river walk (options along river which may require land purchase or transfer/ public footpath on to Council site. This will encapsulate the children's teddy bear picnic walk and also look at developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds. The carpark will also need re-configured to increase car parking spaces and improvements to site lighting. Develop the grass area (old 2nd pitch e.g. additional car parking / pocket park (Council Property)	<b>Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities</li> <li>• Increased activities focused on children and young people</li> <li>• Aesthetics of the village area improved</li> </ul> <p>In relation to objective 5 – positive impact on sales, best endeavours will be made to test this objective however the focus of the project is on village infrastructure for local community use may not translate into any improvement in sales for local businesses.</p>
<b>Project location</b> Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2. Castlecaulfield is a village in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. It lies about 2 miles west of Dungannon and is part of the Mid Ulster District Council area.	
<b>Alignment with the objectives of the Programme</b> Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered is assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.	



### Physical regeneration

This project is located within the settlement development limit of Castlecaulfield at the village's recreational site owned by Council. This is approx. 300m's from the centre of the village.

The current facilities at the recreational site include:-

- Small Pavilion (small minor hall, meeting room/store, 2x changing room)
- Full size soccer pitch
- Teddy Bear Picnic Trail
- Small carpark
- Play Park ( 9 stations)
- Small floodlight "3G" training pitch (community group maintained/run)
- Obsolete training pitch (under the Pitch Strategy, is now a green space)

It is the only recreational site for the local population which is extensively used on a year round basis e.g. local football clubs, Horticultural Society, local Community Associations and residents.

The limited floor space within the pavilion hinders the range of activities it can accommodate which impacts on current and potential user groups. Externally, there is significant potential to enhance the site through the installation of trim trails and linkages to existing walking trails.

There is a strong sense of community within the village exemplified through achievements such as winning the gold Champion of Champions award in the **Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom** contest in 2019 which was hailed as a victory for the whole community. The project proposed for the recreation site will lead to further regeneration within the village for the benefit residents within both the village itself and its outlying hinterland. It will build on the current status of the village, add to other facets of village life such as its rich local history (Castlecaulfield Castle) and walking links to Parkanaur Forest, thus generating potential to attract visitors to the village.

This project will facilitate physical regeneration within the village through

- Pavilion Extension/ Upgrade
- 750m Trim Trail with low level lighting, with links to the current "Teddy Bears Picnic" walk
- Small allotment area/ developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds
- Trim Trail linkage to Torrent River walk (to be investigated)
- Upgrade of existing carpark (possibly undertaken by Council contribution)
- Pocket Park, for social interaction.
- Improve linkages and walking cycling routes within the village to other key sites, namely Caulfield Castle and Parkanaur Forest

Physical regeneration will also generate social and economic regeneration benefits within the village and surrounding hinterland.

### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved by:

- Provision of a Trim trail with lighting to encourage more active lifestyles, in a safe environment to aid the health and wellbeing of all users.
- Improvements to the size and standard of pavilion to provide a greater offering for a wider range of users in terms of the activities it will accommodate not only for residents in Castlecaulfield but for the wider hinterland and neighbouring settlements;
- maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy



- Providing a natural hub and a meeting point within the village **for all ages**. This can be further enhanced with heritage walking routes linking the site to the village, castle ruins, and the Parkanaur with a particular emphasis on rambling groups as the end user;
- Providing local access to a high quality recreational facility (indoor/outdoor) for residents of the village and outlying areas.

### Economic regeneration

Castlecaulfield Village has strong cross-community groups dedicated to the physical, social and economic wellbeing of the village and its surrounding area. All of the villages Community Associations work to make Castlecaulfield a better place to live, work and visit.

Economic regeneration will be achieved by :-

- increased footfall resulting from the appeal of much improved local recreational facilities and associated spin off benefits to local shops/ cafes / restaurants within the village;
- Council's Outdoor Cluster & Tourism Development Group (restaurants, accommodation, outdoor recreation providers) encouraging local businesses to capitalise on the increased footfall attracted by the enhanced facilities;
- Castlecaulfields Community Groups capitalising on opportunities to work with cycling groups/teams, who are using the village as a main arterial route/ stop before heading to the Sperrins and further afield e.g. working with the Cycle NI initiatives and local businesses to encourage use of the village and the recreation site as a "pitstop"
- The opportunity to develop "Community Café" at the refurbished facility, identified by the Community Group

### **Value for money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 25%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. Planned works including trim trail development and upgrade of the pavilion will facilitate a wider range of end users by offering a wider range of indoor sports and local community events e.g. concerts/play, horticultural competitions;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. Areas such as the pocket park are designed as informal meeting spaces to encourage social interaction across all age ranges for those who wouldn't normally use recreation / leisure centres. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.



- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example improvements to the pavilion and better access to outdoor spaces. Reference has already been made to strong sense of local community within the village.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term. Prior to Covid, the Village Plan indicated Castlecaulfield was entering a period of significant growth, primarily due to its proximity to the recently upgraded A4 with easy access for workers commuting to nearby towns and of course Belfast. This is evident from the recent surge of private dwellings.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population this is recorded as 2980 for 2020 for the Castlecaulfield ward which a further demonstration of value for money. Within this population are local groups such as the horticultural society, football clubs and primary schools all of which gain benefit from the site at present.

### **Castledawson (Riverside)**

**Castledawson (Riverside):** develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch, low level lighting, a pocket park area, designated natural area, and remedial works to carpark. Possible extension of current allotment provision to include meeting place/shed. Integration into new site with the current play park leaving a grass space area for locals to enjoy.(Council Property)

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### **Project location**

Project location is within the village as shown on map at Appendix 2.

### **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

#### Physical regeneration

Physical regeneration will involve:

- develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch,
- low level lighting, a pocket park area,
- designated natural area, and
- remedial works to carpark.





### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village;
- Adding value to the site – i.e trim trail and lighting to make the facility more appealing for **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages**.

### Economic Regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

### **Value for Money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 30%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups – the installation of lighting at the site opens up the potential for year round use.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

**Local population**

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population which Castledawson sits in, the population is recorded at 3522 which is a further demonstration of value for money.

## Manor Park, Moneymore

**Manor Park, Moneymore –**

Manor Park is a haven for health and wellbeing in the heart of Moneymore. The 2 hectare site is a well-used and valued local asset to the Moneymore Community. Plans to revitalise the site and provide the much needed community links include:

- Signage and interpretation
- Key safe linkages from Manor Park to Moneymore Recreation Centre and play park, Springhill Wood and the local housing areas
- Resurface & installation of low-level lighting on the path network to ensure it accessible for all and can be accessed safely throughout the year.
- Installation of lighting within the carpark area providing year round safe usage of the site
- Creation of an accessible picnic area
- Installation of low-level fencing alongside the River
- Redevelop the existing maze to ensure that it is accessible for all
- Art works to depict the heritage of the area
- Sluice and weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting. Whilst this is not part of funding Council will make a commitment to develop this as part of the overall scheme.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved
- Safer access to local amenities
- Provide an environment that is inclusive and that will aid the health and well-being of all who visit it
- Provide opportunities for increased opportunities for social engagement and interaction with the aim of reducing social isolation
- Help to enhance the economic sustainability of the local area

**Project location**

Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2.

Manor Park is in the centre of village and covers an areas of approx 2 hectares.

The current facility at the site includes a circular walkway alongside the Ballymully River and pond, car parking for approx 8 cars, open grass areas, maze, picnic tables and bench seating.

**Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

**Physical Regeneration**

Physical regeneration at the site will involve:

- Signage and interpretation;
- Key safe linkages from Manor Park to Moneymore Recreation Centre and play park, Springhill Wood and the local housing areas;
- Resurface & installation of low-level lighting on the path network to improve accessibility and safety for all users throughout the year;



- Installation of lighting within the carpark area providing year round safe usage of the site;
- Creation of an accessible picnic area;
- Installation of low-level fencing alongside the river bank;
- Redevelop the existing maze to ensure that it is accessible for all;
- Art works to depict the heritage of the area
- Sluice and weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting. Whilst this is not part of funding Council will make a commitment to develop this as part of the overall scheme.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village;
- Adding value to the site – i.e. an accessible picnic area and reimagining the maze to make the facility more appealing for **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages**.
- Linking key sites within Moneymore to provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling between these sites.

### Economic Regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

### **Value for Money**

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 26%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.





- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups – the installation of lighting at the site opens up the potential for year round use.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population Moneymore village converges on two electoral ward with a combined population of 5575 which is a further demonstration of value for money.

## Coalisland Canal

#### **Coalisland Canal –**

Is a 6.5km linear cycle/walking path providing access to an off-road walking / cycling trail for rural communities of Ballynakilly, Tamnamore, Clonoe and outlying rural areas  
The project involves:

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created creating to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

#### **Project location**

Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2.

#### **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

#### Physical Regeneration

Physical regeneration at the site will involve:

- Upgrade of the existing path network to create a tarred 6.5km shared path (walking/cycle) from Reenaderry Road to Coalisland.
- Improve 2 x road crossings at Moor Road and Gortonis Road for enhanced safety of all path users.

#### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:



- **Improved accessibility** – tarmac surfacing will improve accessibility for all abilities and address current section of the trail which are uneven.
- **Adding value to the site** – improving road crossing at Moor Road and Gortonis Road will to address safety concerns and make the overall walking experience more pleasurable and appealing to families;
- **Maximising the potential of the natural environment** to increase visitor access while protecting the environment which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy. The tow path follows the route of the canal through open countryside which provides a peaceful quiet environment for users.
- The canal reflects the rich **industrial heritage** of Coalisland and the surrounding rural area. This project has an important role to play in keeping alive the story of how the canal came into being and its influence on local rural heritage and culture.

### Economic Regeneration

- This project is an extension of an existing Active Travel project which will complete resurfacing works along the length of the tow path. Coalisland Canal is a key strategic regeneration project and has the full support of Council for its potential to attract people in the area who are interested in the unique industrial heritage associated with the tow path. In the region of 22,000 users walk the tow path annually therefore the improvements planned through this project will only help to ramp up current usage. Additional footfall will in turn bring added spend potential to the surrounding rural towns and villages such as Tamnamore, Ballynakelly and Clonoe which lie along the course of Canal.

### **Value for Money**

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will encourage residents from the surrounding rural communities to use the tow path for physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of three villages – Clonoe, Tamnamore and Ballinakelly. Ward level population for these areas total over 6400 based on NISRA



2020 mid-year estimates. It should be noted that this only reflects the two surrounding wards – the reality is that the canal attracts users from beyond these immediate boundaries.

### Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown

**Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown**, to assist the new multi-sport development project in the area

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved
- Safer access to local amenities

Clogher Valley Rugby Football Club is a cross community club registered as a charitable organisation. The club is actively involved in cross community non sporting activities that promote the health and well-being of the Clogher Valley community.

Access to a fit for purpose community hub has been identified by the club as a long standing barrier to progressing its efforts to engage the local community in health and wellbeing activities. The club has consulted with the local community and local elected representatives to secure support to progress a new build community hub project based on the benefits it will bring to the area.

The community hub will be built at the Clubs grounds which are located less than 0.5miles from the edge of the Fivemiletown settlement limit.

The basis for its inclusion within the Regeneration Plan is set out below:

- The regeneration potential for the whole of the Clogher Valley community. Its location outside the village settlement limit does not detract from this potential as the primary focus of the project is on building social capital within the community.
- One of the key aim of this programme is to deliver improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area. The physical investment in community infrastructure will achieve this benefit.
- The focus of the project is to act as a hub for local interest groups, providing them with the facilities they need to peruse their own specific goals. A wide range of interest have been received including mother and toddler, senior citizens, adult health and fitness, Sure Start, dance etc. These are typical of the types of activities that will engage the local community and help with issues such as isolation, exclusion and loneliness.

### Value for money

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new community infrastructure for communities across the Clogher Valley – which accounts for over 4500 people;



- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the FMT is located in the **top 35%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This project will work towards improving access to local services in the form of a community hub;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. Consultation carried out by the club has identified a wide range of activities which would be hosted from the hub targeting all age groups.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities which will build relationships and strengthen a local sense of community.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population this is recorded as 4672 for 2020 both the Fivemiletown and Clogher wards which a further demonstration of value for money.

### Clogher

**Clogher:** – Ballymagowan Road and Station Road - Creating a cycling and walking path from Ballymagowan Road to Station Road to create a 2km circular cycling & walking route for the Clogher residents.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

### Bellaghy

#### **Bellaghy:**

Creation of a new walking and cycling path linking the GAC on Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood thereby increasing the opportunities for outdoor recreation by linking two outdoor recreational facilities.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created creating to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

#### **Location**



Long Point Wood is approx 1.6km from the village of Bellaghy. The wood sits on the shoreline of Lough Beg and is a very peaceful, tranquil place. The wood and connecting walkway attract approx 13,000 users per year (2021/22 user data projections). A map of the project location and proposed walking / cycle trail is shown on Appendix 2. This is phase 1 of a two phase project that will connect Long Point Wood to Bellaghy village.

The site is busy with families driving the short distance out of the village along a narrow country road. Last year there was over 83,000 visitors. It is envisaged that by connecting this asset to another recreational facility (GAA grounds) will encourage more people to walk and cycle to the site. This connectivity will provide a quality walking route for all from the village. It is envisaged that the path will encourage more users to visit the site thus increasing social engagement amongst the users. This section of walkway is highlighted on the map. DfC Active Travel funding has been used to develop design concepts for this trail.

Access to green space has been recognised across the world to be very important for people's health and especially mental wellbeing. Helping people to be active outdoors in groups or as individuals has proven potential to deliver on the issues associated with social exclusion, rural and urban deprivation and community cohesion. Other evidence – residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic.

## **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

### **Physical regeneration**

Physical regeneration at the site will involve in phase 1:

- Creation of a cycle/walking path approx 660 m in length – from the GAA training grounds at Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood. As this is a narrow country road it is intended that this will be an off-road path, running alongside the road but on the inside of the hedgerow.

The physical regeneration has taken account of the consultation as part of the Village Plan for Bellaghy. The development of the walkway will continue to seek input and buy-in from local residents and the wider Bellaghy Community. As it is this community that will benefit directly from the development of this area. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

### **Social regeneration**

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- Improved local access to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage residents to visit the village more regularly and provide safe access for residents
- The site development will provide an environment that is inclusive and that will aid the health and well-being of all who visit it
- The site development will link key sites within Bellaghy and provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling between these sites.
- An enhanced facility will provide more opportunities for social engagement and interaction with the aim of reducing social isolation



- Within the Village Plan there are aspirations to further enhance the heritage and wetlands of Bellaghy. As part of the pathways there are opportunities for walking tours around the village to emphasise these assets.

### Economic regeneration

Economic regeneration will be achieved by:

- It is anticipated that the increased footfall resulting from the appeal of much improved local facilities and associated spin off benefits to local shops/ cafes / restaurants within the village.
- Council will engage with the business community in the Bellaghy area through the Council's Outdoor Cluster & Tourism Development Group (restaurants, accommodation, outdoor recreation providers) to help them engage with site users riders & develop their business to cater for their needs.
- It is anticipated that the enhancements will help to provide more visitors thus resulting in a more economically prosperous community enabling a positive impact on poverty and social isolation

### **Value for money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- There will be improved outdoor recreation opportunities through development of an off-road path network linking two outdoor recreational resources thereby providing the community with better access to quality green space.
- These additional outdoor provisions will expand current visitor groups, and have the potential to offer exciting new activities to those individuals who wouldn't ordinarily use recreation /leisure centres.
- It is anticipated that this type of outdoor environment will help visitors meet new people, develop relationships and improve self-esteem. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- The enhanced trails will encourage more users to visit the site thus increasing social engagement amongst the users.
- The site enhancement would further provide the opportunity for groups/meeting places/events thus helping to reduce social isolation and enhance community cohesion.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population for Bellaghy has is recorded as having a population of 2810 which is a further demonstration of value for money.





## Drumcairne Forest and Altmore Forest

**Drumcairne Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**And:**

**Objectives 1,2,3, 4 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity for surrounding villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Sustainable use of existing natural assets for encouraging more active and healthy lifestyles

**Altmore Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

MUDC does not accept that the proposed projects detailed for Drumcairne Forest and Altmore Forest do not align with key objective of the programme noted within the guidance notes of “creating vital and vibrant towns that meet the needs of the local citizens”

The inclusion of these projects within the Regeneration Plan is based on the following:

- Both were clearly identified within local village plans as opportunity sites for opening up new recreational opportunities
- Further consultation carried out during independently scoping studies prepared for both sites in July 2021 have substantiated the express desire of both local communities to move forward with forest based projects on the basis that they provide the best opportunity for local regeneration using local assets.
- Both projects will generate opportunities for local economic regeneration as they will attract visitors from across the district to both settlements. The opportunity here is to capitalise on the growing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities as more people seek to utilise local natural resources such as forests.

The scoping studies prepared for each site have provided a good insight on the potential social and economic regeneration benefits of both projects which include:

- Kick starting the regeneration of both settlements through investment in quality outdoor activities and experiences;
- Improving the health (both physical and mental) and wellbeing (including social inclusion) of local people and visitors by providing opportunities for people to engage in physical activity and to have better access to green spaces.



- Long term economic growth for both settlements through the development of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities which will attract visitors to the area;
- Social Return on Investment – estimated at £10 for every £1 invested which equates to £10.4m for Drumcaine and £11m for Altmore over a 25 year period (based on a case study of Darkley Forest Community Trail in Armagh by ORNI)
- Addressing deprivation – access to services deprivation is particularly stark in Altmore which is within the top 7% in NI. Stewartstown falls within the top 20%.

Community surveys carried out as part of the scoping studies returned overwhelming support for both projects with 84% of the 704 responses receive for Drumcaine and 92% of the 488 responses for Altmore citing the development of both forest as “very important” for the local community.

There is therefore a clear contribution to be made from these projects to the overall regeneration of both villages. Limiting regeneration activity to within the settlement limits of these villages would be at odds with the wishes of the community and would be counterintuitive given the potential social, economic and environmental benefits to be gained from both.

## Clady

**Clady:** Extend existing play to create a public pocket park. Provide additional parking.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### Location

The project is located within the village but on the boundary of the settlement limit -as shown on the map for Clady at Appendix 2.

### Alignment with objectives of the Programme

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

The current facility at the site includes a small playpark adjacent to a playing field and open green space.

### Physical regeneration

The space available at this site offers the opportunity for regeneration by extending the existing play park to create a public pocket park. The pocket park concept seeks to utilise existing green space in order to encourage more people to use the outdoors in addition to users of the play park alone.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.





### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to outdoor recreation which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village and outlying hinterland;
- **Increased satisfaction** from residents with the quality of open green space available locally
- Adding value to the site – promoting the space to **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages** to encourage locals to meet and engage with one another;

### Economic regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

## **Value for Money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 17%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across all abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will open up opportunities for resident to meet and engage with one another as well as encourage use of the facility for community led events.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the 2020 ward level population (Valley) Clady is recorded as having a population of 2738 which is a further demonstration of value for money.



## Kildress Community Breathing Space

**Kildress Community Breathing Space** - A flat, slope-free lighted loop walkway, outdoor open air community activity spaces, fit-for-purpose public realm.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### Geographical location

This project is located within the settlement limit of Gortacladdy, which is a recognised settlement listed within NISRA settlement classification (see location map at Appendix 2). There is no official population figures listed for Gortacladdy due to the statistical methodology used (settlements with less than 20 households are aggregated).

The absence of official population statistics is not considered relevant as this project is focused on the regeneration of the rural area it will service which hosts 2500 rural dwellers **who live in the worst quartile of Northern Irelands most deprived communities.**

### Alignment with objectives of the Programme

#### Physical regeneration

This project is located within the settlement development limit of Gortacladdy (See map at Appendix 2).

The site of the project is within the grounds of Kildress Wolfe Tones GFC. Current facilities include two playing fields and a recently developed £1.45m community hub which acts as the focal point for community activity providing sporting, recreational, well-being and statutory outreach services for the community. This is the main centre of footfall within the settlement.

Physical regeneration through this project will involve the development of a 750m slop free lighted looped walkway around the site.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

#### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- A safe high quality and fully accessible recreational facility for the residents of the surrounding rural area;
- Facilitating the growth of group activities such as walking / running club / mens shed/ physical activity for adults.
- Promoting opportunity for all abilities – surfacing will be wheel chair and buggy friendly
- Fostering community spirit and sense of belonging within a highly deprived area.



These benefits directly contribute to the stated programme aims of delivering *improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area* and *improvements that enhance walking, cycling and other associated facilities within the scheme area*.

### **Value for money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Fully accessible outdoor recreation infrastructure
- More opportunities for group activities and social cohesion
- Civic pride from the delivery of a further community asset within such a deprived rural area.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. The catchment to be served by this project contains 2500 residents which is a further demonstration of value for money for the level of investment planned.

### **APPROACH TO PROCUREMENT**

Procurement will be carried out in line with Councils procurement policy with contracts tendered via e-tendersni.

Due to delivery timescales it is considered that the use of a grant aid programme is not the best option for the implementation of this Plan. Council will utilise the services of an ICT to ensure the procurement process commences as soon as possible following receipt of a letter of offer to maximise time for contract delivery.

Council will liaise as required with CPD during the procurement phase.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERY OF PFG OBJECTIVE 10 –**

*(“We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.”)*

All of the projects listed in this Plan will help deliver Objective 10 the Programme for Government under the Priority Themes of:

#### **Sports, Arts and Culture:**

Providing access to sports, arts and culture and encouraging and facilitating opportunities for people to get involved. Promoting built heritage, eco-tourism and outdoor recreation. Providing spaces and facilities for sports, arts and culture events and activities to take place. (Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)

#### **Planning:**



Creating and shaping high quality, sustainable, places for people to live, work and spend leisure time. Furthering sustainable development and supporting positive place making and effective stewardship. (Department for Infrastructure, Department for Communities, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)

### 3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

*Please provide details of any stakeholder engagement that has been carried out (or is planned) for this plan. Include details of any working groups or similar fora that have been established or will be established to oversee delivery of your plan.*

Stakeholder engagement in identifying need for the projects listed above has been carried out through:

➤ **The Village Planning Framework** – this encapsulated three distinct phases

Phase 1- Survey and Analysis

- Undertake a detailed socio-economic analysis of the area to include population, age structure, health, education and economic activity and physical assets;

Phase 2- Research and key ideas

- Hold pre-consultation meetings with key members of the community to make connections and understand how each village works.
- Host consultation meeting for the wider public, to provide maps, photographs and presentations to enhance the consultation and to ensure ideas are gathered.
- Questionnaire to gain a further response from the public.
- Analysis of ideas and separate them into groups and priorities.

Phase 3- Village Design and Development

- Highlight key ideas and look at ways to implement these putting in place a robust and realistic integrated village action plan identifying what needs to be done, why it is an issue, how it will be tackled, who will be involved and timescale.
- Validate Plan with those involved.

➤ **Public consultation exercises carried out during the preparation of Council development Strategies including:**

- Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan 2015-2020 “Our Plan for Growth” which identified the enabling of town and village Regeneration as one of four key Themes and,
- Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy – which identified strong local community support for the development of recreational opportunities within forests due to the benefits this can bring to surrounding villages as a result of improved local access.
- Mid Ulster Council Pitches Strategy Development
- Mid Ulster Council Public Parks and Plan Five Year Strategy



- Masterplans for forest Development including Drumcairn, Altmore/Cappagh and Dunmoyle.

Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the design development phase for the projects included in this Regeneration Plan. This allows opportunity for bottom up input on design concepts as they emerge and creates a sense of local buy in needed to meet public expectations.

#### 4.NEED FOR INVESTMENT

*Please describe briefly each proposed project and explain why it is needed. Provide details of other bodies/groups supporting the need for each project and what evidence or metrics are available to demonstrate the need? (E.g. Business Surveys, Chamber of Trade/Commerce request, Shopper/Visitor surveys, Village Plans, research etc.)In particular, please list any baseline data the council has that would be relevant to the objectives of the Programme.*

#### EVIDENCE OF NEED

##### Village Planning Process

As stated in Section 3, the Village Planning process has provided the framework from which the projects listed have emerged. The case for change in each instance falls under the broad headings of:

- The opportunity to build vibrant and competitive villages;
- The opportunity to improve local recreational opportunities especially for young people;
- The opportunity to improve the natural and build heritage within rural villages and outlying areas;
- The opportunity for residents of the District to live longer, healthier and more active lifestyles.

##### Community Plan for Mid Ulster

The headings above resonate with the priority themes identified within the Community Plan for Mid Ulster and reflect the findings of the extensive consultation exercise carried out during its preparation.

The projects within this Regeneration Plan will therefore contribute to achieving the Community Plans Vision for Mid Ulster as ... *a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel.*

##### Council Corporate Plan

Addressing rurality is a Corporate commitment for this Council. Close to 70% of Mid Ulster's population live in a rural setting, a fact which has strongly influenced the Council's approach to service delivery, investment and long-term planning. The importance of addressing the needs of a



rural region, whether socially or economically, is undiminished and remains one of the Council's corporate commitments.

Theme 5 of the Corporate Plan is about our communities and places a deliberate focus on accessibility of opportunities to help residents lead more active lifestyles. Here the priorities are on opening up opportunities for outdoor recreation tailored to community need which will be facilitated through the delivery of this Plan.

## **Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy**

Linked to the Corporate Plan priorities for encouraging and facilitating active lifestyles, the Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy identified forest development as one of the strongest propositions for building the outdoor recreation offer across the district. Utilising local forests for recreation has emerged time and time again within Village Plans which is evidence of local support for pursuing this course of action. This has helped to justify the inclusion of two forest based projects in this Regeneration Plan at Altmore and Drumcaine. In addition there is a strong value for money argument to be made for developing local assets which can be utilised by a number of surrounding villages which helps to maximise the impact of these interventions and the population served.

## **Project level deficiencies**

For each project, local level deficiencies have been identified within existing arrangements and the scope of each proposed project will be developed to address these deficiencies.

A brief description of each project is provided below:

### **Castlecaufield Recreation Area:**

Upgrade to current pavilion, this would include a new extension to increase the sports hall usage numbers, upgrade to the existing kitchen & possible increase of kitchen size. Modernize the football changing block, which may require an extension. Develop a Trim Trail with low level lighting (710 metres), possible integration newly completed community river walk (options along river which may require land purchase or transfer/ public footpath on to Council site. This will encapsulate the children's teddy bear picnic walk and also look at developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds. The carpark will also need re-configured to increase car parking spaces and improvements to site lighting. Develop the grass area (old 2nd pitch e.g. additional car parking / pocket park (Council Property)

### **Castledawson (Riverside):**

Develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch, low level lighting, a pocket park area, designated natural area, and remedial works to carpark. Possible extension of current allotment provision to include meeting place/shed. Integration into new site with the current play park leaving a grass space area for locals to enjoy.(Council Property)

### **Manor Park, Moneymore :**

Assess and remedy any flooding issues on the main Manor Park site, provide signage integrating Manor Park (provision of pedestrian crossing/ main road) for safe access to play park and trim trail at Recreation area (liaise with DfI re possibilities in this regard). Resurface path network, create accessible picnic area, sluice & weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting, redevelop maze, install bird beak fencing alongside river, low level lighting will ensure that the site can be safely used in dark evening, carpark lighting.

### **Coalisland Canal:**

Upgrade to creating a tarred 6.5km mile walking/cycle path from Reenaderry Road to Coalisland. Plan to improve 2 x road crossing, widening and resurfacing of path and associated furniture;



**Fivemiletown Rugby Club:**

To assist the new multi-sport development project in the area;

**Clogher:**

Ballymagowan Road and Station Road. Creating a cycling and walking path from Ballymagowan Road to Station Road to create a 2km circular cycling & walking route for the Clogher residents.

**Bellaghy:**

Creation of a new walking and cycling path linking the GAC on Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood thereby increasing the opportunities for outdoor recreation. Green Space: develop a trim trail/ low level lighting/ activity area, link the two local developments to a "green space area" & improve the knock about area (Council owned). Planters throughout village.

**Drumcainne Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**Altmore Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**Clady:**

Extend existing play to create a public pocket park. Provide additional parking

**Kildress Community Breathing Space:**

A flat, slope-free lighted loop walkway, outdoor open air community activity spaces, fit-for-purpose public realm.

**BASELINE DATA****Rural Population**

- 82 rural village settlements are listed in NISRA settlement population statistics for Mid Ulster with a usually resident population of over 37,000 (this reflects the population within the settlement limits only and not open countryside)
- 70% or approx. 100,000 of the Districts total population live in rural areas (areas outside of the main towns of Dungannon, Magherafelt, Cookstown and Coalisland)
- Mid Ulster has a vibrant rural area consisting of active communities, a strong entrepreneurial spirit which contributes to the overall employment base and rural villages with considerable character and heritage importance. This vibrant rural area needs to be supported and sustained if it is to remain as a vitally important part of our district.

**Deprivation**

At a district level, statistically MUDC has areas of deprivation. At an SOA level, two areas - Coalisland South (rank 92) and Pomeroy (rank 167) - are classified within the most deprived areas within NI. This does not mean deprivation is limited to those areas, or all of those areas are deprived. MUDC has a number of SOAs among the most deprived 25% - 30% in NI.



Access to services deprivation is particularly prevalent in Mid Ulster which reaffirms the case for investment in rural services and facilities. A summary of the top 10 wards by deprivation indicator is show below.







## 5. COSTS

Please provide details of the work to be carried out for each project in your plan. Estimates are acceptable at this stage.

Capital	Project costs	Funder contribution		
		DFI	DAERA / DFC	Council
Castlecaufield Recreation Area	£ 671,000	£ -	£ 603,900	£ 67,100
Castledawson (Riverside	£ 241,500		£ 217,350	£ 24,150
Manor Park, Money more	£ 269,000		£ 242,100	£ 26,900
Coalisland Canal	£ 551,112	£ 496,001	£ -	£ 55,111
Fivemiletown Rugby Club	£ 55,000		£ 49,500	£ 5,500
Clogher	£ 130,000	£ 117,000	£ -	£ 13,000
Bellaghy	£ 130,000	£ 117,000	£ -	£ 13,000
Drumcaine Forest	£ 308,000	£ -	£ 277,200	£ 30,800
Altmore Forest	£ 308,000	£ -	£ 277,200	£ 30,800
Clady	£ 131,666		£ 118,499	£ 13,167
Kildress	£ 82,500	£ -	£ 74,250.00	£ 8,250.00
	<b>£ 2,877,778</b>	<b>£ 730,001</b>	<b>£ 1,859,999</b>	<b>£ 287,778</b>
<b>Resource</b>				
Staff costs for delivery	£ 212,222	£ -	£ 191,000.00	£ 21,222.00
<b>Overall totals</b>	<b>£ 3,090,000</b>	<b>£ 730,001</b>	<b>£ 2,050,999</b>	<b>£ 309,000</b>

## 6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Please indicate how the proposed projects will be monitored during and after implementation. It is important to note that an Outcome Based Accountability Framework will be used to evaluate this Programme during and post-delivery to capture how much was done, how well was it done, and the difference it made.

### MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Monitoring arrangements will be based on the outcomes based accountability score card included within the guidance notes. The indicator and method of measurement to be used are included below.

Outcome	Indicator / method of measurement to be used
% of costed Small Settlements Regeneration Plans (SSRP) developed by councils within agreed timescales.	Submitted Regeneration Plan
% of projects completed on time	Works completion certs for each project

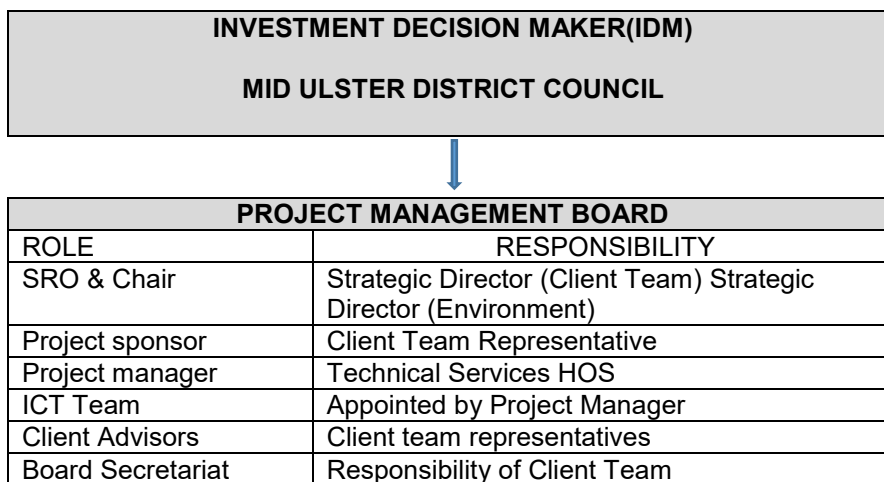


<p>% of projects that increased use of land for active travel which connects people with key services and ensures accessibility for all including those with disabilities –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extended footways</li> <li>• cycle ways.</li> <li>• connecting pathways.</li> </ul>	<p>Extended footways / cycle ways/ connecting pathways measured within completed projects</p>
<p>% of residents in smaller settlements where projects have been delivered agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.</p>	<p>Outcome of a resident's survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p>
<p>% of people using smaller settlements where projects have been delivered for work, tourism or leisure, agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.</p>	<p>Outcome of a resident's survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p>
<p>Number &amp; % of businesses within the scheme areas who reported schemes funded through this Programme have positively impacted on sales figures</p>	<p>Outcome of a business survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p> <p>NOTE: In relation to objective 5 – positive impact on sales, best endeavours will be made to test this objective however the focus of the project is on village infrastructure for local community use and may not translate into any improvement in sales for local businesses.</p>



## PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Project management arrangements will follow Councils Capital Procedural Guide. The project management structure is shown below:



The project management board will meet at regular intervals (usually monthly) throughout the duration of delivery period. Update reports from these meetings will be used to inform the funders on progress at individual project level.



## **7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNCIL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

*Please identify any contribution that council or other stakeholders are making towards this regeneration plan.*

As required, Council will be contributing a minimum of 10% match funding towards the agreed allocation contained within a letter of offer.

Costs included within this Plan are indicative. As a contingency for price increases following procurement, Council is prepared to increase match funding to 20% in order to ensure full delivery of the Plan.



## 8. STATEMENT AND DECLARATION

*Please use the space below to add any additional information in support of your regeneration plan.*

**This projects included in this Regeneration Plan are those anticipated for delivery by March 2023. A degree of flexibility will be required in the event of changes in circumstances which may impact on the delivery of a particular project. Clear lines of communication will remain in place to inform DfC of such changes as they emerge.**

### Declaration

I hereby declare that the information contained in this form is accurate and that all persons party to this project understand their responsibilities regarding the Department's monitoring and evaluation processes.

I agree that this information may be made available to other funders including other Government Departments and Agencies and accept that this information may be published by the Department for Communities.

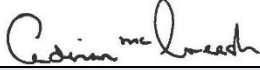
I confirm that any funding requested will be spent in accordance with the Council's procedures for capital expenditure, and will not duplicate any funding provided by other funders. In the event that **MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL** obtains further funding at a later date I will immediately inform the Department.

I understand I must inform the Department immediately if there are any changes to the information supplied in this form.

I understand that if the information contained in this form is proven to be intentionally false or misleading I or **MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL** may be prosecuted under the Fraud Act 2006.

I understand that the Department can at any time ask to see any supporting evidence in relation to this COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan, and future funding procurement procedures, payment information, minutes of meetings, letters of offer, contracts for funding etc as deemed necessary.



Signature	
Print name in capitals	ADRIAN MCCREESH
Position in Council	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Date	4.2.2022



## **ANNEX A –OBJECTIVES**

### **Objectives**

1. To agree a costed COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for each district council and enable programme spend by March 2022
2. To support each district council to deliver the project outcomes identified in its Regeneration Plan by March 2023.
3. By March 2024, 70% of residents surveyed, in smaller settlements where projects have been delivered, agree that funded works would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.
4. By March 2024, 70% of people surveyed while using smaller settlements where projects have been delivered for work, tourism or leisure, agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.
5. By March 2024, attitudinal surveys completed by businesses indicate that 70% believe that schemes funded through this Programme will have positively impacted on sales figures.
6. By March 2024, attitudinal surveys indicate 40% of the public (residents and visitors) agree that projects supported would encourage people to change from car use to more environmentally friendly choices such as walking and cycling for journeys of under two miles.
7. By March 2024, each Regeneration Plan will support projects which increase the use of land for active travel (i.e. extended footways, cycle ways, connecting pathways) which connects people with key services and ensures accessibility for all including those with disabilities.



## Appendix 1

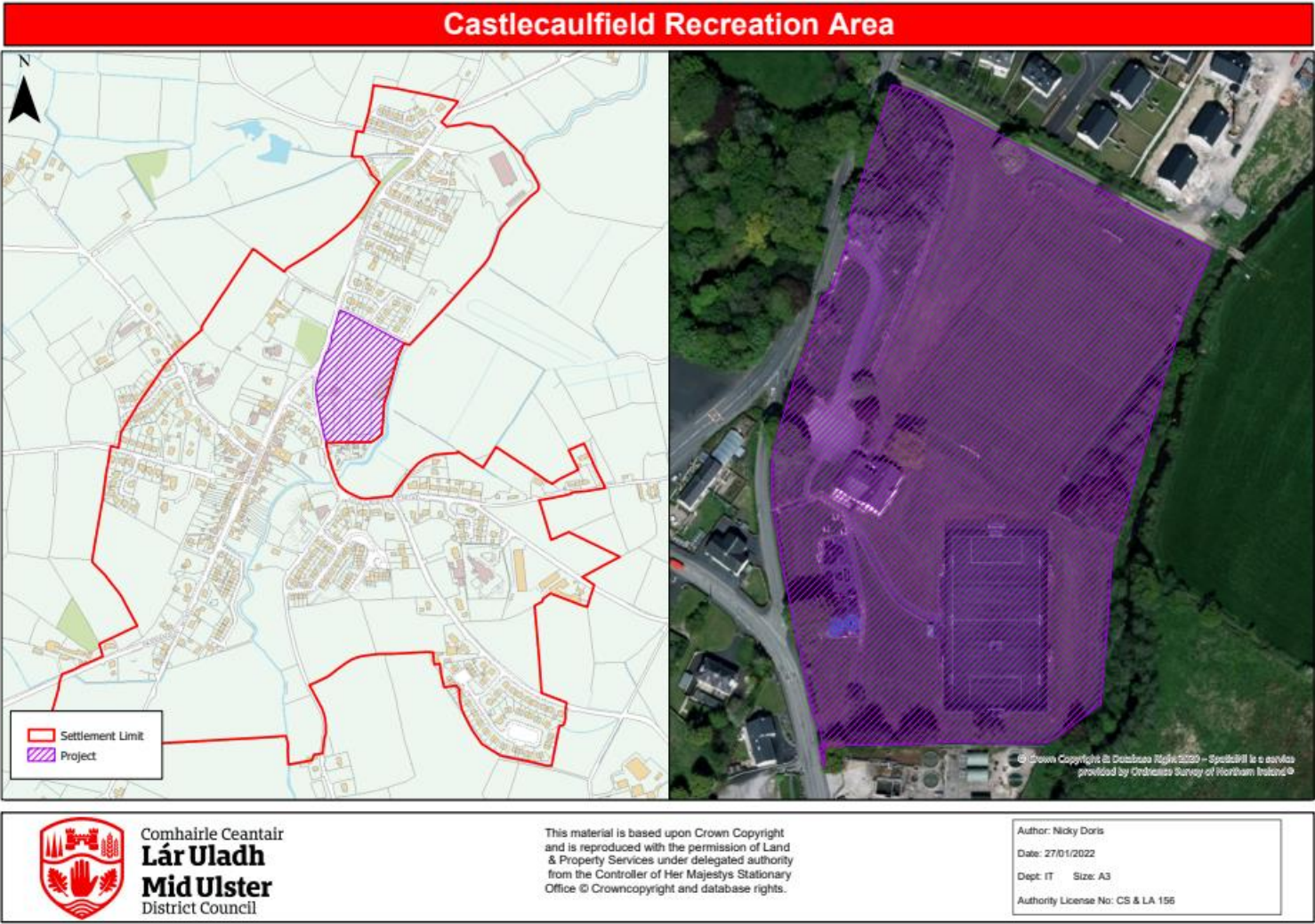
Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)	DEA	DfC / DAERA	DfI	Total
<b>Bush</b> - Dungannon road realignment - 1.3km £400- (continuation of footpath from Dungannon to Bush to provide a safe walking/cycling route. The aim of this project is to: The outcomes will be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One new footpath will be created creating connectivity to encourage walking.</li> <li>• Improved safety in rural areas.</li> <li>• Reduced vehicle use in rural areas.</li> </ul> Improved connectivity between Bush Village and the urban centre of Dungannon"	D'gannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Bellaghy</b> (Green Space) - create an outdoor recreational facility to include circular walking route, trim trail, low level lighting, outdoor gym equipment, create linkages to the two local developments to an open outdoor recreational space. Improve the existing kick about area and carparking (Council owned). Explore option to create a walking & cycling route from Bellaghy village to the GAC on Drumanee Road to further increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation.	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Benburb Recreation Area</b> - upgrade of a new 3g full-size playing surface with lights. This will assist in meeting the high demand for evening hire from the two local clubs. Currently having to travel to other parts of the district for accommodation. The long established club has in access of 300 members/ 17 teams.		TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Draperstown</b> - Plantin and Fairhill Phase II – renewal of paths, extension of walkway through Plantin, play area at Fairhill	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Dungannon</b> - Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough to link Railway Park (a linear green space that runs from Mark Street, Milltown, Dungannon to Lisnahull Road, Dungannon) to Ballysaggart Lough. It further hopes to create a cycling and walking path around the Lough. Phase 1 – Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough. A new footpath/boardwalk will be required to continue to the path from Windmill Hill Road to Ballysaggart Lough. Phase 2 – Widen & upgrade existing path around the Lough, until it meets the footpath on the Old Eglisish Road. Phase 3 – New path along Manse Road. There currently is no footpath infrastructure along the Manse Road.	Dungannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Dunmoyle Forest</b> - Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.	CV	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Fivemiletown (King George V)</b> - site, upgrade pitch 1 to a 3G facility with floodlights, develop a pocket park on the old play park area. (Fields In Trust)	Clogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Glenone</b> - develop a trim trail and a green space area, with outdoor gym equipment/ pocket park. Develop the green space & leave a knock about area.	Carntogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Lower Bann Green/Blue way</b> - This proposal is for Phase 3 of the Greenway which will run from Portglenone to Newferry (west) located on the River Bann southwards along the western shore of Lough Beg , where it will connect with the recently developed Lock keepers Cottage Heritage Centre and Café, in Toome	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC





Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)	DEA	DfC / DAERA	DfI	Total
Feasibility study completed Cost estimates completed				
<b>Maghera</b> Development of Lands at Mullagh - Feasibility Study currently being worked up. Development of site as an outdoor recreational facility.	Carntogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Moy</b> 3G Project, with lighting and changing (dependant on location and potential partners)- land issues	Dungannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Roundlake:</b> to improve path network around the lake, address flooding & drainage issues, install seating and other outdoor gym equipment.	CV	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Tullyhogue</b> to Tullyhogue Fort/Loughrey College/MUSA - community trail linking the sites. Feasibility Study currently underway to determine route, landowners etc	Cookstown	TBC	TBC	TBC

Appendix 2 – Project location maps





## Castledawson (Riverside)



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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Author: Nicky Doris

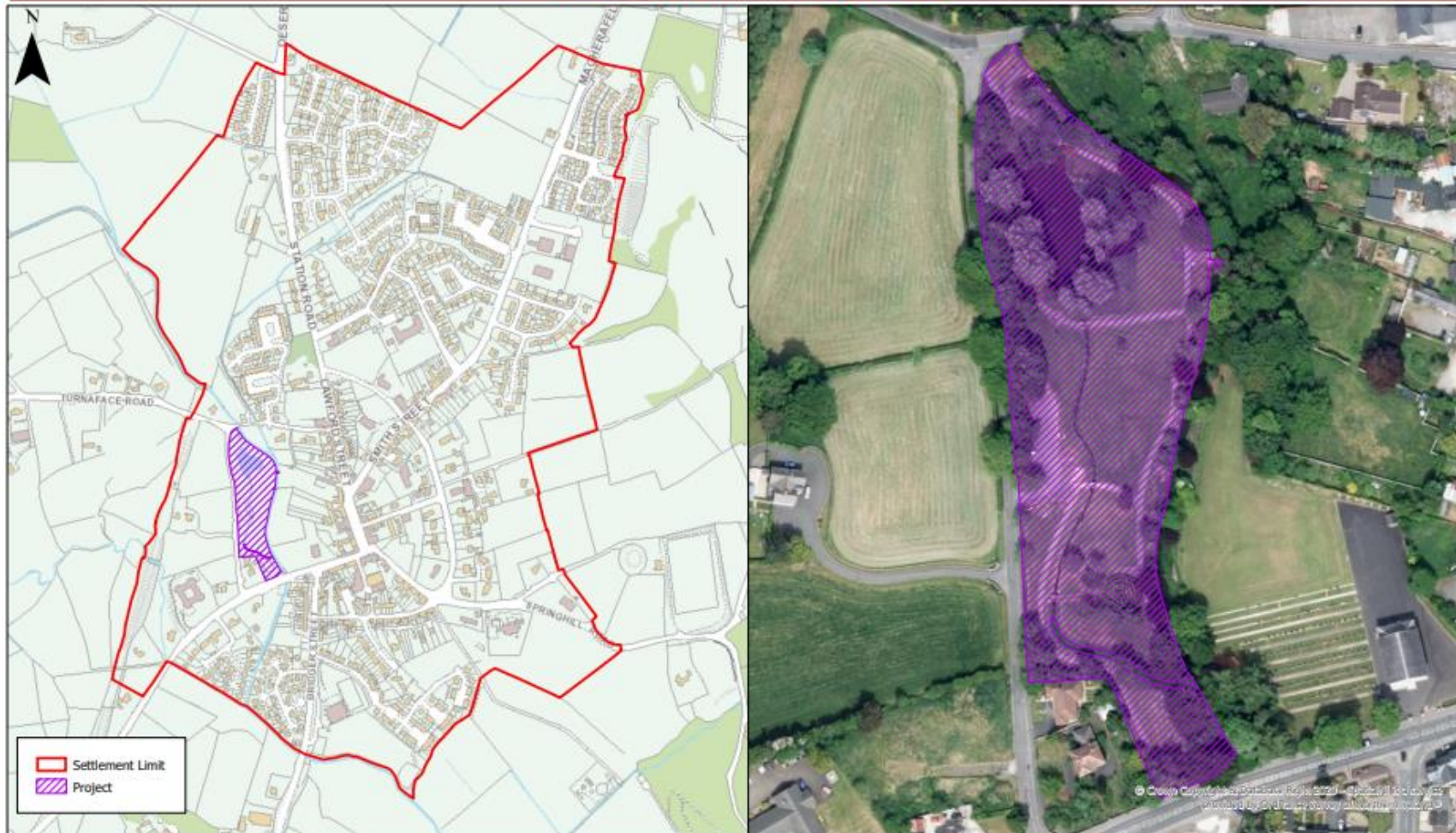
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## Manor Park Moneymore



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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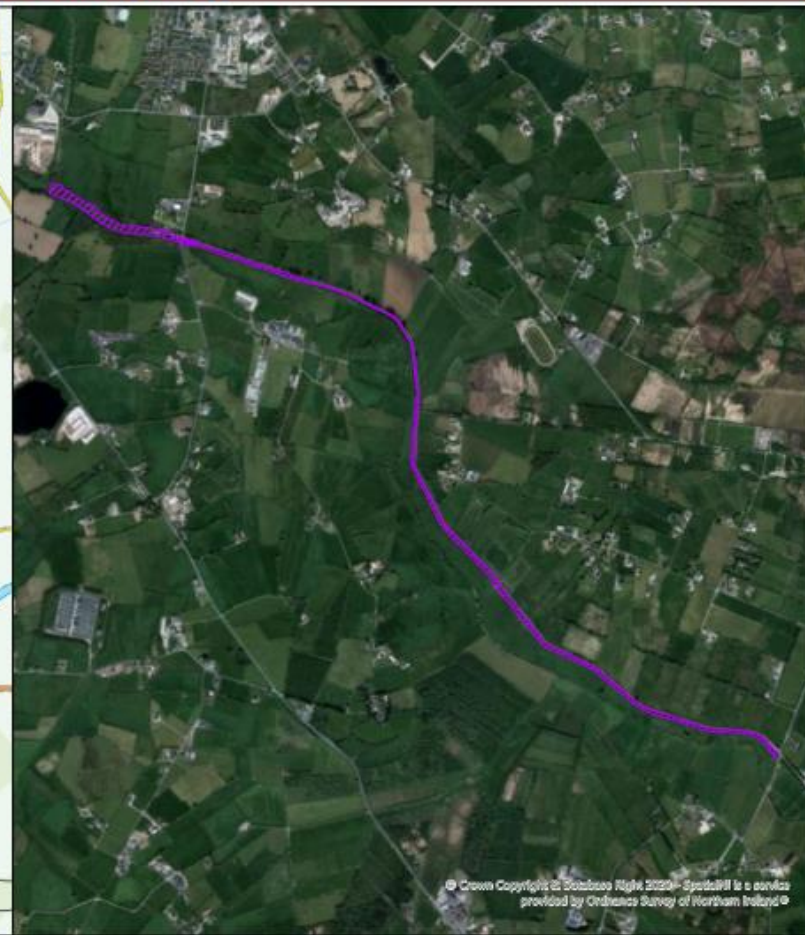
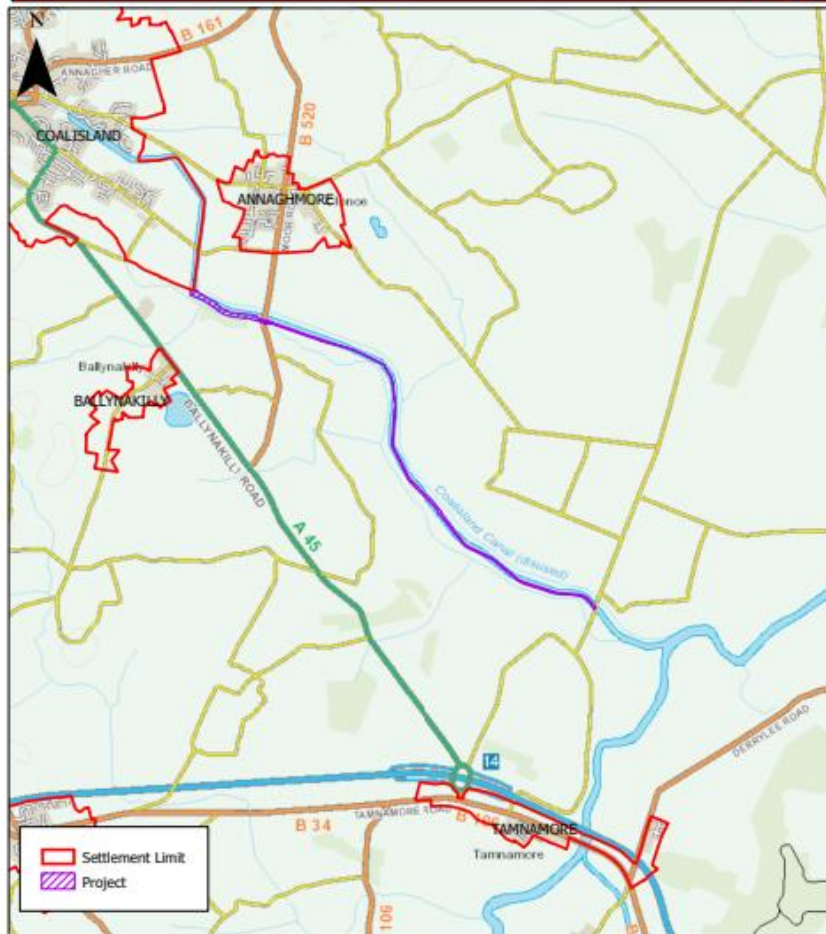
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## Coalisland Canal



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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# Bellaghy





## Clogher



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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## Clady



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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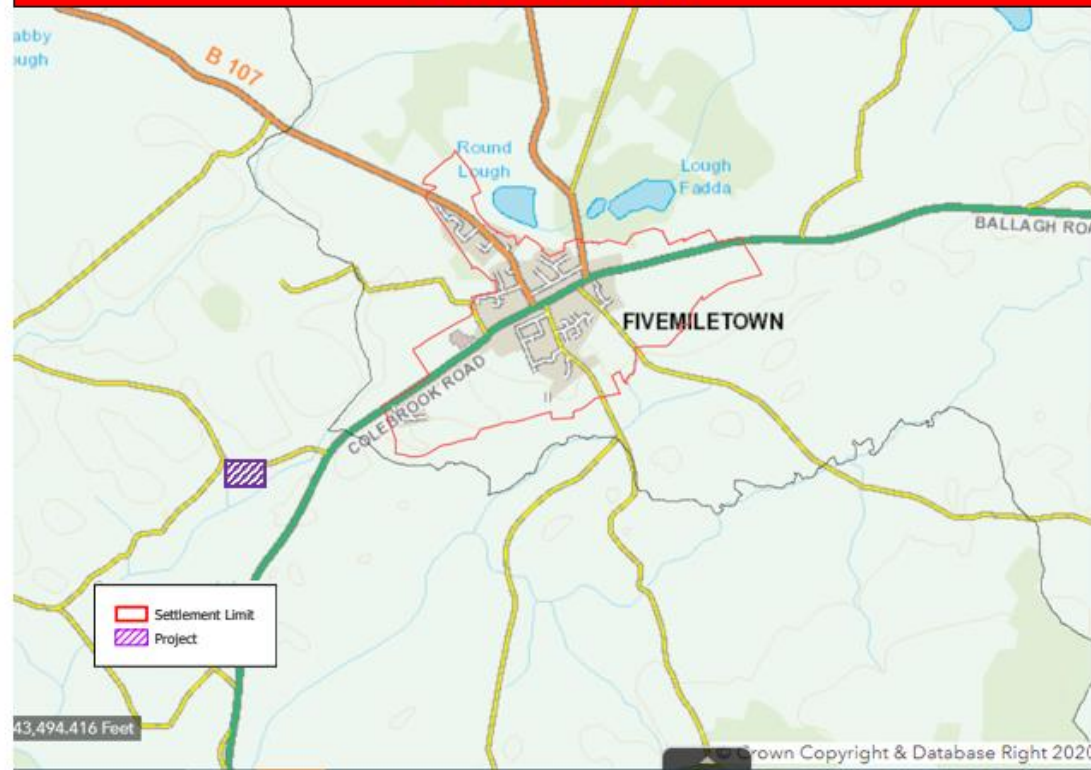
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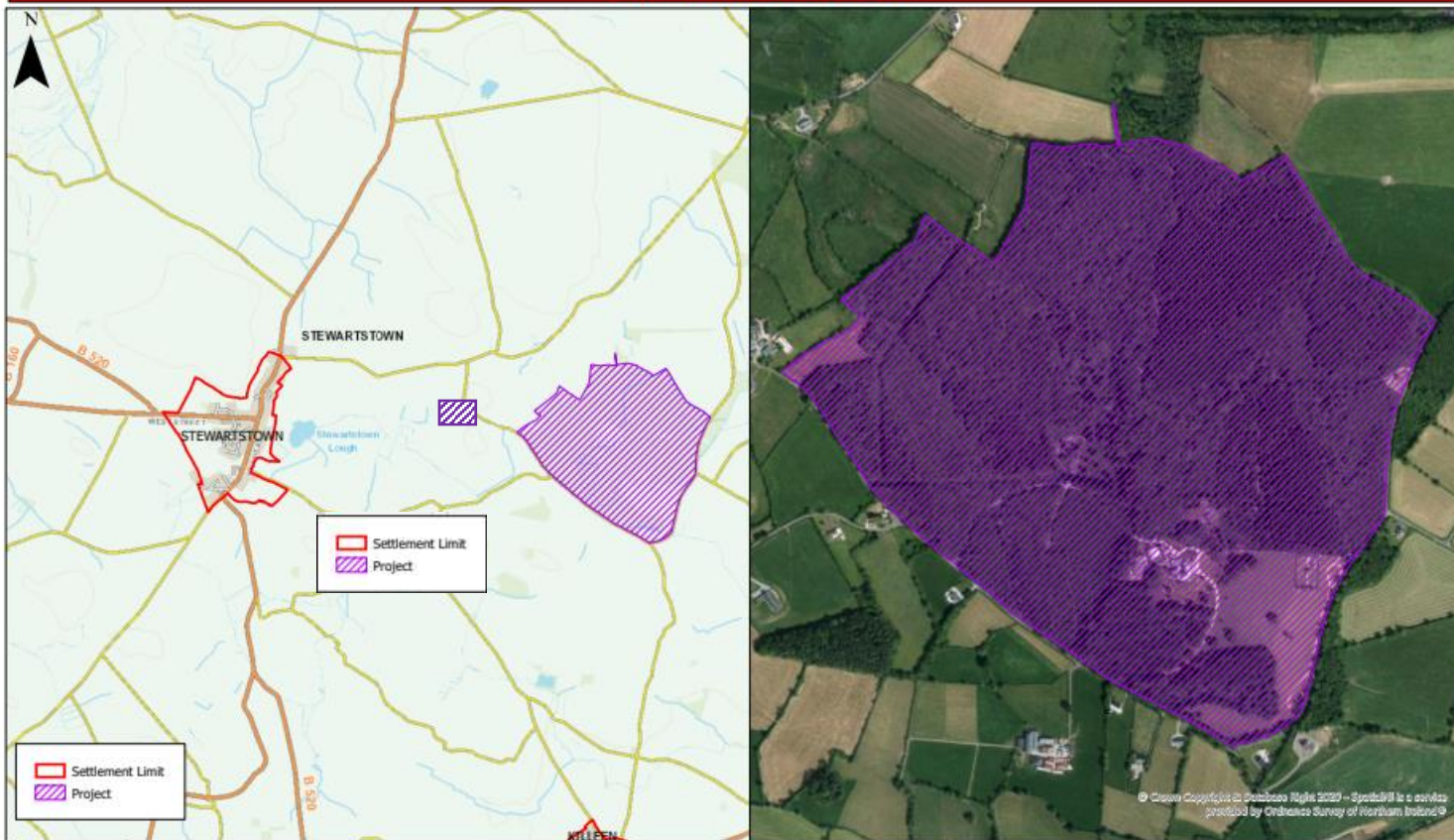
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# CLOGHER VALLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - FIVEMILETOWN





## Drumcairne Forest



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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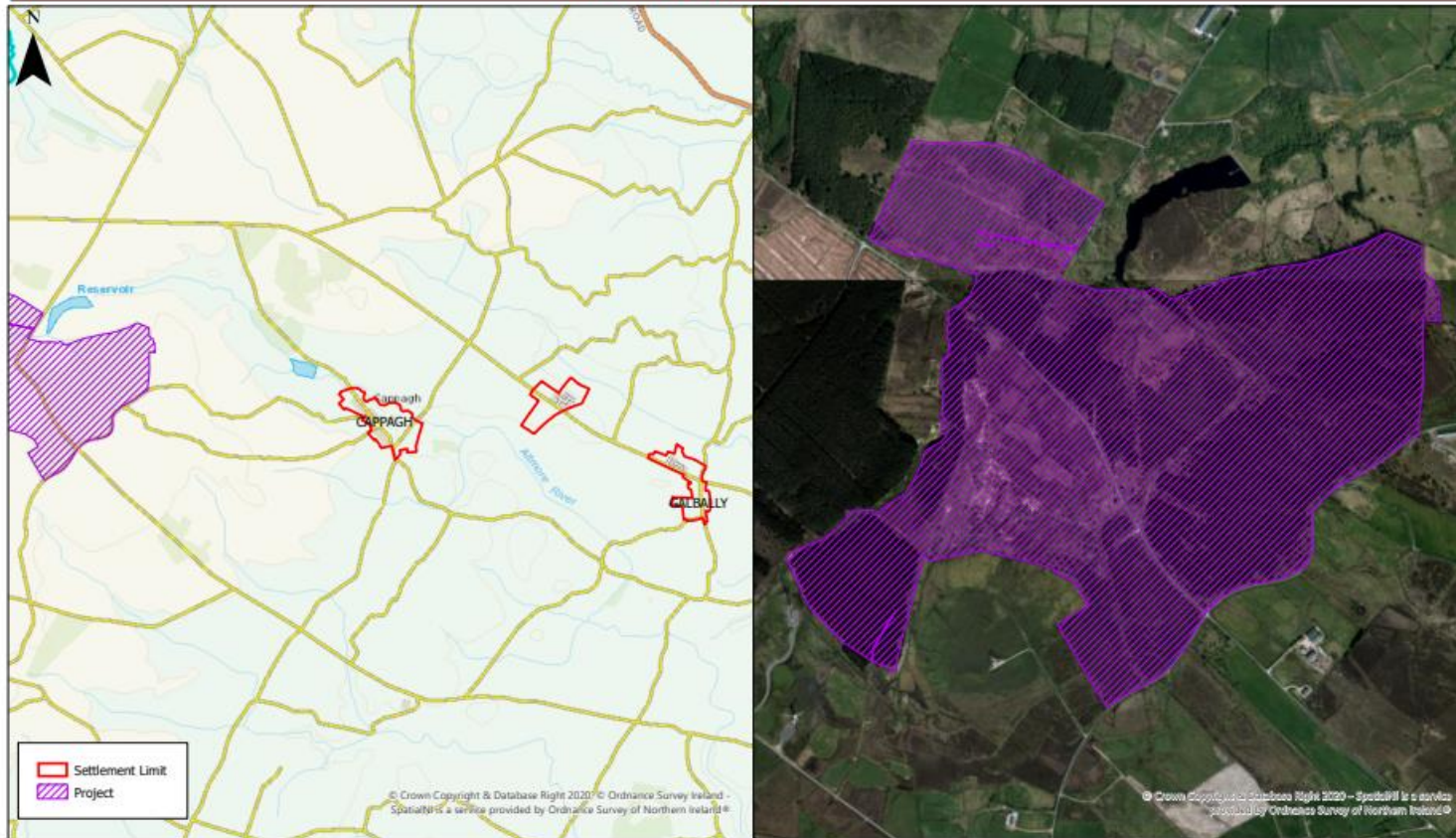
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## Altmore Forest



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District Council

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## KILDRESS



## APPENDIX 4



Cllr Paul McClean  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council

Regional Development Office  
Level 4, North  
Nine Lanyon Place  
9 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3LP  
Phone: 028 9082 9307  
email: [Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Your ref:

Our ref: CORR-0186-2022

28 February 2022

(By e-mail) [chair@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:chair@midulstercouncil.org)

Dear Cllr McClean

### **Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme**

Thank you for your email and letter of 4 February 2022 regarding the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP).

The CRSSRP was developed by DfC in conjunction with DAERA and DfI as a response to the economic impact of lockdown restrictions that had been imposed to tackle the COVID pandemic and to enable DfC to work with the other Department's to deliver regeneration projects in settlements with a population lower than 5,000, which is outside of DfC's policy remit. The DfC and DAERA elements of the funding aim to stimulate the post-pandemic recovery of the commercial centres of our rural towns and villages through regeneration interventions which include, but are not limited to, public realm works, environmental improvements, shop frontage and vacant to occupied schemes. The DfI element of the funding will be used to encourage active travel by enhancing connectivity of settlements and the local Blue/Green infrastructure to promote cycling and walking.

For any project to be considered for funding, it must demonstrate clearly that it contributes directly towards the physical and economic regeneration of town and village centres and therefore projects outside towns and villages are not eligible for funding under the DfC or DAERA stream. Projects that encourage active travel in rural settlements may be eligible for funding from the DfI stream of the Programme.

I note your comments regarding projects lying outside town and village centres that received funding from DAERA's Rural Development Programme (RDP). The CRSSRP has not been developed as a replacement for the RDP or any other funding stream currently

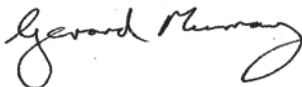
offered by the participating Departments, but rather it is envisioned that it will complement these programmes by stimulating the economic regeneration of town and village centres.

Departmental officials have continued to work closely with council officers to address the issues raised by the Strategic Oversight Group, and I am pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached to progress most of these projects under CRSSRP. There are, however, four projects that the Department continues to deem as outside the parameters of the Programme and that it cannot fund. These are the projects at Altmore (£280k) and Drumcairn Forests (£280k), the Clogher Valley Rugby Club project outside Fivemiletown (£50k), and the Kildress Community Breathing Space project (£75k). While I appreciate that these projects have considerable support from the local community, and have the potential to deliver significant benefits, it remains the Department's position that they do not address the Programme's objectives and therefore are ineligible for funding. DAERA colleagues have advised that the Altmore and Drumcairn Forest projects should be considered, by Council for funding under their Forest Park Enhancement and Community Trails Development Scheme which is currently open for Expressions of Interest.

The Department remains committed to ensuring that Mid Ulster District Council receives its full allocation from the Programme, however, to enable this the funding that had been identified for these four projects should be reallocated, either to other projects in the Plan or to alternative projects that meet the Programme objectives.

I would be happy to take up your offer to meet with you and other elected members to discuss this matter, however, I would caution also that under the conditions attached to the business case approval by the Department of Finance, the offer of funding is time limited and in order to ensure that sufficient time remains to consider any revisions to the plan and provide a letter of offer, this matter would need to be progressed with a degree of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Murray', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Gerard Murray**  
Director, Regional Development Office