



Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD

10 April 2019

Dear Stakeholder

CREDIT UNIONS – OPERATION OF UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS

Prior to April 2016, only individuals could join, and become a member of, a credit union in Northern Ireland. The legislation in Northern Ireland was then changed¹ to allow credit unions to admit any of the following as a member:

1. a body corporate (such as a company);
2. a partner acting for a partnership; or
3. an officer or member of the governing body acting for an unincorporated association (which could include local groups or sports clubs).

The Department for the Economy is now carrying out a review of the operation of this aspect of the legislation. The focus of the review is on the operation of unincorporated associations, but we will touch on the collective ‘corporate members’ to give us a complete picture. Once the review is complete we will prepare a report of that review and lay the report before the Assembly.

Your views are important and will allow the Department to complete a more meaningful review of the operation of the legislation so we would be grateful if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us at the above address by 7 June 2019. Alternatively you can complete an electronic version which will be emailed to you. If you want to provide more information in response to a question than the answer box allows, please attach extra sheets to the questionnaire with your response. Please indicate which question you are responding to if using extra sheets.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with the team on 028 9025 7951 or email us at mutuals.info@economy-ni.gov.uk

Kind Regards

Keith Brown

¹ See section 1 of the Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

1. Have any of your member credit unions made any representations to you about the issue of corporate accounts in general? If yes, please give detail below, including how many credit unions.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Number of Credit Unions

If yes please supply further details

2. Have any of your member credit unions made any representations to you about the issue of unincorporated association accounts specifically? If yes, please give detail below, including how many credit unions.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Number of Credit Unions

If yes please supply further details

3. Are you aware of any reason why credit unions in your membership have not updated their rules to allow corporate members? If yes please detail the reasons.

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes please supply further detail

4. Of those credit unions in your membership that have updated their rules to allow corporate members but have admitted none, are you aware of any reason as to why they have not admitted any corporate members?

5. Of those credit unions in your membership that have updated their rules to allow corporate members but have admitted no officers or members of the governing body of unincorporated associations, are you aware of any reason as to why they have not done so?

6. The number of shares in a credit union allotted to corporate members must not exceed 25% of the total number of allotted shares. Do you think this limit is appropriate? If not, please detail why.

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no please supply further detail

- 7. The number of corporate members of a credit union must not exceed 10% of the total number of members. Do you think this limit is appropriate? If not, please detail why.**

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no please supply further detail

- 8. Please detail below any other evidence on the operation of unincorporated association accounts you have found.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION

Following the end of the review, the Department will report on its findings and lay that report before the Assembly. This report may include anonymised direct quotes from your response. Personal information that you provide in your response will not be published in the consultation report.

However any information provided in responses, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Data Protection Act 2018 if the Department receives such a request for information.

Please identify any information which you do not wish to be disclosed and explain why you regard that information as confidential. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING OUR QUESTIONNAIRE

If you want to provide more information in response to a question than the answer box allows, please email us with your additional responses, indicating which question you are responding to. Please complete the below request for contact details so that we can identify you as the responder to this questionnaire. We may also need to contact you to clarify any points you raise.

Name:

Contact details:

**APPENDIX 1C –
Draft Council Response to DfE Consultation
re Corporate Membership of Credit Unions**

29 May 2019

By email to mutuals.info@economy-ni.gov.uk

**Mr Keith Brown
Department for the Economy
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD**

Dear Sir

**RESPONSE FROM MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL TO CONSULTATION ON
CREDIT UNIONS – OPERATION OF CORPORATE MEMBER ACCOUNTS AND
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS**

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes this opportunity to provide comments and feedback to the Department for the Economy on the operation of corporate accounts by credit unions including unincorporated associations.

Within our district, we have over 8,500 VAT registered businesses, the most outside of Belfast metropolitan area, and approximately 230 business starts each year. We have a particularly strong private sector in areas such as manufacturing, engineering, construction and retail, as well as other potential future growth in areas such as agri-food, business services and high value added industries.

This area has been identified as the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland in terms of business and earlier this month was publicly acknowledged as the most innovative of all UK regions from a business R&D perspective. One of our key aims is to ensure that this remains the case and that Mid Ulster is recognised as a key strategic investment location on a regional, national and international level.

We recognise the role that credit unions in Mid Ulster, and across Northern Ireland play in our communities and we note the particular role that they can play in the private sector, particularly community based and small to medium sized businesses.

Given their importance with our communities, we therefore call on DfE to help, support and promote the credit union movement in Northern Ireland with a particular focus and emphasis on corporate membership.

Approximate lending figures¹ based on the Mid-Ulster area are as follows:

	Total lending figure	Credit union	Credit union share
Personal Lending	£138.5 million	£69 million	50%
SME Lending	£508 million	£7 million	1%
Mortgages	£1.3 billion	N/A	N/A

We understand that there are twenty five credit unions in the Mid Ulster area. Based on the above lending figures, those credit unions have approximately 50% of the personal lending market. This figure illustrates very importantly the place of credit unions in the market place and that they should not be underestimated.

With recent bank closures in rural areas across Northern Ireland, credit unions play a vital role in assisting, not only individual members but corporate members, in the provision of financial services. By way of example, we are aware Ballinascreen Credit Union now undertakes corporate and community lending albeit on small but growing scale. The Credit Union also offers transactional accounts and will exceed 12,000

¹ Sources used- Postcode Lending and FCA Mutuals Public Register/PRA Credit Union statistics

transactions totalling in excess of £8 million in this credit union year. As a result Ballinascreen Credit Union is meeting many of its community needs particularly after the closure of the two banks in the town.

We understand approximately £150 million is currently available to lend across the credit unions in the Mid Ulster Area. Some of that money can and will be targeted at corporate members.

We would suggest that further to feedback we have received from credit unions in the Mid Ulster area that DfE may wish to give consideration to raising the legislative threshold for the provision of loans. Consideration should also be given to help and support credit unions who may need additional training in this new area of lending and therefore, Council would strongly urge central government to provide assistance across the wider credit union movement in this regard. Doing so, will help unlock financial lending facilities to corporate members which will serve to strengthen our economy in these uncertain economic times.

Council will continue to engage with the credit union movement in Mid Ulster and we trust that DfE will undertake the fundamental role in helping to support and promote credit unions, particularly in the area of corporate membership. This we believe will create greater investment opportunities to grow our district and regional economy.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian McCreesh

Director of Business & Communities

3 May 2019

Adrian McCreesh
Director of Business and Communities
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
COOKSTOWN BT80 8DT

Dear Adrian

Update re Local Economic Development (LED) Measure of EU Investment for Growth & Jobs (IGJ) Programme 2014-2020

I would like to update you on the overall progress made to date under the LED Measure and on the progress made by Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).

The LED Measure is progressing well since the approval of the first LED project in 2016. To date, 32 LED2 projects (including the NIBSUP) have now been approved, committing grant of £12.25m (£9.19m ERDF and £3.06m Invest NI), and also £3.06m contribution from Councils. Half of the projects are now operational and the remainder are at various stages of procurement.

As you will be aware, MUDC has been given an ERDF allocation of €1,815,314. Please be aware that while Council's nominal ERDF allocation is in Euros, all Invest NI Offers are issued in Sterling. I have outlined below and overleaf in Sterling, the estimated allocation remaining for MUDC.

	ERDF (60%)	Match Funding (20% Invest NI, 20% Council)	Total
Budget Allocation Euros €	£1,815,314	£1,210,209	£3,025,523
Approved Commitment to date £sterling	£992,192	£661,461	£1,653,653
NIBSUP Tender Programme Digital First Programme Gearing for Growth Programme Transform Programme			
Approved Commitment to date (exchange rates applied to Accepted LoO's) Euros €	€1,146,075	€764,050	€1,910,125
Estimated LED Allocation Remaining Euros €	€669,239	€446,159	€1,115,398
Estimated LED Allocation Remaining £sterling (based on agreed HM Treasury rate of £1.22)	£548,556	£365,704	£914,261

Potential Applications

Invest NI currently has sight of 1 potential application for MUDC (NIBSUP2 portion).

Subject to a positive appraisal, this could potentially utilise a further estimated £223,200 of MUDC's ERDF allocation resulting in a remaining potential unused ERDF allocation of £325,356.

HM Treasury Guarantee

The most recent guidance issued (see link below) by HM Treasury Guarantee, in the event of a 'no deal Brexit' provides a longer period for Councils to make commitments which in turn provides an increased opportunity for Councils to more fully utilize the €18m ERDF allocation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-regional-development-funding-if-theres-no-brexite-deal/european-regional-development-funding-if-theres-no-brexite-deal>

Therefore based on this HM Treasury Guarantee the revised date for receipt of new, additional collaborative, re-worked or follow-on LED Applications, by Invest NI has been extended to **31 December 2019**.

This will ensure there is adequate time for the Invest NI appraisal and approval process, for Letters of Offer to be issued, accepted and returned by Councils to Invest NI before 31 December 2020.

Councils who had previously submitted new or follow-on LED Applications to Invest NI by the previous deadline of June 2018, now have the opportunity to re-work and strengthen those applications with more recent and up-to date supporting information and/or data.

Other Key Programme Dates

I would like to also take this opportunity to share with Council a number of other key dates associated with the LED Measure as follows:

Date	Programme Timelines
31 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final date for delivery activity to take place on all LED Programmes • Final date for Quality Referrals to be submitted to Invest NI
31 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final date for all payments for project activity to be incurred and paid by Council
30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final date for all Council claims to be received by Invest NI
30 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Evaluations to be completed for all LED Programmes • Final date for Job Creation measurement by Councils
31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU IGJ LED Measure Programme Closure

Evaluation of Programmes

We hope that the Evaluation Guidance we recently circulated will provide direction to Councils in carrying out or commissioning mid-term and final evaluations. It is anticipated that the recommendations resulting from these evaluations will be used to inform revised or new LED Applications going forward.

Invest NI is aware that a number of Mid-Term Evaluation reports for LED projects have been commissioned or will be over the next few months.

Article 125 Checks

As a number of LED projects are now operational and incurring expenditure, Article 125 (A125) Checks will be taking place over the coming months. The A125 Checks will focus on how the project delivery adheres to all aspects of ERDF regulations such as publicity, codification, state aid, eligibility of expenditure etc. We will be in contact with your officials to advise when A125 Checks will take place on MUDC's projects.

Finally, I wish to congratulate you and your team on the progress achieved to date and please be assured that my colleagues within Invest NI and I welcome the opportunity to continue to work closely with MUDC to maximise the drawdown of the LED Measure.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Sincerely



MARY GORMLEY
EU & PARTNER DELIVERY MANAGER

cc Ethna McNamee, Regional Manager
Shirley Devlin, Stakeholder Executive

APPENDIX 3

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM
MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 6PM
MAGHERAFELT OFFICES,
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Present:

Mark Stewart	Vintners Representative (Chair)
Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Robin Kennedy	Magherafelt Chamber of Commerce
Claire McOsker	Professional Sector Representative
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Jack Keatley	Magherafelt Trustees
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

In Attendance:

Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon Scott	NI BIDs

Apologies:

Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Brian O’Kane	Multiple Retailer
Gareth Thomas	Meadowlane Shopping Centre
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME The Chairman, M Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	BIDS S Scott delivered a presentation on the Business Improvement District Feasibility Study that is currently being undertaken. An online BIDs business survey is currently available and the D McCartney agreed to share the link with Town Centre Forum Members.	MUDC
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of previous meeting were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: P Anderson Seconded by: Cllr P McLean	
3.	MATTERS ARISING Cllr McLean requested an update on the Flooding issue from Dfl Roads.	MUDC

	<p>Moneymore Heritage Trust had been invited to the meeting as per their request but were unable to attend. It was agreed they should be invited to the next meeting.</p>	MUDC
4.	<p>TOWN CENTRE EVENTS UPDATE M Browne provided an update on the Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On.</p>	
5.	<p>REGENERATION MANAGER UPDATE D McCartney updated on the previously circulated Regeneration Managers Report.</p> <p>Marketing & Promotion The refreshed brand has been included on recent marketing activity. Jute bags have been purchased and have been distributed at the Tafelta Festival in June and Makers Markets in August. Officers are currently working on the procurement of other promotional materials.</p> <p>Business Support / Attracting Investment The Craft Collective have become a formally constituted body and are interested in developing a retail space within Magherafelt Town Centre and are currently exploring various models to deliver this.</p> <p>The Magherafelt Creative Shop Project opened on 22 October and will run until 15 December. An artistic director has been appointed by Big Telly Theatre Company and a programme of events are being rolled out involving local people, groups, passers-by, local traders, school children and local groups.</p> <p>The Seamus Heaney HomeGround project is being developed to enhance the development of a series of experiences for visitors to Seamus Heaney HomeGround. An application is currently being prepared for the DAERA's Rural Tourism Fund.</p> <p>Town Centre Events The Tafelta Festival took place from 11th – 12th August 2018.</p> <p>Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Saturday 24 November & Sunday 25 November 2018.</p> <p>Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure Under the Rural Development Programme assistance will be provided to the following villages within the former Magherafelt District Council area:- Maghera, Upperlands, Tobermore, Gulladuff, Swatragh, Desertmartin / Longfield and Clady / Glenone.</p>	

APPENDIX 4

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Monday 4 March 2019 at 5.30pm The Cornmill, Coalisland

Present

Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Mickey Gillespie	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union
Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum
Melanie Campbell	Coalisland & District Development Association
Dermott McGirr	Translink
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed
Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association

In Attendance

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

	DISCUSSION
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>A McCreesh welcomed all to the first meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum. Introductions were made around the Table.</p>
2.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Terms of Reference (ToR) for Coalisland Town Centre Forum had been circulated previously and A McCreesh highlighted the key points of the document including membership of the Forum and roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.</p> <p>A McCreesh advised that a Councillor from Mid Ulster District Council would take the Chair for the first year, with the position of Vice Chair being held by a town centre Trader. Year 2 would see the positions rotate with the Chair being a Trader and the Vice Chair being a Councillor. A McCreesh outlined that as there is a Local Government Election on 2 May 2019, the Councillor elected this evening to the role</p>

	<p>of Chair would have to be reviewed again post-election, and a fresh nomination process undertaken to re-elect a Councillor as Chair for the remainder of Year 1.</p>
3.	<p>Election of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson</p> <p>Chairperson</p> <p>A McCreesh invited nominations from Councillors for the role of Chairperson of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor O'Neill Seconded by Councillor Gillespie</p> <p>That Councillor Doris be elected as Chairperson of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.</p> <p>There being no further nominations from Councillors, it was agreed by all present, that Councillor Doris act as Chairperson of the Forum.</p> <p>Vice Chairperson</p> <p>A McCreesh invited nominations for the role of Vice Chairperson of Coalisland Town Centre Forum, which should be a Trader this year;</p> <p>It was proposed by B O'Neill Seconded by Councillor Doris</p> <p>That R O'Neill be elected as Vice Chairperson of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.</p> <p>There being no further nominations, it was agreed by all present, that Mr. R O'Neill (Trader) be elected as Vice Chairperson of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.</p> <p>Cllr Doris took the Chair and thanked A McCreesh for his introductions and for his assistance in helping establish Coalisland Town Centre Forum.</p>
4.	<p>Coalisland Projects Updates</p> <p>M Kelso outlined the current capital projects planned for Coalisland Town Centre and M Leavey delivered a presentation on the specifics of each project.</p> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>This project is funded through the Department for Communities and Mid Ulster District Council. A contractor has been appointed and is due to commence on site in April 2019 with completion late February 2020.</p> <p>The public realm will make improvements to the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street • Barrack Street • Barrack Square • Dungannon Road

- Lineside
- Station Road
- The Square
- Stewartstown Road
- Washingbay Road

Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment

The aims of the Gortgonis development are;

- Provide high quality indoor and outdoor community, multisport and multi activity spaces.
- Provide a facility of a similar standard to those in other areas of Mid Ulster.
- Provide facilities for Community activities.
- Increase sport and recreation participation and improve health and wellbeing.
- To increase community cohesion through improved and extended facilities that creates space and a central meeting point.

The ICT team have been appointed since January 2018 with an indicative date for commencing works in January 2020 and completion March 2021.

R O'Neill advised that he and others had submitted objections into Planning on Coalisland Public Realm Scheme.

In relation to the Gortgonis development, F Molloy stated that the project has always been community driven and hoped that this point would be recognized. Cllr Quinn highlighted the link between Gortgonis and the Public Realm Scheme and the need for lighting along the path. M Kelso advised that he would look into potential funding packages for this element.

Cllr Doris also raised the issue of the path up to Coalisland Training Services which was in need of work. R O'Neill raised the issue of the 3G pitch and gave an example from Australia, where 3G pitches were being removed due to injuries. R Lowry stated that the main reason for 3G was that it had the potential to be used all year round. Cllr Colvin requested that Officers look at the 3G pitch alternatives. F Molloy questioned how the 3G pitch in Brackaville was working for the Club to which B O'Neill stated that it was getting good use.

C McKenna gave a presentation on the following projects -

Coalisland Great Places Project

Lough Neagh Partnership have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Scheme to implement the 'Coalisland Great Places Project' and Mid Ulster District Council are contributing match funding over three years.

This scheme will explore the rich manufacturing legacy of the people of Coalisland and East Tyrone. New partnerships will be developed to create opportunities for local people to build skills capacity, revive lost artisan and manufacturing skills and celebrate the area's industrial manufacturing heritage through the medium of arts and culture.

It was proposed by Cllr Doris that a representative from Lough Neagh Partnership be invited to the next meeting to learn more about the project.

Action: Invite a representative from Lough Neagh Partnership to the next meeting.

Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund

Mid Ulster District Council are part of a Regional bid with 9 other Councils to the “Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund” being managed by Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The Project will provide a fibre corridor that must deliver up to a gigabit (1,000 mbs per second) capable connections. There will be chambers every 400m approximately, that will allow access to commercial providers offering Fibre to the Premise along the corridor.

One of 3 Mid Ulster District Councils proposed routes will connect Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon and Gortgonis Recreation Centre, Coalisland. There are 2 phases where the first phase must be completed by 2021.

BIDS Feasibility Study

NI BIDs have been appointed to carry out a feasibility study for the five town centres in the Mid Ulster Council area (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt).

The study will provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential for developing a BID in each of the five towns, and ultimately recommend whether this is a viable proposition for each. Extensive consultation will be carried out with local businesses as part of the project including online and on the ground surveys and facilitated workshops.

Summer, Halloween & Christmas events in Coalisland.

C Fox gave members an update in regard to Summer, Halloween & Christmas events in Coalisland. Cllr J O'Neill asked that in relation to the Summer Bash that the stage be placed closer to the Cornmill in this year's event.

Action: C Fox agreed to take this on board when planning the event.

F McKeown presented to the Forum outlining a number of economic development programmes that Council were spearheading;

£1.1million Support Package for Mid Ulster Businesses including 4 programmes will open from July 2019 to June 2022 and will assist 690 local businesses in Mid Ulster with <49 employees.

1. Tender Ready Programme– will build business capacity to win new work in both the public and private sectors
2. Gearing for Growth Programme – offers a range of support measures in key business areas (e.g. pricing, business planning, financial management, exploring new markets) to promote growth

	<p>3. Digital First Programme – help businesses to embrace new digital technologies and improve their digital capacity to grow online presence and sales</p> <p>4. Transform Programme – support businesses to identify and implement a range of measures to improve their attractiveness to the labour market and recruit staff</p> <p>A new pilot Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement (MEGA) Skills Network Project is underway led by Edge Innovate. This will seek to address skills and employability issues within the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster. This Pilot Project co-funded by Invest NI and Mid Ulster District Council will cover a 30-month period and establish a collaborative SME network across the engineering and advanced manufacturing sector in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>A key objective and management structure of the network will be to build linkages and developing collateral with key stakeholders including the Council, DfE, DfC, Manufacturing NI, Sentinus, MATRIX, STEM, Get Engineering, WISE, BITC and local schools, FE and HE education.</p> <p>A Mid Ulster Business Showcase Event is being organised. It is an opportunity for those interested in starting a business to talk to those who have already done it and chat to Advisors and business organisations about the FREE support available. The event will be held on;</p> <p>Tuesday 19 March 2019 Burnavon Theatre, Burn Road, Cookstown 3pm – 8pm</p>
	<p>M McKibbin from Council's Planning Team gave a short overview of the Draft Development Plan Strategy for Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030. An update was given on all the workshop venues and closing date for consultation.</p>
5.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Chairperson's email address to be circulated to all members of the Forum</p> <p>Action: C Fox agreed to circulate Chair's email address to all Forum Members.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 7.00 pm.</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Forum Meetings to be convened on the first Monday of each month (provided it doesn't clash with other key meetings).</p> <p>Date provisionally agreed - 1st April 2019</p>

APPENDIX 5



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Economic Development

SERVICE PLAN - 2019 / 2020

Date

Consulted within staff team

25/02/19

Discussed & signed off by Director

1/4/2019

CONTENT

SECTION	TITLE
1.0	OVERALL PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE SERVICE
1.1	Purpose and scope of the service
1.2	Responsibilities
1.3	Customers & Stakeholders
1.4	Performance Overview in 2018/19
2.0	SERVICE WORK PLAN - 2019/20
2.1	Budget - 2019/20
2.2	Staffing Complement – 2019/20
2.3	Service Work Plan – 2019/20
3.0	IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2019/20
3.1	Council's Improvement Objectives and Associated Programs - 2019/20
3.2	Service Contribution to the Corporate Improvement Objectives
3.3	Risk Management of Service
4.0	EQUALITY

1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Service

The Economic Development Section provides a range of services including economic and business development initiatives, town and village regeneration projects, specific targeted support for rural areas through the Rural Development Programme and cross border activities.

The Section also builds strategic alliances with partner organisations to maximise opportunities for the District's economic growth through leverage of additional funding or support provision.

The Economic Development staff are located across 3 main towns Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt.

1.2 Responsibilities

The Section is specifically responsible for the development, implementation and management of Council's Economic Development, Rural Development, Town Centre and Village Regeneration Strategies for the District Council area and regularly inputting towards a range of other key strategic local and regional economic development initiatives.

The section is specifically responsible for the following five key functions:

Economic Development

- Develop and deliver a range of programmes, projects and initiatives to support the economic development of the District on across a range of levels, including business support interventions.
- Identify and bid for sources of funding to resource economic development and wider Council initiatives.
- Lobby for and identify opportunities for significant infrastructure investments.
- Maximise opportunities for development and inward investment to the District from a range of sources, collaborating with appropriate local, regional, national and European partners and identifying suitable partners as appropriate.

Town Centre Regeneration

- Manage, develop, deliver and evaluate a comprehensive range of initiatives relating to Town Centre Regeneration, e.g. Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme
- Maximise the profile of the five town centres and reinforce the existing town centre brands of the three main towns.
- Support the growth and development of a competitive retail sector across Mid Ulster.
- Develop, promote and deliver a number of key signature events that add vitality and vibrancy to the five Town Centres.
- Improve the townscape quality of the five Town Centres

Village Regeneration

- Identify regeneration priorities from Village Plans as agreed by Council and the Local Action Group
- To progress revitalise / regeneration schemes across Mid Ulster's villages.

Rural Development Programme

- Provide support to Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership for the implementation of a £10m local action strategy for Mid Ulster for the period 2014-2020.

The support service provided to the Local Action Group includes:

- Promote the opportunities available through the Rural Development Programme in rural Mid Ulster
- Manage calls for applications to the Rural Development Programme
- Prepare project assessment reports and monitor the implementation of approved projects

Other Strategic Initiatives

- Development of Strategic Sites (Ann Street and Redevelopment of Maghera High School site).
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- Community Planning – Economic Growth Initiatives
- Actions arising from Brexit and Broadband Sub Committees

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Customers & Stakeholders
Internal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other Council Departments, Elected Members, Senior Management Team and Staff
External: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government Departments and Agencies (DfE, Invest NI, DAERA, DfC)• Local businesses, social enterprises and farmers• Further and Higher Education Providers• Local Enterprise Agencies• MPs and MLAs• Regional sectoral representative bodies• Mid Ulster Skills Forum, Chambers of Commerce, Town Centre Forums, Regeneration Partnerships• Inward Investors• Community / voluntary sectors

1.4 Performance Overview in 2018/19

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2018-2019). It also details key successes, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

2018/19 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
Business Start (NIBSUP) jobs promoted	- 204 jobs promoted
4 ESF Programmes 2018/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 501 participants supported - 179 helped to gain employment - 701 qualifications achieved - 103 progressed to F/H Education
Engineering Innovation Programme (completed Dec 2018)	- 18 engineering businesses received innovation support to develop new products, processes and services
Social Enterprise Programme	- 24 social enterprises supported on schedule to achieve all targets
6 business events delivered	6 events delivered & attended by 622 people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x Digital Workshops - Social Enterprise Seminar - Engineering & Innovation Seminar - GDPR Seminar
Funding secured from Invest NI (& ERDF) for 4 business development programmes for next 3.5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £1,187,900 total secured (80% ERDF/INI grant; 20% Council) - Target of 690 businesses to be recruited by Dec 2022 - Target 900 jobs to be created by Nov 2023
Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-21	Report completed and launched
Mid Ulster Online Business Directory	1686 businesses signed up to the directory
12 x Town Centre Events	12 Town Centre Events delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cookstown Continental Market - Tafelta -Magherafelt Summer Event - Coalisland Summer Event - Walled Garden Maghera - Heels on the Hill Dungannon - Halloween (Dungannon & Coalisland) - Christmas (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt & Maghera)

1 x funding application submitted to DCMS re Full Fibre NI Project	Funding application completed and awaiting LoO for £1.5m for MUDC
Pilot Collaborative Growth Programme with InvestNI & Private sector (MEGA)	MEGA Programme – Commenced – presently recruiting a Project Director
Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme (Phase 2).	Completed - £128,878.99 of Grant Aid to 39 properties with private sector leverage of £67,685.25.
Inward Investment Visit	First meeting and presentation to Inward Investor and further meetings to follow
MUDC Broadband Working Group	Working Group established, lobbying documents prepared, meetings with DfE Telecoms Officials
MUDC Brexit Working Group	Working Group established and scoping impact upon Council
BID's - Feasibility Study of 5 Towns being undertaken to determine suitability of BIDs project	Consultant appointed and work well advanced
Investment Proposition	Scoping work underway with Invest NI Regional Office and Trade Teams
Coalisland Public Realm Scheme	Design work completed. Procuring a contractor to carry out the works.
Maghera Public Realm Scheme	Design work is being developed.
RPD Villages project	22 no of village projects completed/ongoing
Rural Business Investment Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses supported at the start of 2018 stood at 43. This increased to 95 by 31st March 19. • Grant aid committed to approved projects at 31st March was £2.8m – funding available under this scheme is fully committed. • Jobs created by funded projects at the start of 2018 totalled 16.5 which rose to 64 by 31st March 2018
Co-Operation Projects	<p>Three co-operation projects are in development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Appalachian Trail - Lough Neagh and its Waterways and - Davagh Archaeological trail
Rural Basic Services Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Services projects supported at the start of 2018 was 10. This increased to 19 by 31st March 2019.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant aid committed to rural services projects at 31st March was £2.8m - all funding under this scheme is now committed
Redevelopment of Maghera High School Site	In June 2018, the Council submitted a 'Proposal of Application Notice' (PAN), signalling its intention to apply for planning permission on the site. In August 2018, Council invited expressions of interest for Development of site. In December 2018, the Council lodged two planning applications.
Development of Ann Street Site	Ongoing liaison with the preferred developer since Sept 2018 for the redevelopment of the site for retail and mixed use.

2.0 SERVICE WORKPLAN 2019/20

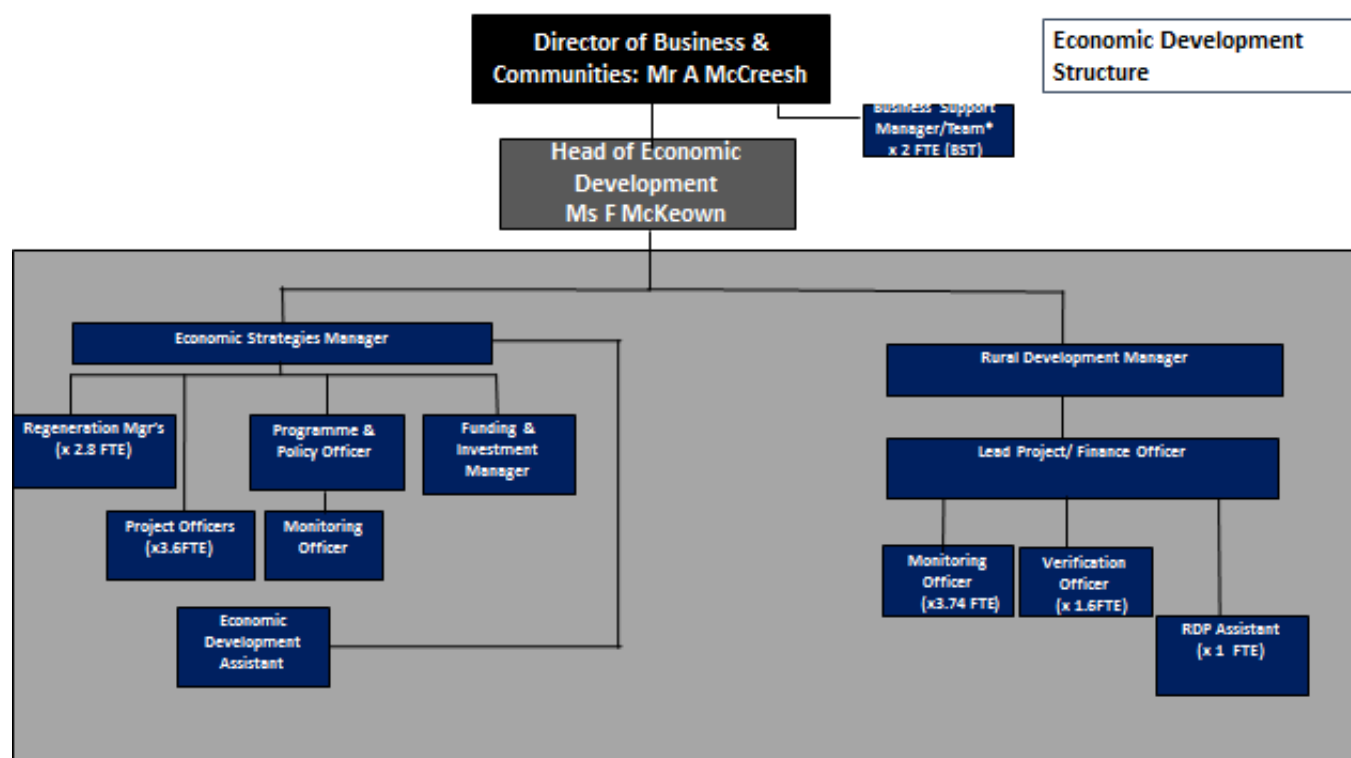
The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Service has access to throughout 2019-20 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2019/20

Service Budget Headings	£
General Economic Development	832,860
Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme	326,330
Town Strategy	705,959
Villages – Rural Development	10,000
Gross Budget	1,875,149
Income	316,330
Net Budget for 2019-20	1,558,819*

* Figures based on 2018/19 as 2019/20 budget figures are not available

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2019/20



Staffing	No of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	5.8
Officers	11.94
Remaining Team	2
Total	20.74

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2019/20

SERVICE WORK PLAN

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>CRP 2.3 Creating Growth - Maximise opportunities to create and grow district wide business and investment</i>						
Service Objective	How will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
To develop and implement a corporate approach to sourcing and drawing down external funding suitable for MUDC	No. of corporate funding opportunities identified for departments	6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and produce Corporate Funding and Application Tool-kit Provide Advisory / guidance sessions Attend funding briefings Scan external funding environment 	Ongoing throughout year 31/3/20	PMcC	Improved staff / key stakeholders knowledge of opportunities to apply for external funding.
	No. of funding applications submitted by Funding Investment Manager	2	3				

	Advisory support sessions to key stakeholders (internal/external)	5	6				
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 3.1 Education & Skills - Our People are better qualified & more skilled</i>	<i>CRP 2.3 Creating Growth - Maximise opportunities to create and grow district wide business and investment</i>						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
To deliver assigned actions from Mid Ulster Skills Forum (Skills Action Plan year 2019-20)	% progress of no. of assigned SMART actions from MUSF action plan delivered in the year. Providing secretariat	Year 1 was baseline year	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of MEGA Project Director to lead the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering sector programme Identify a funding package to support appointment of staff resource. Support the Forum in the delivery of a Mid Ulster Brexit Summit for local businesses.(If Brexit proceeds) 	Q1 Q4 Q4	PMcC	Skills / employability issues improved by stronger partnership working.

	& advisory support to meetings of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secretariat support / administration of correspondence to meetings of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum. Min of 5 meetings • Provide secretariat support / administration of correspondence to sub-group meetings (Skills Report & Action Plan, Apprenticeships / Engaging education linkages, Brexit and MEGA) Min of 1 meeting per quarter. 	Q1, Q2 Q3, Q4		
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>CRP 2.3 Creating Growth - Maximise opportunities to create and grow district wide business and investment</i>						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome

To progress development of Council key opportunity sites 1) Ann Street Development site plan (AS) 2) Maghera High School site plan (MHS)	% progress against Development plan	Year 3	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of title completed (AS) • Agreement of lease completed (AS) • Planning application approved (AS) • Anchor tenant secured • Process underway to appoint a Contractor (AS) 	Q2 Q2 Q2 Q2 Q2	PMCA	Improved perception of MUDC as an investment location
	% progress against plan	Year 2	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Pack for businesses finalised (MHS) • Planning application approved (MHS) • Contractor team appointed (MHS) • Work commenced on site (MHS) 	Q1-2 Q2- 3 Q3 -4 Q4		

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>	<i>CRP 2.3 Creating Growth - Maximise opportunities to create and grow district wide business and investment</i>						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome

To enable Economic Growth: Business Start by delivering the requisite no of approved business plans for new start-ups to achieve statutory jobs target	No of Business Plans approved No of jobs promoted	2018/19 figures 332 Plans 204 jobs	342 Plans 210 jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and secure client participation through regional and local marketing activity • Regularly monitor activity / performance • Highlight if remedial action required if performance falls below target 	Rolling activity that is ongoing throughout the year	S Mcl	210 jobs promoted
Enabling Economic Growth: To promote Business Growth by delivering economic development programmes to support business growth and job creation	No of programmes delivered No of events delivered No businesses / social enterprises supported	7 Programmes: 1.Social Enterprise 2.Tender Ready 3.Digital First 4.Gearing for Growth 5 Transform 6.New Social Economy 7.Food Capability 6 54	45 jobs created 7 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Council support via range of channels to encourage business participation • Management of delivery agent Contracts to ensure targets are achieved • Regular monitoring of delivery agents' outcomes and spend against targets • Actions take to address any identified areas of underperformance 	Rolling activity that is ongoing throughout the year	SMcl	(Provide actual figures) To promote growth of 58 businesses/social enterprises and 45 new jobs

	No new jobs created	15.5	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with funders' requirements (ERDF and Invest NI) to ensure drawdown of funding 			
To promote employability and skills within the District by contributing to 4 Mid Ulster employability and skills programmes	No programmes delivered No participants supported	4 314	4 320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of programmes via range of channels to encourage recruitment of participants Regular monitoring of project promoter's outcomes and spend against targets 	Rolling activity that is ongoing throughout the year	SMCI	Employability prospects of 320 individuals improved
Delivery of the Rural Development Programme for Mid Ulster – Assisting the Local Action Group (LAG) in the delivery of a local rural development strategy for Mid Ulster to include:	Number of businesses supported for business development activity (strategy target 100)	96 Rural Businesses supported to date with 73 completing grant drawdown	23 business completing grant drawdown by March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the LAG with administration support needed for the delivery of the local rural development strategy Complete the assessment of village renewal applications from Council by August 2019 	Project assessment to complete by end of August 2019 Letters of offer to be issued by 30 th September 2019	Eamon Gallogly & RDP team of 9 staff (8 FTE)	Investment in business expansion activities leading to job creation in 96 rural businesses Improvement in the delivery of basis services for 20 rural communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Business Investment Scheme 	Number of jobs created (strategy target 100)	61 jobs created to date against a target of 100	20 additional jobs created from baseline figure by March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Letters of Offer to successful applicants and monitor the implementation of projects • When projects complete submit claims to DAERA • Monitor and evaluate completed projects against letter of offer targets 			Provide financial support for the renewal of 37 rural villages linked to the Village Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Basic Services 	Number of community /voluntary groups supported to improve basic service provision (strategy target 12)	8 community voluntary groups in receipt of a letter of offer	12 community /voluntary groups to be issued with a letter of offer				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Renewal Scheme 	Number of villages benefiting from investment in village regeneration (strategy target 37)	22 villages have benefited from investment in village regeneration	15 additional villages to be targeted for investment in village regeneration				

• Co-Operation scheme	Number of joint LAG /Council co-operation projects developed	3 co-operation projects at pre development / feasibility stage	2 co-operation projects reaching letter of offer approved stage				
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 1.3 Economic Growth - Our Towns & Villages are vibrant & competitive	CRP 3.3 Sustaining our Environment - Create and build a sense of civic pride in towns and villages across mid ulster						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome

To deliver a series of Urban Regeneration Initiatives	1 marketing campaign to be delivered for Independents Day each of the 5 towns	1 Independents Day campaign	1 campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint marketing campaign/activities across MUDC for Independents Day 4 July 2018 for 5 Towns 	July 2019	Regen Managers	Raise Profile/ increase footfall in 5 towns centres
	1 Marketing campaign to be delivered for Small Business Saturday in each of the 3 towns	1 Small Business Saturday campaign	1 campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint marketing campaign for Small Business Saturday across MUDC 2019 for 3 Towns 	Sep 2019	Regen Managers	Raise profile/increase football in 3 towns centres
	5 seasonal marketing campaigns to be delivered in each of the 5 towns	5	5 campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Town Traders, Comms Dep & town forum groups Agree and plan campaign Development of Marketing campaign Launch Campaign & Deliver Campaign Review campaign 	Sep 2019 - Jan 2020	Regen Managers	Raise profile/increase football in 5 towns centres
		0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a proposal to create a bespoke 	April 2019 –	Regen Managers	

	Town Centre Marketing & Communications Programme for 3 large towns		Develop & Deliver on Town Centre Marketing & Communications Programme for 3 large towns (Year 1 of 4)	marketing & communications campaign for the 3 large town centres with specific & measureable outcomes in areas such as footfall, visitor retention & retention	March 2020		Increased footfall / visitors
	12 events delivered across 5 Town Centres	12 events 2018/19	12 events 2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint external consultancy to develop & deliver the campaigns. • Develop, deliver and promote a number of key events that add vitality and vibrancy to the 5 town centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cookstown Continental Market - Magherafelt Summer Event - Coalisland Summer Event - Walled Garden Maghera - Heels on the Hill Dungannon - Halloween (Dungannon & Coalisland) 	Ongoing from June 2019 – Dec 2020	Regen Managers	Increase civic pride and footfall across 5 towns at each of the 12 events

	1 successful funding partner for town centre events	1 Newell Stores	1 Newell Stores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt & Maghera) <p>Coalisland Summer Event;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review budget available to deliver events, Develop plans and agree with all Stakeholders • Procure entertainers, equipment providers such as stage hire, etc. • Organise H&S arrangements, risk assessments, staffing levels 	Ongoing from April 2019 – July 2019	Regen Managers	Enhanced event with great number of visitors
	1 grant aid programme delivered – Magherafelt Revitalisation Scheme Phase 1	Magherafelt Revitalisation Scheme Phase 1	3 projects identified to be progressed with DfC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree potential projects for DfC Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A29 Roundabout, Cookstown, - Maghera Public Realm - Coalisland Pubic Realm • Prepare projects for tendering 	April 2019 – March 2020 (Year 1 of 2)	Regen Managers	Improved Public Realm in 3 towns

	1 District wide Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme	1 District wide Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme completed	1 New District wide Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme to be developed & delivered over 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree funding contribution • Procure/Tender for works • Deliver projects (Some projects are to be delivered over 2 years) • Employ a Chartered Architect to develop and deliver Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, providing grant aid to eligible businesses to enhance and improve external and/or internal of property. 	April 2019 – March 2020 (Year 1 of 3)	Regen Managers	Improved civic pride and town centre ascetics
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 1.3 Economic Growth - Our Towns & Villages are vibrant & competitive	CRP 3.3 Sustaining our Environment - Create and build a sense of civic pride in towns and villages across mid ulster						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
To deliver a 3 year Village Renewal Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2017 - 2020	15 No. of village regeneration projects delivered	22 no of village projects completed/ongoing	Up to 37 no of village regeneration projects to be progressed/completed by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise project with Community Agree Project Design alongside Technical Team and Design Team with final community agreement Submit applications to RDP for funding, one application per Contract Procure tender for related work which 	March 2020	Council's Capital Team in Partnership with Regen Managers	15 no projects delivered in villages across the district to aid regeneration of key assets, as identified by communities through their respective village plans, in rural areas that are isolated

				<p>will be essentially civil works, capital works and playparks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once Letter of Offer received, appoint company to undertake work • Complete capital works • Meet Community for sign off • Claims to be submitted to RDP to drawdown funding once works completed 			and disadvantaged.
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3.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE

3.1 Annual Improvement Objectives and Associated Programmes

The Council has set a number of annual improvement objectives and associated programmes (projects and activities) for 2019/20, which aim to bring about improvement. The improvement objectives and key improvement programs, set out Council's contribution to the sustainable Community Plan for the District; against which we can monitor and report progress.

Each Council department provides resources to assist with the improvement activities contained within each improvement project (individual service improvement contribution activity linked to corporate improvement programs can be found in 3.2 of the service plan). The annual improvement objectives also align to the Council's main corporate planning document, which contains the council's strategic direction and main priorities.

The Council will focus on the following improvement objectives for 2019 to 2020:

- 1. To assist the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.*
- 2. To improve the average processing time of Local Planning Applications (New).*
- 3. To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.*
- 4. To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council Recreational Facilities.*

We utilise outcome based accountability methodology to manage our performance. This tells us the impact our services are having on communities. Further detailed information relating to Council's improvement objectives, associated activities, outcome indicators, projects and targets is available at www.midulstercouncil.org/Council/Performance (*Mid Ulster Council's Improvement Plan 2019- 2020*) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 03000 132132.

4.0 Equality

The council is committed to fulfilling its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This commitment is demonstrated by allocating the appropriate time, people and resources to fulfil our equality duties. The Equality Scheme commits us to implementing our duties effectively and in a timely way alongside implementing this Service Plan. Without impacting upon our obligations, when carrying out our equality duties we will also take into account the desirability of promoting good relations between people of different religious belief, political

opinion or racial group. We are also required to take into account the need to promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability and encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life. Mid Ulster District Council are committed to fulfilling our disability duties and we set out how we intend to do this in our disability action plan.

3.2 Service Contribution to the Corporate Improvement Objectives/Projects

Link to Community Plan Theme:		Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy		CRP 2.3 Creating Growth - Maximise opportunities to create and grow district wide business and investment						
Improvement Plan Objective	Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
					Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
3.0 To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online	Increase access to services & customer experiences across the district by developing a new MUDC Economic Development On-line Services	Viability of ED/Comms online programme project plans established and going live. Number of online applications	Currently ED can offer no online applications for any of its Grant Aid programmes.	100%	Research the viability and process of developing 2 initial Pilot online application processes for Economic Development (ED) grant aid programmes e.g. Spruce Up Scheme and other grant aided programmes. Lead Officer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with the ED/Comms online working group to examine the viability of developing an online 	May 2019 – March 2020	MMcC	Improved accessibility to all MUDC's Economic Development online services Customer 24/7 accessibility for Economic Development Grant Aid programmes

	Portal Businesses by 2020	received per programme			<p>application process by end Q1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree a Joint Implementation Project Plan and key actions to develop 2 online ED application process by end Q2 • Liaise with Comms and the digital web designers to develop/pilot an online application process for at least two economic development programmes • Train staff as required • Promote and ensure the online application process is available to applicants for a minimum of two economic development programmes - capture baseline data of applicants and online part submissions. • Programme 1 goes live by end of Q3 • Programme 2 goes live by end of Q3 • Conduct a review of data and supplementary feedback from online 			
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					<p>applications, lessons learnt and develop good practice template moving forward for other ED projects e.g. forecast % ratio uptake of potential future online applications versus hardcopy applicants to realise target moving forward.</p>			
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3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2019-20.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Loss of External Funding	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continual review by staff of new funding opportunities. - Council has employed new Funding and Investment officer since January 2017 - Maintain regular communication with funding sources/potential partners. - Management control procedures are in place and staff training provided on the implementation of funder operating guidance. - Regular communication with funder(s) to update on progress and agree solutions. - Senior staff are made aware of key funding sources.
2.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Economic Development	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication - Compliance - Controls - Staff training - Random spot checks by trained staff and documentation of same. - Tenders to be conducted by experienced/trained staff

			- Whistle Blower Hotline
3.	Failing to deliver programme & Drawdown maximum Funding possible	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular internal officer meetings held. - Assessment of progress against Work Plan. - Identification of potential issues at an early stage. - Regular communication with funder(s) to update on progress and agree solutions. - Management control procedures are in place and staff training provided on the implementation of funder operating guidance.
4.	Brexit	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MUDC contributes to Cross Border Council working group and attended meeting on 4th May 17 to consider report compiled by Ulster University 'Brexit and the Ireland/ N Ireland Border Corridor: Risks, Opportunities and Issues' Implications being considered regionally. MUDC to continue to participate in cross border working groups

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)



Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation
Programme
Final Evaluation Report
March 2019



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

This programme is funded by Mid-Ulster District Council and delivered by South West College InnoTech Centre.

Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Promotion and Recruitment	5
2. Overview of Business Support Measures	8
Ajea Products Ltd – Coosktown.....	9
Apex Fastening Solutions – Dungannon.....	11
BMI Group – Dungannon.....	14
Crooks Trailers – Dungannon.....	16
Dev Automation – Ardboe.....	18
Euro Springs Ltd – Dungannon	20
Fibre Tech Ltd – Dungannon	22
JMS Metaltec – Kilrea.....	24
Maximus Crushing and Screening – Dungannon.....	26
McIvor Aviation – Dungannon.....	28
Nugent Engineering – Gallbally	30
Oakfield Engineering – Swatragh	32
Oddball Engineering Solutions – Dungannon	34
Quinn Building Supplies Ltd – Ardboe	36
Specialist Utility Plant Hire Ltd – Dungannon.....	38
Strickland Ireland – Coalisland	39
Surface Form – Cookstown	39
TBC Conversions – Dungannon	39
Strickland Ireland - Coalisland	40
Surfaceform – Cookstown	42
Taxi Bus Conversions (TBC)	44
3. Engineering Innovation Event.....	46
4. Achievement of Programme Targets	48
Job Creation – create a minimum of 15 new jobs.....	49
Job Retention – sustain a minimum of 18 existing	51
Turnover – to achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover.....	52
Follow-on Support - Provide 18 businesses information of relevant follow-on support.....	53
Follow-on Support - 10 businesses to access follow-on support	55
5. Conclusion	56

Executive Summary

In August 2017, following a public procurement process, Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) appointed the InnoTech Centre at South West College, Cookstown, to develop and deliver an Engineering Innovation Programme (EIP) to a minimum of 18 engineering businesses located within the Mid Ulster District for a fee of £63,920 + VAT.

The Mid Ulster District is dominated by the micro/small business sector which provides the vast majority of jobs in the District and is particularly strong in terms of the number of manufacturing/engineering businesses located in the area; an estimated 23% of its workforce are employed in the manufacturing sector, a large proportion of which are based within the engineering sector, contributing significantly to local employment and economic wealth.

The Mid Ulster EIP aligned closely with the MUDC Economic Development Strategy 'Our Plan for Growth' (2015 – 2020) which highlighted a distinct need to support key local business sectors to improve their innovation, productivity and competitiveness. Further, Theme 1 of the plan 'Enabling Economic Growth /Sectoral Diversification' outlines the need to 'foster a culture of enterprise' and 'support businesses to drive productivity'.

To achieve this, MUDC developed the EIP to offer specific support measures to provide local engineering businesses with the opportunity to build their innovative capacity and stimulate job creation through the provision of technical consultancy support to develop new products, processes and/or services. The programme offered participating businesses a baseline audit, 8 days one to one consultancy support, action plan and signposting service.

Aims & Objectives

- **To recruit, audit and provide up to 8 days'** one-to-one innovation consultancy support, including access to Innovation Centres and bespoke Action Plans to **18 engineering businesses**
- **Innovation** – 18 businesses supported to develop a new product, process and/or service
- **Job Creation** – create a minimum of 15 new jobs
- **Job Retention** – sustain a minimum of 18 existing jobs
- **Turnover** – to achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover
- **Follow-on Support** –
 - All 18 businesses to be provided with written information detailing all other relevant sources of support
 - Minimum of 10 businesses to access follow-on support from other support providers

An overview of the programme results in relation to the targets is shown below. The table provides more details on the specific performance against stated targets.

Target	Achieved
<i>Recruit 18 engineering businesses</i>	✓
<i>Conduct 18 business audits</i>	✓
<i>Provide up to 8 days' one-to-one innovation consultancy support per business</i>	✓
<i>Develop 18 action plans</i>	✓
<i>18 Businesses supported to develop a new product, process or service</i>	New Product – 14 New Process – 4 New Service - 0
<i>Create 15 new jobs</i>	15.5 new jobs created. Total value £291.5k. Apex Fasteners – 1 Full Time JMS Engineering – 1 Full Time and 1 Part Time Quinn Building Supplies – 2 Full Time and 2 Part Time Strickland – 3 Full Time Surfaceform – 1 Full Time TBC Conversions – 6 Full Time A further 10 jobs are anticipated in following 12 months valued at £208k.
<i>Sustain 18 existing jobs</i>	Exceeded - 200.5 jobs sustained Total value £3.5M
<i>Achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover</i>	✓
<i>Provide 18 businesses with written information of relevant follow-on support</i>	✓
<i>10 businesses to access follow-on support</i>	✓

The outputs achieved in terms of new product / process development, job creation, job retention and turnover growth demonstrate the value that technical innovation support brings to the local engineering sector. Creating more effective processes, implementing new ideas and developing dynamic products has improved the sectors appetite for innovation, demonstrated by their continuous engagement with follow on programmes. Importantly, the programme provided businesses with the expertise, skills and resources to support their capacity to successfully innovate, improve competitiveness and improve productivity.

1. Promotion and Recruitment

Phase 1 Recruitment: September 2017 - 28th February 2018

The project initiation meeting took place on 21st August 2017 where marketing materials and programme launch PR was discussed. The programme was officially launched in September 2017 following approval of all documentation and marketing materials.



Pictured are Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, and Jill Cush, Innovation Manager, South West College at a photoshoot to launch the Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme.

In order to promote Phase 1 of the Programme various forms of advertising and promotion were carried out. These included:

- Press release and advertisements placed in 6 local newspapers (Mid-Ulster Mail, Derry Post, Tyrone Constitution, Impartial Reporter, Tyrone Times and the Tyrone Courier) on the week beginning 18th September 2017;
- A social media campaign was launched via Facebook and Twitter;
- An email campaign was launched and distributed to the InnoTech client database and MUDC E-Zine from 28th September 2017;
- A Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme page was created on the South West College website;
- Programme flyers were printed and circulated to relevant companies

Mid Ulster
**Engineering Innovation
Programme**



Supporting Local Business

**Move your business forward with the
Engineering Innovation Programme**

The InnoTech Centre at the South West College has been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council to deliver the new "Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme" developed to support growth in Mid Ulster's engineering sector through stimulating innovation.

The Programme will deliver **FREE** specialist one-to-one innovation support from the InnoTech Centre of up to 8 days to 18 businesses to assist them to:

- Embed innovation within their business to develop new products, processes and/or services,
- Increase sales; and
- Create new jobs



Businesses will be selected for support through a competitive process and the Programme will CLOSE once all 18 places are filled. To find out how this Programme could help your business innovate and how to apply please Tel: 028 82 255223 or Email: Clodagh.oneill@swc.ac.uk

This Programme is funded by Mid Ulster District Council and delivered by South West College InnoTech Centre.




Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme Recruitment Advert

By 28th February 2018, 9 business were assessed and recruited to the programme following a screening process by Invest NI:

- Ajea Products Ltd.
- Crooks Trailers
- Specialist Utility Plant Hire Ltd.
- McCloskey International
- JMS Metaltec Ltd.
- Strickland Ireland
- Surface Form
- Fibretec Ltd.
- Oddball Engineering Solutions Ltd.

Phase 2 Recruitment: 1st March 2018 – 30th June 2018

In order to promote Phase 2 of the programme recruitment, further advertising and promotion was carried out which included:

- Local press advertisements placed in 6 local newspapers (Mid-Ulster Mail, Derry Post, Tyrone Constitution, Impartial Reporter, Tyrone Times and the Tyrone Courier) on the week beginning 23rd April 2018.
- Social media campaign ongoing via Facebook and Twitter (including InnoTech, SWC and MUDC pages) during April, May and June.
- Email campaign distributed to client databases during April and June.
- Promotion at InnoTech and South West College event “GET Engineering” held in February 2018

A further 2 businesses were recruited by 30th June 2018, with a further 4 applications awaiting assessment. McCloskey International withdrew from the programme as they did not wish to disclose financial details which left an additional space available on the programme.

The additional 2 businesses were:

- Maximus Crushing and Screening
- Quinn Building Supplies

The final 8 positions were recruited to the programme by 30th September 2018:

- TBC Ltd
- BMI Trailers
- DEV Automation
- Oakfield Engineering
- Nugent Engineering
- Mclvor Aviation
- EuroSprings Ltd
- Apex Fastening Solutions

All applications were scored using an approved scoring matrix combining a mix of essential criteria and an assessment of the potential business impacts demonstrated in the application form. Applications were assessed by a panel that included Clodagh O'Neill (Programme Manager) and Aaron Black (Programme Consultant). In order to be eligible to participate on the programme, businesses had to receive a minimum score of 40 out of a total 100. 19 businesses were recruited to the programme with one business being unsuccessful in achieving a place on the programme. Following assessment, each business was issued with a Form of Engagement and De Minimis Aid Declaration Form to formally accept a place on the programme.

2. Overview of Business Support Measures

Once accepted on to the programme, each business received the following:

- An Innovation Audit with the Programme Manager (Clodagh O'Neill) in conjunction with consultant undertaking the project. Audits were carried out onsite at the business premises to assess each business' innovation and business improvement needs, its current capacity and future potential and make recommendations for the type of assistance to be provided under the Programme. The audit gathered accurate, quantifiable baseline information on the business at the start of the Programme, such as turnover and employee numbers to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation at the end of the programme. It also included a high-level project plan with a brief breakdown of the proposed support delivery in key stages.
- 8-days tailored consultancy support with technical consultant to develop new products, processes and/or services, stimulating opportunities for job creation, increased productivity and competitiveness.
- Bespoke Action Plan for each participating business, incorporating short, medium and long-term actions with guidance on how to further progress the innovative activity supported as part of this Programme, and provide details of agencies where the business can access further support.

A summary of the support provided to each of the 18 businesses is provided as follows:

Overview

AJEA Products Ltd is a new product design and manufacturing company based in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, who for the past 3 years have been developing an innovative flood protective system for homes and businesses 'AutoFloodguard'. AutoFloodguard – is a very new concept in the flood resilience market. It consists of a passive barrier system, which means it does not require any power source or human interaction to deploy.

Rationale for Support

AJEA Products required a process innovation support to identify an efficient and systemic assembly process for the AutoFloodguard. The business needed to technically define and graphically specify the entire assembly process so that future employees had a streamlined and quality assured process to follow. This involved identification and definition of each assembly process for the Auto flood guard system and building a detailed CAD model, including jigs/ fixtures to replicate each assembly process.

Result

A detailed assembly manual was developed using CAD screenshots, arrows, text, colour and descriptors to effectively communicate the assembly process in a systematic process. A series of storyboards for each subassembly and assembly process was created until the top level AutoFloodguard assembly was achieved. A potential failure modes and effect analysis (PFMEA) was carried out to critically evaluate each assembly and subassembly process. A series of CAD models were created using existing CAD components, with bespoke jigs and fixtures added to the CAD assembly environment to replicate a real life assembly process. These were created, assembled, coloured, exploded and rendered to achieve a real life like representation of the assembly process.



Ajea Autoflood Guard System

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – Company expect to create 3 x FT posts in 2019 (March 2019-August 2019) including 1 F/T general operative at £18-20k, 1 F/T CAD operative at £21k and 1 F/T administrator at £16-18k.

Job Retention – 1 P/T Administrator

Turnover – Turnover remained static at £20,000.

Follow-on Support – Company signposted to the Invest NI Innovation Voucher Scheme for a further £5,000 funding.

Overview

Apex Fastening Solutions is a leading supplier of fasteners, fixings, engineering consumables and tooling throughout Ireland, specialising in Kan-Ban and JIT delivery to various manufacturing sectors.

Rationale for Support

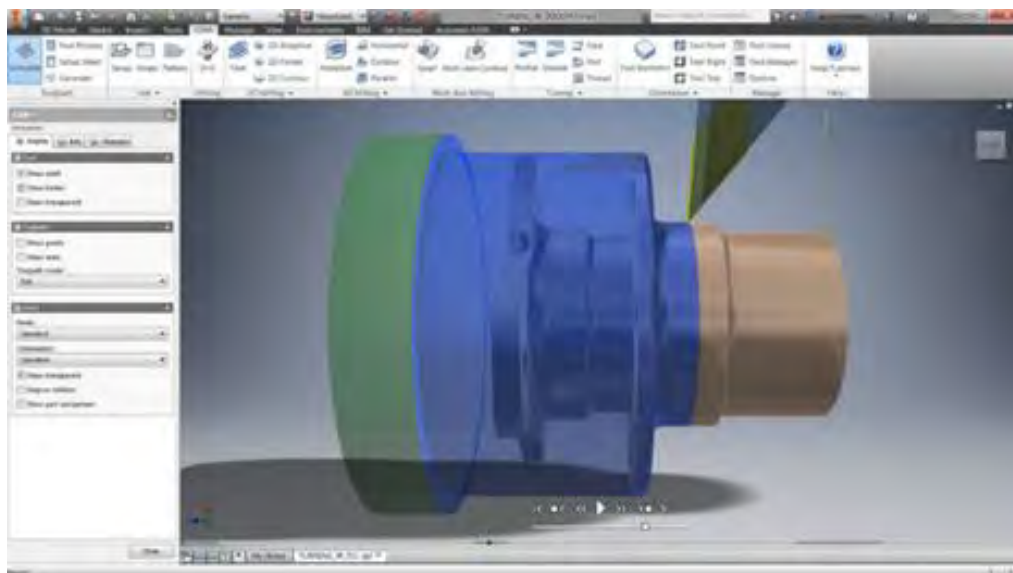
Apex are progressing with the manufacturing of bespoke fastening solutions to meet customer requirements which required an investment in machinery, new skills and a commitment to diversifying their business through product and process innovation. In July 2018, the business purchased a CNC lathe to allow the company to manufacture their own range of bespoke nuts, bolts, fasteners and fittings. This work was previously outsourced. The CAM package Apex adopted for the CNC lathe was unsuitable and unreliable, which created issues in their manufacturing processes and progress with new product developments. This was due to the lack of functionality on the CAM side especially where they required the ability to import and use custom tools in the CAM.

Result

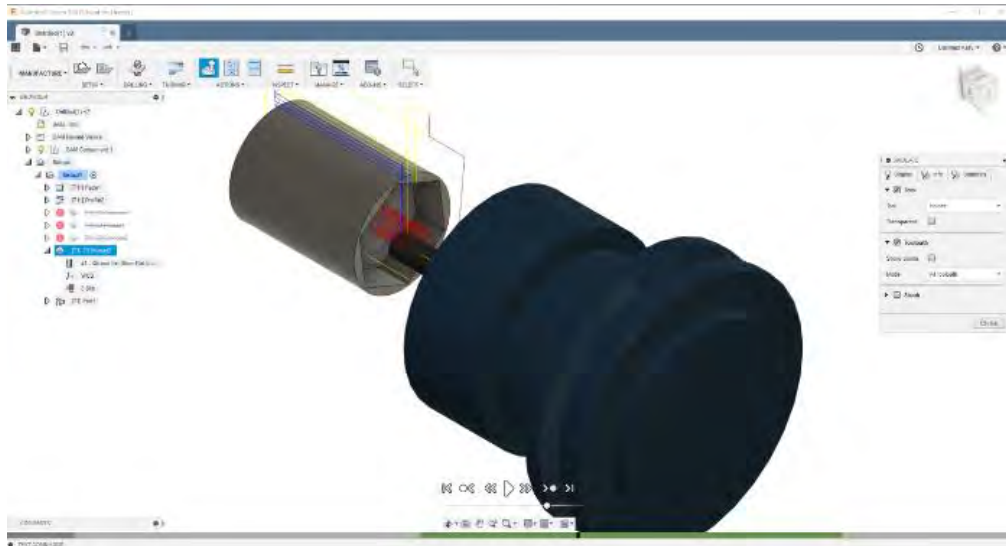
The 8 days technical assistance was based on sourcing, testing and programming suitable CAD-CAM software for their CNC lathe. Extensive research was conducted on 6 CAD / CAM software applications, with 3 applications trailed within the company. This included Autodesk Fusion 360, Autodesk HSM works and Autodesk feature CAM. Apex provided CAD drawings of parts to be turned so that the 3 software applications could be accurately trailed for suitability. The technical consultant worked closely with the machine operator to obtain critical dimensions to achieve a successful turning operation. A series of site visits were conducted to run the Feature CAM program on the Doosan lynx 200 CNC lathe. This software application was successfully imported onto the machine, allowing Apex to enhance their existing CNC lathe processes and improve their machining capabilities for the manufacturing of both existing and new products.



Doosan CNC Lathe



Trialling Autodesk HSM



Trialling Autodesk Fusion 360

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – One new F/T CNC lathe operator job created in August 2018 at a value of £28k and expect to recruit a second F/T general operative position in March 2019 at a value of £22k.

Job Retention – Retained one F/T lathe operator at a value of £25k.

Turnover – Turnover of £2.1M year ending 2017. Year ending 2018 they reported a turnover of £2.8M – an increase of 33%.

Follow-on Support – Apex continue to avail of knowledge and assistance within SWC and have been signposted to Invest NI for financial help as well as further assistance in the development of digital technologies.

Overview

Formed in 1999 the BMI Group is the longest established manufacturer and supplier in the UK and Ireland for waste ejector trailers. They pride themselves on being the leading manufacturer and supplier of walking floor trailers within the UK and now boast a range of highly innovative trailers.

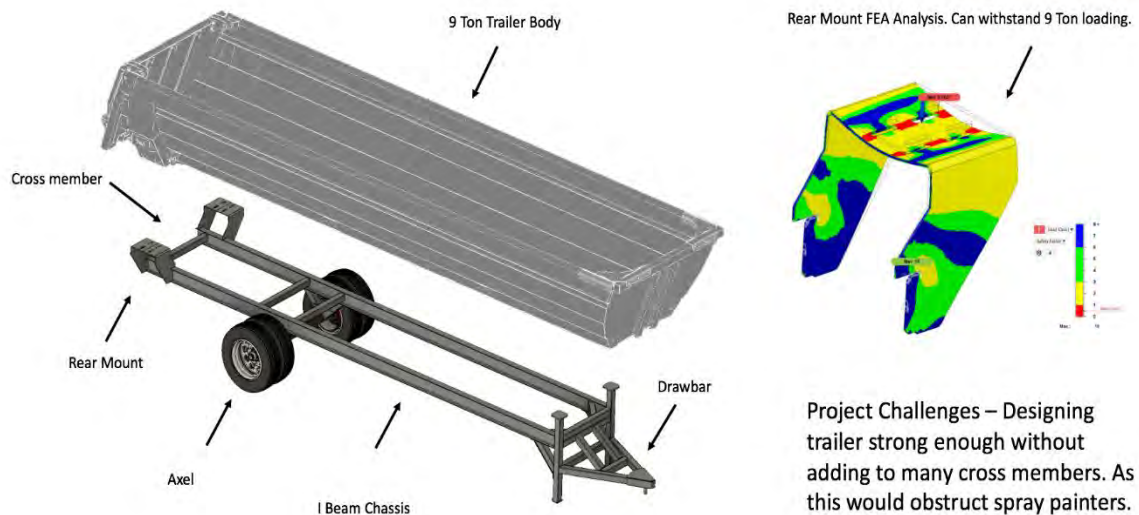
Rationale for Support

BMI required technical assistance to design and manufacture special purpose customised jigs to facilitate the production process with an emphasis on; reducing damage to products, reducing re-work and increasing productivity and output. BMI assessed their manufacturing process and identified a number of areas in which jig innovation is required. The focus of the Mid Ulster project was the most pressing need, which has been identified by the company as Production Jigs – for moving equipment throughout machining and assembling stages. The innovation project required the design and development of a universal dolly system with core purpose of safely transporting trailer bodies within the production environment. Their current workflow involved attaching a free hanging chain to a forklift truck and maneuvering the trailer bodies into the desired location. This workflow while it is easily adaptable to any trailer body, was causing considerable damage to the trailer as a result of chain scuffing.

Result

3D CAD software was used to design and develop a suitable dolly system compatible with the existing BMI trailer range taking into consideration suitable materials, trailer body geometries and fabrication methods. To aid the manufacturing and assembly of the new system, engineering drawings and a detailed cutting list were produced for BMI. A comprehensive assembly build manual was also compiled illustrating the assembly process step by step in order for the company to proceed with the manufacturing stage. This new dolly system will enable direct mounting to different trailer bodies, walking floor, ejector, and tipper trailers and provide a safe and secure alternative to manoeuvre products around the shop floor.

BMI Trailers – Mid Ulster Engineering



Project Challenges – Designing trailer strong enough without adding too many cross members. As this would obstruct spray painters.

BMI Dolly System

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 0 new jobs created as a result of the consultancy support which was focused on improving BMI's process innovation to facilitate the production process.

Job Retention – 60 business jobs retained, but not as a direct result of the process innovation.

Turnover – £13m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £14.5m turnover at the end – an 11.5% increase.

Follow-on Support – BMI continue to avail of support at SWC including upskilling in the area of Leadership & Management, Hydraulics and Business Improvement. This funded DfE Skills Focus Programme offers up to 75% off the cost of these training programmes.

Overview

For over 40 years, Crooks Trailers design and manufacture a range of trailers including livestock trailers, flat beds and plant trailers. The company also supply various trailer parts including brakes, lighting and suspension units. The products are currently made and assembled at their Dungannon base and are sold in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland predominately to the agricultural market.

Rationale for Support

Crooks identified a new product development opportunity for a sheep split deck system for their existing livestock trailers. The company felt current sheep split deck systems for trailers were not user friendly and cause a burden to the customers. The solution provided by all trailer manufacturers is a removable aluminum deck system that can be installed after a trailer is purchased. This solution however was prone to jamming, component failure and causes unnecessary stress for users. Crooks therefore required support to develop a new sheep split deck product that was more reliable, contained less parts and could be a permanent feature of the trailer. Crooks needed technical support to design an innovative split deck system through 3D CAD.

Result

A 'tail-lift design' CAD model suitable for retrofitting the new product into their existing trailers was designed. To achieve this, Crooks existing livestock trailer that the sheep deck system would be applied to, was reverse engineered which involved deconstructing the trailers dimensions, measurements and structures and accurately recording these for the 3D CAD concept design of the new split deck system. The structural integrity of the newly designed split deck system was tested and verified through Finite Element Analysis (FEA) simulation. Total maximum load capacities were generated, confirming that a maximum of 3 sheep could access the floor at any one time. Using the Photoworks 360 element of Solidworks software, 10 photographic renderings were produced for the client. The renderings included three basic front, top and left hand views of the trailer as well as 2 isometric views. The last five views included isometric and split views of the trailer with the upper decks installed and in their stored position and with the rear door open with the ramps in the loading/unloading position.

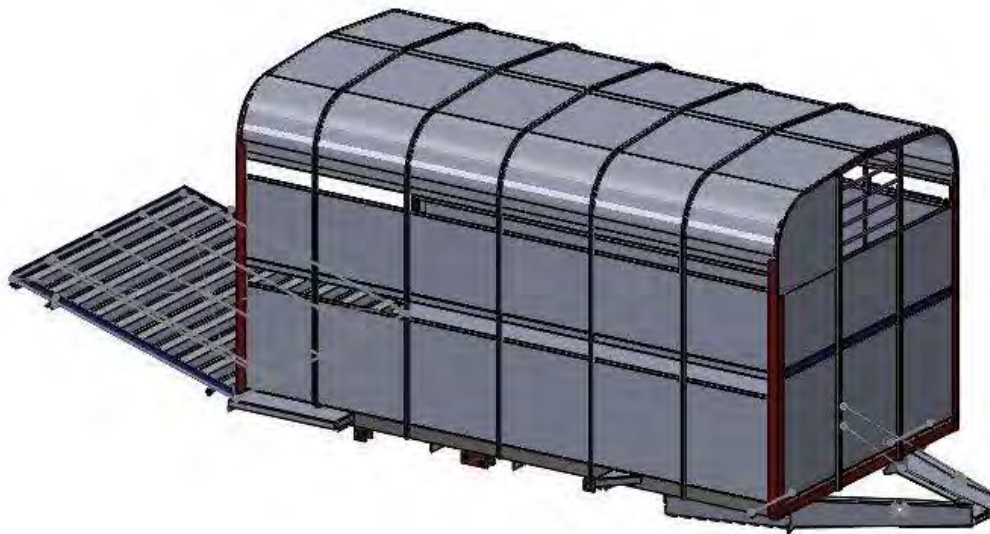
Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 0 new jobs created as the product has not reached manufacturing stage.

Job Retention – 7 jobs retained at a value of £160k.

Turnover – £0.5m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £550k turnover at the end – a 10% increase.

Follow-on Support – Crooks continue to avail of support at SWC including upskilling in the area of Leadership & Management and Digital Marketing funded by DfE Skills Focus Programme. This funded DfE Skills Focus Programme offers up to 75% off the cost of these training programmes. Crooks are also undertaking a £5,000 Invest NI innovation voucher with SWC to support further R&D for new product development.



Sample CAD model for Sheep Split Deck System

Overview

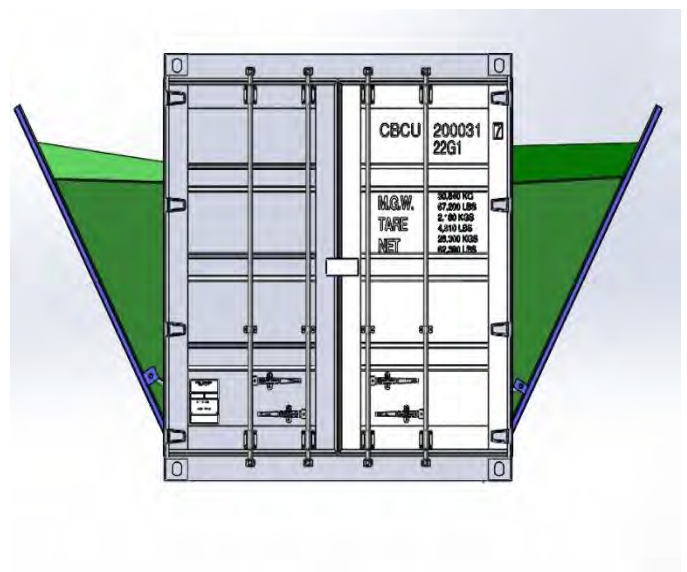
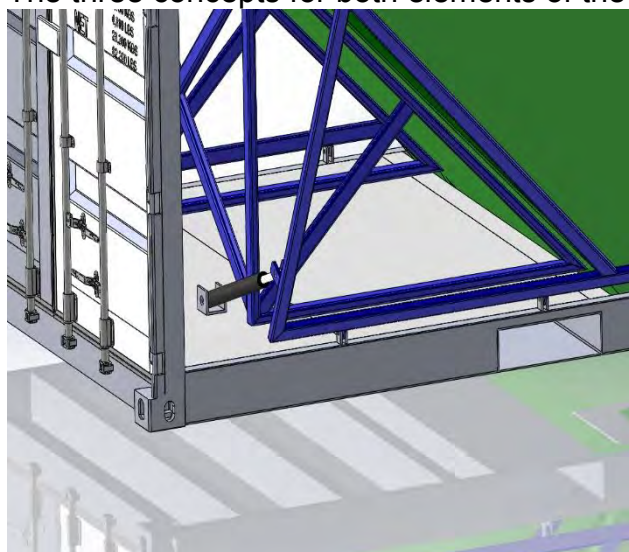
DEV Automation design, manufacture and supply a wide range of bag filling machines from manual to fully automated systems, bulk filling and material handling systems, robot and palletising systems bag closing equipment. They also supply a range of high-speed form fill and seal bagging and bailing systems, stretch hooding machines, control panels and end of line automation. The business also primarily work in the coal and animal feed industry, exporting their products to the Republic of Ireland and UK market.

Rationale for Support

Dev Automation required new product design support for an innovative portable high-speed weighing machine to weigh free flowing material at volume and speed. This new product would add to their existing product portfolio and would be targeted at various markets such as shipping ports and warehouses. The product will be useable in both containers or stand alone in a warehouse. Although there were similar devices on the market, the businesses USP was the speed which the flowing material can be weighed at and the portable nature of the product.

Result

Through the Programme Dev Automation received assistance in the 3D CAD design of a hopper and winch system for the new weighing machine. Initial patent research was undertaken to review the design of existing products on the market and subsequently three concepts for the hopper folding mechanism and three concepts for the winch system were designed to demonstrate basic parts and functionality. The three concepts for both elements of the



unit were reviewed with the business, selecting two final concepts for further 3D modelling. Components for the selected folding hopper mechanism and winch system were added to provide detailed 3D models of parts and functionality. The business are now in a position to convert the 3D designs into engineered drawings ready for manufacture.

Dev Automation – 3D CAD Designs

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – The Company anticipate 1 F/T fabricator post to be created valued at £18k.

Job Retention – 1 F/T job retained at £9k.

Turnover – £230k turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £230k turnover at the end – a 0% increase.

Follow-on Support – Signposted to the DfE InnovateUs and Invest NI Innovation voucher funded programmes for further R&D assistance.

Overview

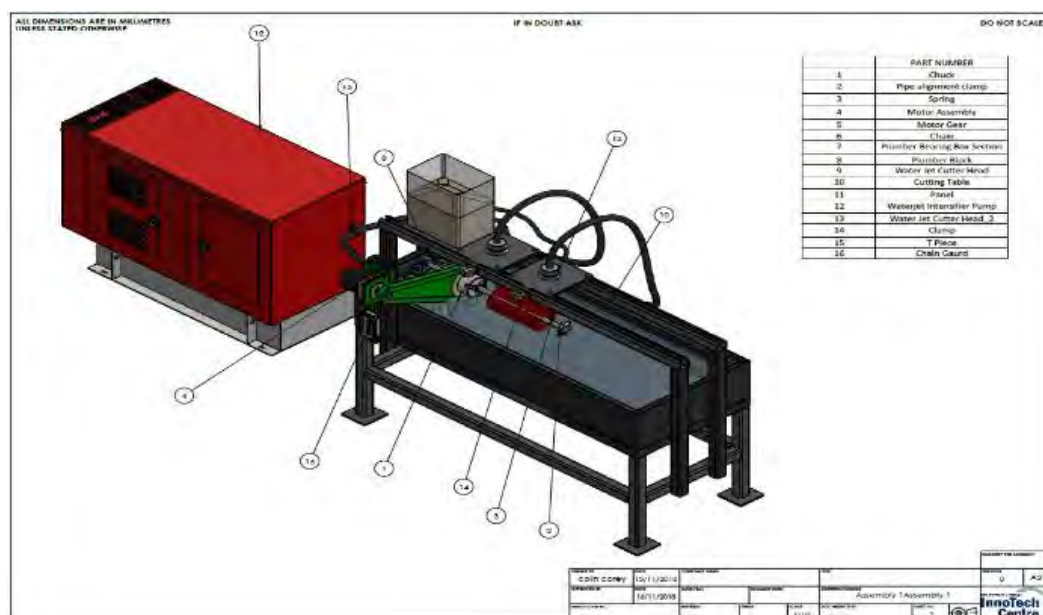
Euro Springs (Ireland) Ltd, established in 1997, has become a highly successful coil spring manufacturing company based in Co Tyrone. The company manufacture a range of springs including; compression springs, tension springs, Camber/Tension Bars and agricultural springs. They serve the needs of a wide range of users including; Screen Manufacturers, Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers, Precision Engineers and Roller Shutter Door Manufacturers.

Rationale for Support

Eurosprings required technical assistance to develop and design a new finishing process for integration into their spring manufacturing using waterjet technologies to support digital fabrication within this business. They required technical assistance to design a bespoke clamp to secure the springs during the waterjet finishing process. Spring finishing was originally carried out using an abrasive 18" saw blade and a milling machine. This process was traditional, inefficient and adversely impacting on productivity of the factory floor. In addition, the blade is prone to wander, meaning the finishing had to be frequently re-worked and scrapped. This caused excess waste and manufacturing costs which could be avoided if an innovative spring finishing process was integrated. The client requested the design of a dual head cutting system that would speed up the facing process.

Result

A site visit was undertaken to investigate the current spring finishing process and review the associated challenges with the grinding and cutting of the spring ends first



hand. A 3D CAD concept was designed, identifying and modelling the various components required to deliver the cutting part of the operation. This included a pipe alignment clamp, a 3-jaw lathe chuck and plumber blocks.

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – The Company anticipate 1 F/T Eurozone Sales Rep to be recruited at £30k (awaiting decision on EU Exit before recruiting – April 19)

Job Retention – 15 F/T job retained at £248k.

Turnover – £1.8m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £1.93m turnover at the end – a 7% increase.

Follow-on Support – Euro Springs are working with SWC to submit an InterTrade Ireland Fusion Application to fund the recruitment of an engineering graduate. This is valued at £39-56k for a 12 or 18 month period.

Overview

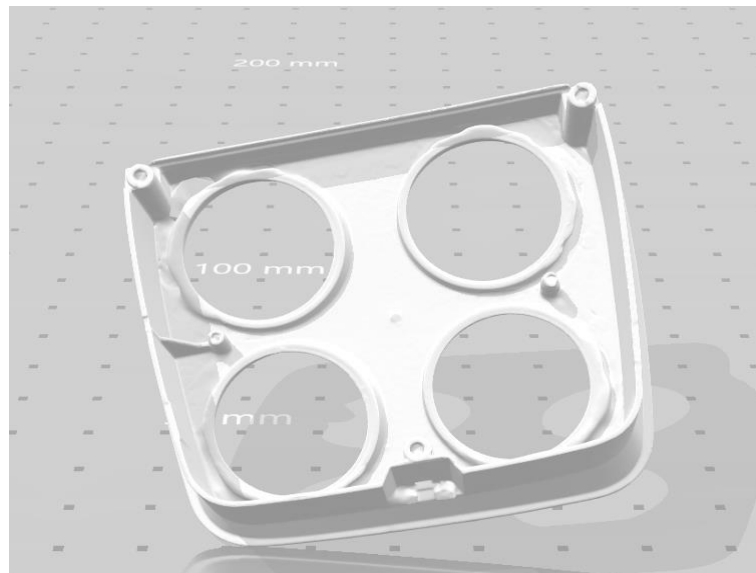
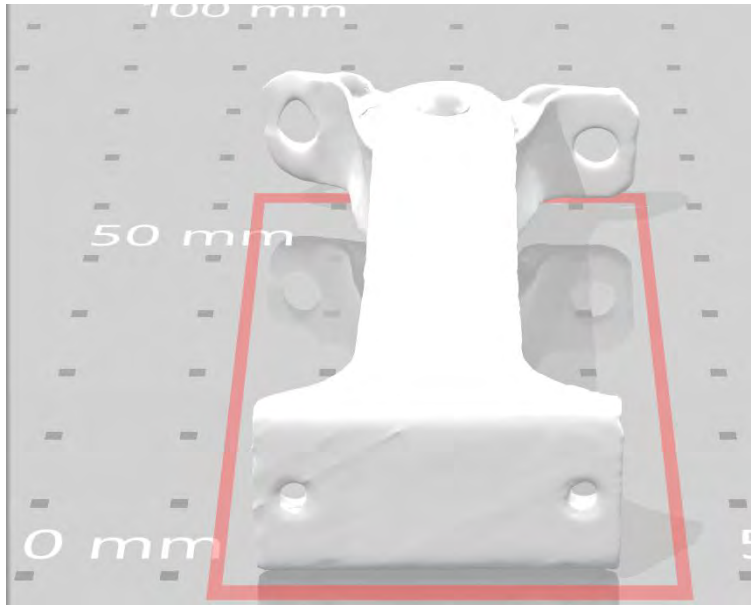
Fibretec is a glass fibre manufacturer experienced in providing glass fibre and fibreglass supplies throughout Northern Ireland. Currently they design and manufacture composite parts and tools for the automotive industry in both the commercial and motorsports markets. Current customers include Wright Bus, Montgomery Motorsport Ltd, C Bradley Motorsport. Products which they manufacture include fibreglass bonnets, bus parts/ bodywork, bumpers, steps and custom panels. Services provided also include unique car restoration and upholstery services.

Rationale for Support

Fibretec requested specialist support to reverse engineer and prototype existing car dash components using 3D scanning and printing technologies. This was to enable the business to restore parts that were no longer available on the market such as those for classic cars. The business were keen to explore the innovative process of 3D printing and how it could be integrated into their current manufacturing process to support the repair and restoration of existing parts and also new product development.

Result

The innovation support provided included the 3D scanning of physical components using high accuracy laser scanning equipment to reverse engineer and provide capability for re-engineering. This was achieved using the Hexagon Arm laser scanner and Geomagic Control to 3D Scan and create a polygonal mesh file for 3D printing. Using Meshmixer and Geomagic Control software, the car components scan data was repaired to support conversion into robust 3D CAD models. Using 3D printers, the 3D models were printed using materials such as Polylactic Acid, Graphene enhanced filament and Polycarbonate. Fibretec now have an insight into digital manufacturing technologies and how they can be embedded into the manufacturing process to support both productivity and business growth through innovation.



Imagery of 3D Scan Data of Car Dash Components

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – The Company are currently recruiting (March 19) for 2 full time general operatives (£18k each) – one a replacement, the other a new post created due to increased demand.

Job Retention – 2 F/T job retained at £36k.

Turnover – £139k turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £137k turnover at the end – a 1% decrease due to loss of staff member and issues recruiting for backfill and additional staff.

Follow-on Support- Fibre Tech have requested further support from SWC through the DfE funded InnovateUs programme (£6,000) for upskilling in design software and 3D printing.

Overview

JMS Engineering are at the forefront of sheet metal fabrication. They are a subcontracting fabrication business working with customers including CDE, Tobermore Concrete and Windell. Established in 1994, they have continually adapted their processing capabilities in order to meet market demands. Until recently JMS only provided maintenance services for Tobermore, but over the last 3 years have diversified and invested over 1 million in the latest processing technologies to cater for a wider range of customers. JMS now provide Flat Sheet and Tube Laser Cutting, Folding, Fabrication and Finishing under one roof, meaning they are a one-stop shop for any subcontract fabrication.

Rationale for Support

JMS required process innovation support as they were experiencing significant challenges in the manufacturing process surrounding inventory, motion, waiting time, processing and quality. Collectively these were adversely impacting on the productivity and efficiency of the business. JMS needed technical support to streamline and better manage their manufacturing processes and implement a number of lean innovations, particularly in the area of 5S, Line Balance, Layout, Waste, and Workplace organisation.

Result

Onsite consultations with the Operations Manager were conducted to analyse JMS's existing manufacturing processes and to identify the primary factors that were adversely impacting on the productivity and efficiency of the business. The on-site analysis focused on a comprehensive examination of the businesses existing plant, manufacturing processes, workplace environment, material flow, material storage & dispatch and inventory management. The design of company specific Kanban's were produced which involved the consultant drawing a visual model of their plant, to observe the flow of work moving through a Kanban system and identify blockers, bottlenecks and queues that could be improved through the implementation of lean techniques. The consultant developed a bespoke plan and new layout plan to improve flow of material, and create simple 'systems' to allow this to be implemented. The process innovation improvements support has enabled JMS to implement change, improve their ability to service existing customer orders and be in a better position to deal with the continuous increased demand represented by the 48% turnover increase during the programme period.

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – The Company have created 1 F/T laser operator job valued at £21k due to better workflow and usage of machinery. They also recruited 1 P/T account assistant in Aug 18 due to increased workload valued at £8k.

Job Retention – 25 F/T and 5 P/T jobs retained valued at £425k.

Turnover – £1.42m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £2.1m turnover at the end – a 48% increase.

Follow-on Support- JMS are working with SWC to access further support in Business Improvement and Health & Safety upskilling, through the DfE Funded InnovateUs (£3,000) and Skills Focus programme (75% funding on accredited training). JMS are collaborating with InterTrade Ireland to access skilled assistance and/or a funded graduate recruit.

Overview

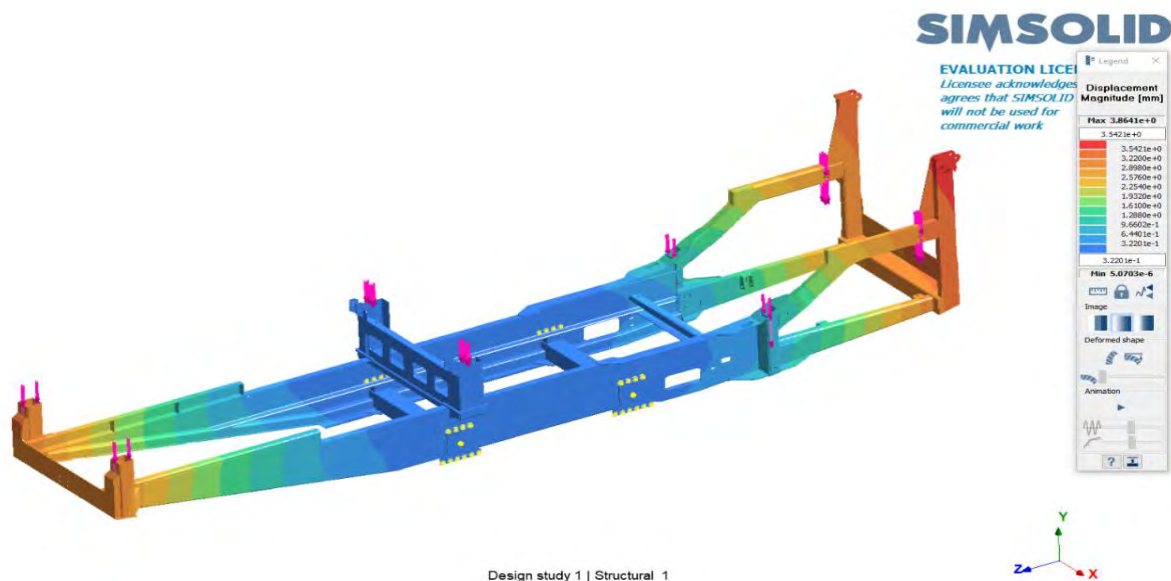
Maximus design, manufacture and supply Crushing and Screening equipment for the aggregates industry. Founded in 2004, Maximus Crushing and Screening Ltd is an independent, global manufacturer and distributor of quality Crushing Equipment & Screening Equipment for a wide range of applications.

Rationale for Support

Maximus had recently designed two new screening machines to extend their product portfolio. Prior to manufacture they need to ensure key components were structurally sound through finite element analysis (FEA) of the CAD designs. The project focused on completing Failure Mode Effect Analysis (FMEA) on a new machines chassis, to understand what materials / parts need to be added or removed from the machine. Maximus had no experience of undertaking FMEA within the company and no skilled individual to allocate to this critical design task.

Result

The support offered to the client was to assist in the development of a screener for the materials handling industry. The CAD files for the new screening machine were reviewed and converted for FEA purposes with simulation undertaken on the chassis, screen box and the side-wall of the screen box using SimSolid software. Maximum stresses and displacement values were constructed through the simulation analysis to influence further design amendments before product manufacturing. The consultancy support has also enabled Maximus to explore the use of FEA within new product development. Through this simulated testing, they can virtually test new ideas, quickly and efficiently evaluate performance and improve quality before the machine reaches manufacturing stage.



Maximus Screener FEA Simulation Testing

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – Currently recruiting for 1 F/t engineering position valued at £30-35 (March 19).

Job Retention – Sustained 1 F/t engineer valued at £35k as a direct result of the programme. All 110 jobs within the business have been sustained.

Turnover – £14.6m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £19m (est) turnover at the end – a 30% increase.

Follow-on Support- Maximus have continued to collaborate with SWC through the DfE funded 'Connected' Programme and a Knowledge Transfer Partnership application to be submitted in April 19 valued at approx. £60k.

Overview

Mclvor Aviation are aircraft ground support equipment suppliers and have a vast amount of experience working in the aviation industry. They manufacture a diverse range of aircraft and ground support equipment including, aircraft tugs, aircraft stairs, cargo loaders and aircraft de-icers which are sold to airports worldwide

Rationale for Support

The company requested new product development assistance to design a new runway sprayer, a new product to the aviation market. Currently runway spraying devices are manufactured using aluminium which corrodes within a 3 to 4 year period. As a result, the sprayers are no longer fit for purpose and customers are forced to purchase a new sprayer. Following market research within the industry, the company sought to develop a new runway sprayer using stainless steel as the material which would not be prone to corrosion, from a result of chemical reactions between it and the surrounding environment.

Result

Mclvor Aviation received 3D CAD support to create multiple design concepts for the new runway sprayer device. The consultancy included the design of the de-icer machine showing the machine in transport and working modes. The design also included part design, sub assembly and assembly drawings. The newly designed product was visible via CAD images produced during the design phase of the project. This new design will extend the lifeline of the de-icer unit. The de-icer will be mobile i.e. pulled behind a tractor and powered externally with the tractor. The de-icer will thus be easy and quick to set up on site when in use. The company have now reached a point where they can now manufacture the de-icer machine to the specified drawings.



CAD Models of New Runway Sprayer

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 2 F/T fabricator posts to be recruited in Oct 2019 when manufacture of the product is underway. These posts are valued at £25k each.

Job Retention – Sustained 4 F/T post within the company valued at £62.5K.

Turnover – £1.2m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £1.4m turnover at the end – an 8% increase.

Follow-on Support- the business has been signposted to the Invest NI innovation voucher scheme (£5,000) to seek further R&D support for new product development.

Overview

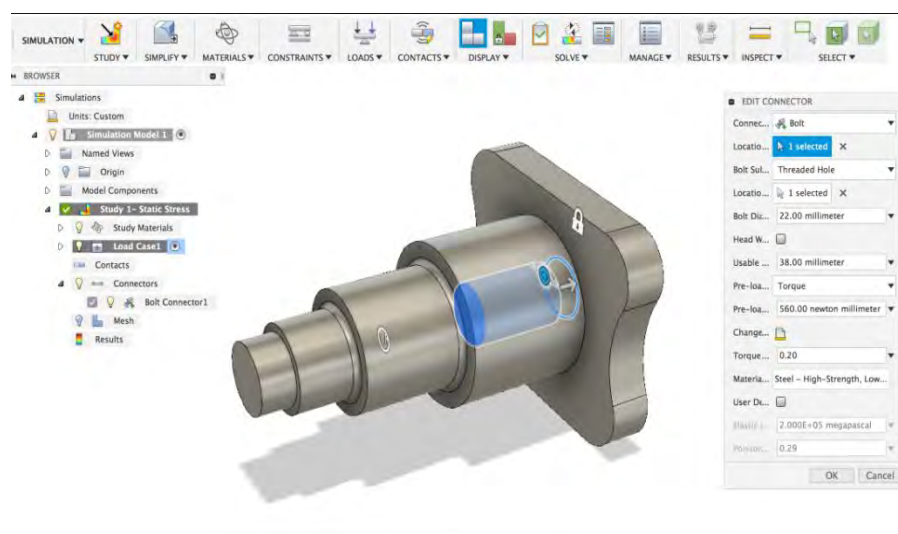
Sean Nugent established Nugent Engineering Ltd in 1984, his sons Shane (MD) and Damien (Sales Support) are the shareholders and directors. The company manufactures a range of livestock handling equipment and CAT 1 trailer range. Nugent products are sold within its home market and sales extend to GB, Australia, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and the Netherlands.

Rationale for Support

Nugent Engineering are in the process of moving away from importing stub axles and instead manufacturing their own locally. This will result in less reliance on suppliers, cost saving, increased quality, and a conscientious move that will help the company move closer towards their goal of becoming more self-sufficient. The business required support with Finite Element Analysis to identify maximum stresses and deflection expected from their stub axle assembly, to allow them to make appropriate recommendations with regards to safe loading limits and determine axle life expectancy.

Result

Finite Element testing was undertaken on the stub axle assembly for use on a range of agricultural and equestrian trailers. CAD models for the stub axle were converted for FEA simulation with various constraints and loads added as per real life data. Following analysis relevant design modifications were constructed to ensure the safety and performance of the final design in preparation for manufacture. Nugent can now make appropriate recommendations about safe loading limits and determine axle life expectancy.



FEA Simulations on Nugent Trailer Stub Axel

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 2 F/T welding posts to be recruited in the upcoming year due to increased output valued at £18k each (total £36k)

Job Retention – All jobs retained across the company (85 F/T and 2 P/T) valued at £1.5M

Turnover – £8.8 m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £9.7m turnover at the end – a 10% increase.

Follow-on Support- ***the*** business have continued to collaborate with SWC through the Assured Skills Welding Academy to train and recruit suitably skilled apprentices.

Overview

Oakfield Engineering are a micro-company who machine all sizes of turned and milled components for manufacturing businesses and conveyor drums for the quarry industry. They supply precision engineering parts to manufacturers and plant maintenance departments of heavy plant, conveyors and re-cycling equipment. Services include CNC batchwork, conventional machining, milling, drilling and jig manufacturing. Their customers include Strickland Ireland, McAuley Trailers and Glenshane Eggs, offering both breakdown services and manufacturing of small components.

Rationale for Support

Oakfield Engineering were keen to extend their current business model by designing and bringing to market their own agricultural products, specifically a new quad trailer. However, the business had no capacity to design and structurally test a 3D model of the proposed product. The quad trailer had an innovative design feature; the ability to lift and transport farm bails. The product is aimed at small holding farmers who use quads as their main method of on-farm transportation.

Result

The nature of the support was the design and development of a 3D CAD prototype for the new product. Oakfield have now designed and prototyped a small quad trailer for lifting and moving a large round bale. This new product design enables the movement of round bales on small holdings and confined yards without the need for a tractor or telescopic handler. By taking a fresh approach and reviewing existing solutions the concept of designing a small trailer which could solve the clients' needs was found. Using a single actuated hydraulic cylinder, the trailer lifts and places the bale onto the chassis bed. Not only this but when the trailer is not in use for transporting and moving bales, it can be used as a general flatbed trailer. The solution will not only be more affordable but also more manoeuvrable and agile than competitors currently on the market.



CAD designs for new trailer with hydraulic cylinder



Prototype Testing of New Trailer Design

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – Now the concept has been proven they are in a position to proceed with the manufacturing and marketing of the new product. It is anticipated this will provide 2 F/T posts at a value of £36k in May 19.

Job Retention – Oakfield have retained one job at a value of £18k.

Turnover – Since Oakfield are currently in the development stage of their design they have not yet seen any return on their product. They have maintained their turnover on the previous year (£48K) which is a success as they have invested time and money spent on new product R&D.

Follow-on Support- Oakfield successfully availed of the knowledge and assistance within South West College through the InnovateUs programme (£3,000) for additional product and prototype development support for the trailer. They have also been signposted to Invest NI for financial help as well as further assistance in product development such as Innovation vouchers for any new ideas generated (£5,000). The company will target this source of funding when they have another new product development project.

Overview

Oddball Engineering offers a bespoke engineering service and was formed in response to client's requirements for the design of unique, quality items that are unavailable elsewhere. Their mission is to provide an ever-growing customer base with bespoke engineered products such as outdoor lighting, fencing, railings and agricultural products to meet individual needs. The company's main market / customer is agricultural which has led to the introduction of an extensive range of products for this industry including cubicles, dividing gates and feed barriers etc.

Rationale for Support

Oddball Engineering were exploring the possibility of introducing a new cattle crush product to their livestock handling range and into the agriculture industry. Alternative versions of the product were on the market but the proposed new product was unique and offered added value that did not exist on the market. The proposed cattle crush was a new design that will allow animal handling devices be fitted/ attached to the crush with ease and therefore make manual handling of the animal easier. The company had seen a gap in the market for a unique cattle crush for the agricultural market. This unique cattle crush needed to be designed in a specific manner to allow ease of installation. The product also needed integrate with existing other products e.g. head scope, backing gate etc.

Result

Through the programme the company received assistance in the 3D CAD design of the cattle crush. The support provided included the CAD concept and detailed engineered design of the cattle crush showing how the unit is assembled. The design also included part design, sub assembly and assembly drawings. The main output after the consultancy days was the 3D CAD model of the unique cattle crush, tested under finite element analysis. The company have now reached a point where they can manufacture this unique cattle crush to the specified drawings and thus are in a position to launch a new product into the market.

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 2 F/T welding/fabricators to be recruited in 2019 to manufacture new machine valued at £18k each per annum (total £36k).

Job Retention – 1 F/T job retained across the company valued at £18k.

Turnover – £240k turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £350k turnover at the end – a 46% increase.

Follow-on Support- Oddball have previously received Invest NI & SWC SME support and therefore weren't signposted to these schemes. SWC have signposted them to the KTP programme for embedding of skills within the company; however an application has not yet been submitted.

Overview

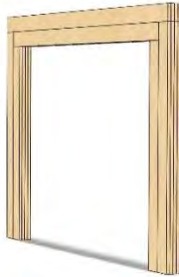
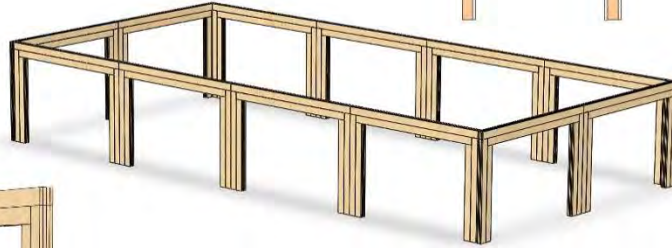
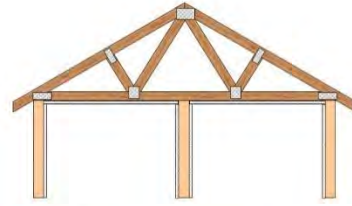
Quinn Building Supplies celebrated 40 years in business in 2018 having grown from a basic builder's merchants to providing construction retail and timber mould design and manufacture. They successfully expanded into the design and manufacture of timber roof trusses and continue to expand their service offerings.

Rationale for Support

Quinn's identified a new innovative product for their truss manufacturing plant – a modular component timber truss and joist for roofing and flooring. The prefabrication will ensure the modular truss or joist will be built off-site as opposed to on-site. The components will be manufactured and sub-assembled in the factory, prior to transporting to where the structure is located for final assembly. Quick assembly will increase productivity whilst reducing labour and transportation costs. The company had limited advanced design software and therefore required technical support to 3D CAD prototype concepts for the new modular trusses and joists. They have no access to 3D CAD or BIM modelling software and needed this step completed before going into testing and production.

Result

Quinn Building Supplies received guidance and advice on suitable CAD systems for creating their design concepts, working drawings, renders and technical drawings in order to complete the project. Following this, their existing 2D CAD drawings were translated and recreated using 3D Solidworks. Structural components were created as well as the internal non-load bearing elements. For each of these parts, sketches, 3D renders and assembly files were created.



Design and model building module
to replace metal components

Manufacture off site for quick install

Built to accommodate current roofing structures



Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – Recruited 1 F/T job in December 2018 at a value of £18k and 1 F/T in May 2019 valued at £24k. A further two P/T positions in August 2018 at a value of £12k due to increased workload.

Job Retention – Retained all 34 F/T and 2 P/T jobs across the company at a value of £730K.

Turnover – £3.98m turnover year ending 2017. Year ending 2018 they reported a turnover of £4.18M – an increase of 5%.

Follow-on Support- QBS continue to avail of knowledge and assistance within South West College, successfully submitting an application to InnovateUK for a two year KTP project in partnership with SWC in order to fully develop a fully off site modular housing construction system. This is valued at £100k. Further assistance for subsidised accredited training is also available when required by the company.

13 February – 15 November 2018

Overview

Specialist Utility Plant Hire (SUPH) Ltd provides supply and maintenance services of overhead power line machinery to contractors across Northern Ireland. They provide backup services for the installation of overhead power lines and also specialised consultancy services for machinery specification. Recently they have also become involved in the design and manufacturing of specialist products for their customers in the telecommunications sector. They have established a very strong customer base including TLI Group, a utility infrastructure consultancy and construction company, operating in Ireland & the UK who design and build overhead power lines, electrical substations and Telecom Networks.

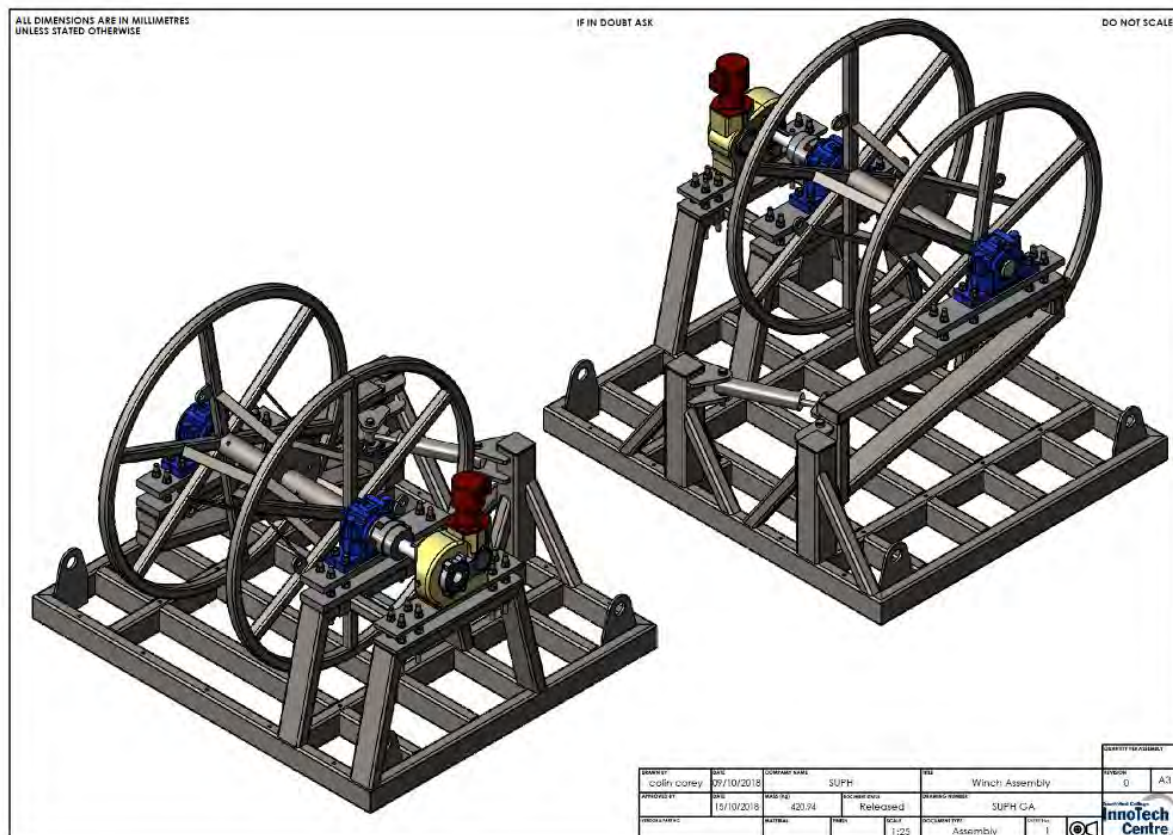
Rationale for Support

SUPH were approached by their customers to design and manufacture a winch for cabling that is used for overhead power lines. Currently the utility companies use a front loading winch attached to a wheeled machine. The problem with this system is that the vehicles tend not to be suitable to different terrains in adverse weather conditions. In addition, the winches are created by individual engineers for each of the utility companies meaning there is no standard design. This makes component manufacturing and repairs difficult. In addition, the winch system tends to be fixed permanently to the wheeled machines meaning they can only be used for the task of installing or removing overhead lines. Thus, there was a need for an innovative product solution that can easily be transported and adapted to various sites in all conditions. There is currently no other product like this on the market, yet there is a clear demand with high commercial value. It is anticipated that the new product will be manufactured on site and will be sold for approx. £10-15k.

Result

The support offered to the client was to assist in the development of an innovative winch system specifically for the dismantling/erecting of cabling in the High Voltage industry. 3D CAD concepts using weldments (structural steel) and sheet metal were developed and discussed with the client to formulate the best possible design. Finite Element Analysis (FEA) was conducted to verify the integrity of the design and to ensure it meets the required design specification and an evaluation of the hydraulic system was also conducted. It's expected that the client will now go on to manufacture a prototype winch based on the 3D CAD concepts designed through the programme. Once manufactured it will be tested by the business then sent out to client for a more robust and prolonged testing period in the field to evaluate how it performs on location. If the prototype testing proves successful, the client can then

negotiate with the suppliers on the cost of the components and begin to market the new product.



CAD Concepts of New Hydraulic Winch System

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 2 F/T fabricator posts to be recruited in April 2019 when manufacture of the product is underway valued at £17k each (total £34k).

Job Retention – 2 F/T jobs retained in the company valued at £20k each (total £40k).

Turnover – £100k turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £100k turnover at the end – a 0% increase.

Follow-on Support - SUPH are only starting to explore R&D and have thus been signposted to Skills Focus for relevant upskilling (75% funded), Innovation vouchers for product design support (£5,000) and Dungannon Enterprise Agency for business plan assistance.

Overview

Strickland are Europe's largest supplier of a wide range of parts for earth-moving and demolition / recycling equipment, including couplers, excavator buckets, grapples and pulverisers. Strickland Ireland is the manufacturing company providing products for their sister companies Strickland MFG and Strickland USA. The company offer both in-house design and a wide range of off-the-shelf products. The company's Mid-Ulster base was set up to manufacture S-Lock hydraulic quick couplers, a device which is used to quickly change attachments safely.

Rationale for Support

Strickland Ireland were using CNC milling machines in their manufacturing processes, however they weren't being used to full capacity reducing their productivity, cutting capabilities and increasing their costs. Due to a lack of knowledge on the correct CNC software, programming methods and machine capabilities the company had been forced to subcontract out 50% of part machining costs (approx. £90 per part) for their 5tonne and 8tonne bottom hanger buckets. This was significantly adding unnecessary product costs and reducing the productivity of the manufacturing process as they are over-relying on their sub-contractors. Strickland therefore requested process innovation support to improve their CNC milling processes to reduce cost of manufacturing for both existing and new products, whilst also improving productivity and innovation within the business.

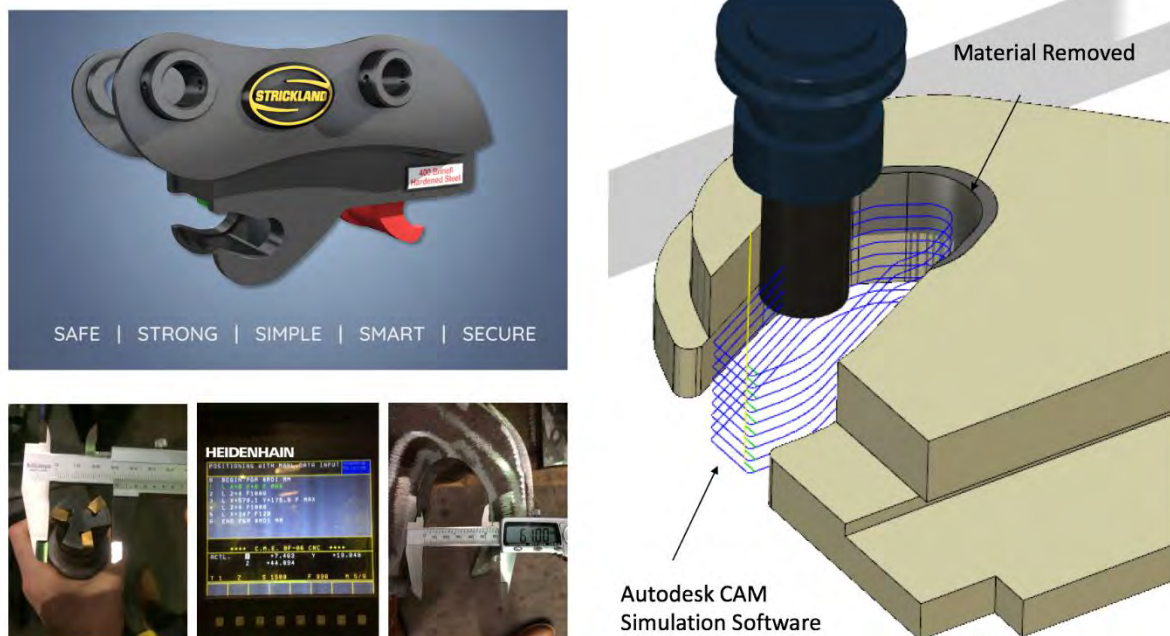
Result

The nature of the support included 8 days technical assistance to source and program suitable CAD-CAM software for their CNC milling machine so it could reach its full capacity in the manufacturing process and improve existing cutting capabilities. A CNC audit was carried out to identify areas for improvement within the current CNC manufacturing environment, which included monitoring the existing workflow and identifying inefficiencies with regards to material handling, machining operations, material waste, cycle times etc. Staff now have an increased awareness of productivity and quality issues within their business and have a better understanding of how these problems can easily be improved upon through better utilisation of CAM software, CNC tooling and operator training.

The Machine Operator received specific training tailored around the topic of high speed machining. This training provided important information on advanced tooling,

tool holders, feeds and speeds, programming language and so forth. The operator was involved in the process of creating CAM programmes and manual programming the machine through the machine controller. This training has improved operators job satisfaction and confidence within the job role and will have a long-term positive impact on productivity and product quality within this area of the business.

Key staff are more aware of the role sub-contractors play within their business and how reliance on sub-contractors can have a negative effect on their goal to develop more efficient processes and become self-sufficient in the long term. Components which have previously been machined through utilising sub-contractors can now be machined in house, in doing so helping to retain ownership of the quality control process and offering a competitive quality and cost saving advantage against competitors.



CAD / CAM software & testing

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 1 F/T Fabricator at £18,000 per annum recruited in July 18. 2 F/T production fitters created in February 19 valued at £20k each.

Job Retention – 2 F/T (1 F/T Machinist & 1 F/T Programmer / Supervisor) retained at a total value of £54.5k.

Turnover – £2.8m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £3.8m turnover at the end – a 36% increase.

Follow-on Support- . Strickland have received CAD Training (£3,000) through InnovateUs in July 18 and are collaborating with SWC on the Assured Skills Welding Academy in August 18.

Overview

Surfaceform design and manufacture a range of bespoke plaster moldings aimed at both the commercial and private market, supplying customers across the UK, ROI & Europe.

The company takes pride in its ability to deliver a diverse range of surface solutions that infuse this sumptuous traditional form with the very latest ideas. Surfaceform are a highly recognised name within the industry with offices in Cookstown and London. Surfaceform have worked on exciting projects throughout the UK, Europe and Hong Kong, including residential projects at One Hyde Park and The Bishops Avenue as well as commercial projects like Harrods, Selfridges, Legal & General Offices and Google's offices, amongst others.

Rationale for Support

Surfaceform had identified a new market opportunity for the design and manufacture of molded artistic forms. The development of this market opportunity would introduce a new product to the company's existing portfolio of manufactured surfaces allowing them to target a wider range of private customers. The company required 3D CAD assistance to design approx. 6 new artistic forms in preparation for creating molds for the manufacture of these new products. The company were sub-contracting out this design work as they had no in-house expertise.

Result

The company received 3D CAD assistance to design 6 new artistic forms. The technical assistance implemented primarily focused on; product research, 3D CAD concept modelling and rendering into technical animations and photo-realistic imagery. The main output following the 8 days' consultancy was the development of 6 fully rendered computer-aided design models which the client can use to begin the mold manufacturing process. Furthermore, the rendered imagery produced will be used to demonstrate with customers Surfaceform's ability to manufacture bespoke, innovative and personal finished artistic forms.



Sample Artistic Form

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – 1 F/t admin post at £13,500/yr recruited March 2019 due to increased orders.

Job Retention – All jobs retained across the company including 6 F/T and 2 P/T posts total value £62,399.

Turnover – £1.1m turnover at the commencement of the programme and a £600k turnover at the end – a 46% decrease resulting from a significant contract loss.

Follow-on Support- . As recruitment of technical skilled staff is difficult, the business were advised on the KTP and Fusion scheme. The Skills Focus programme was also provided as another option if they would prefer to upskill existing staff in CAD. No follow-on support has yet been accessed by the business.

Overview

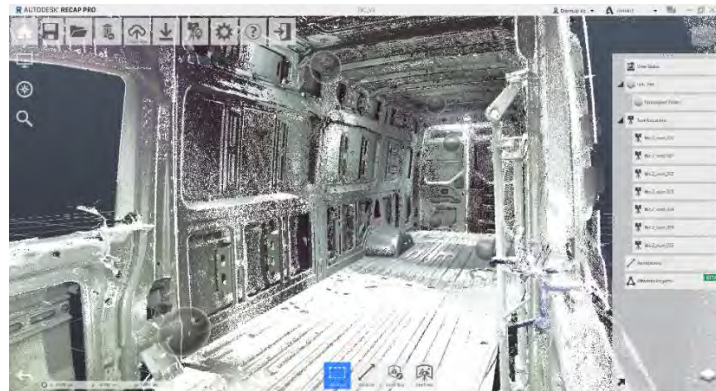
TBC is a vehicle conversion company with 3 divisions; mobility, taxi & bus and specialist. It is the UK's second-largest vehicle conversions business, operating throughout the UK and Ireland selling to a range of customers and working with all major vehicle manufacturers. Customers include education boards, councils and health authorities.

Rationale for Support

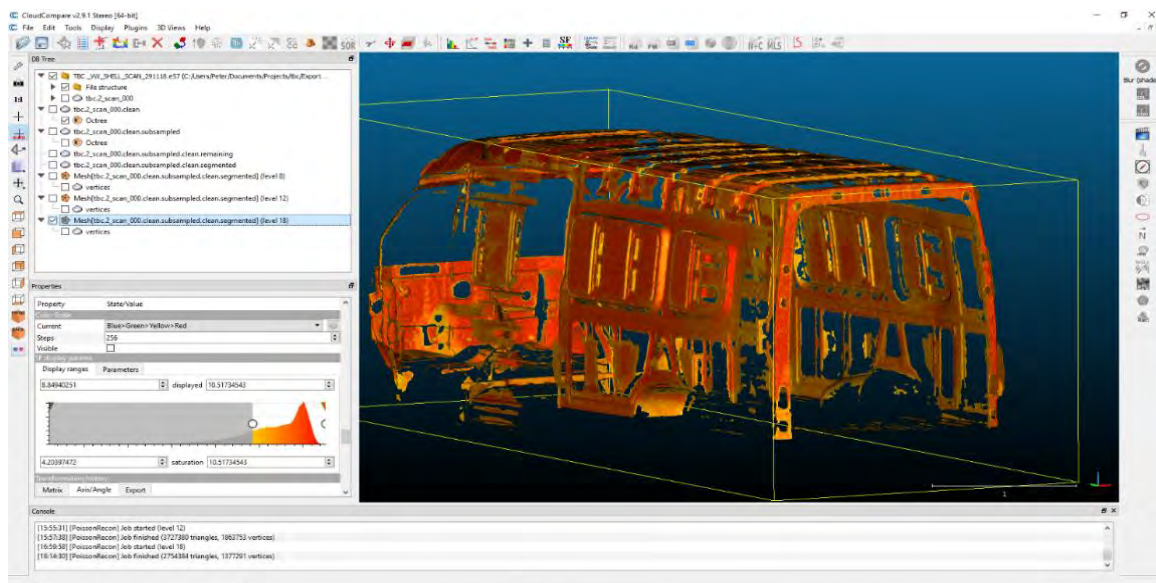
The Innovation Audit identified a number of areas that are restricting their capacity to innovate such as limited finance, legislation compliance, building relationships with innovation specialists and staff/time resources. One technical area they wished to investigate was reverse engineering capabilities of 3D scanning. This would dramatically reduce their design time when new vehicle platforms require conversion by quickly scanning the existing vehicle chassis into 3D CAD and using this as a basis for designing the required conversions with greater accuracy. This not only speeds up the design process, enabling faster product turnaround but also reduces costly errors in a trial and error fit out scenario. It also enables FEA analysis that ensures the design is structurally sound and will pass the required EU approvals. Although the company have a small R&D team who have some CAD capability, this was not at the advanced level required for this project. They also had no 3D scanning or FEA expertise that is necessary to progress this project.

Result

The technical assistance centred on the scanning of a new VW vehicle platform, a conversion contract recently awarded to TBC. 3D scanning and reverse engineering of existing components of the VW van will form a critical part of the overall project. Two 3D scanning devices were used multiple times to enable the capture of accurate data. The vast quantity of this data proved difficult to mesh and software issues were encountered. However, it provided concept design and technical CAD prototypes for the parts of the new conversion. This will form the basis for the remaining design work required to achieve the overall conversion project.



Internal scan images of the VW vehicle



Data meshing using CloudCompare Software

Summary of Impact against Programme Targets

Job Creation – TBC have recruited 6 F/T jobs value at £129k £3 F/t welding positions - £23k March 2019, 2 F/T wood skills tech - £20k March 2019 and 1 F/T wood skills tech - £20k starting 8th April)

Job Retention – Retained all 7 jobs on their mini-bus line at a total value of £140,000.

Turnover – Turnover of £9.97M year ending 2017. Year ending 2018 they reported a turnover of £10M – an increase of 0.3%.

Follow-on Support- . TBC have been advised they can continue to avail of knowledge and assistance within South West College and have been signposted to Skills Focus (75% funding), InnovateUs (£3-6k) and KTP/Fusion Programmes for access to various levels of upskilling. TBC are currently investigating a KTP project and will collaborate with SWC and Innovate UK to submit a suitable application if they decide to proceed.

3. Engineering Innovation Event

Following close consultation with MUDC, South West College held a half-day engineering innovation event in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown on 19th June 2018. The theme was “Digital Manufacturing: What does it mean for Mid Ulster Engineering?” with the title being “Facing the Future”.



SouthWest College
InnoTech Centre

MID ULSTER
ENGINEERING
EVENT


**Facing
the Future**

TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2018
10am - 1pm, Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown

Mid Ulster
Engineering Innovation
Programme
Supporting Local Business

Digital Manufacturing: What does this mean for Mid Ulster Engineering?

Digital manufacturing is here but is your business ready to embrace this exciting revolution? This event will focus on the latest technology developments that are driving a digital revolution across manufacturing including **advanced robotics, automation, the Internet of Things and digital fabrication.**



Hear from the UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult as world class experts in 21st Century Manufacturing and learn how leading companies including Strickland Ireland, Specialist Joinery Group and other local industry players are driving forward with digital integration.

The Keynote Speaker is Peter Marsh, renowned author of “The New Industrial Revolution” & Former Financial Times Manufacturing Editor.

Register at www.bit.ly/MU-Future

This Event is funded by Mid Ulster District Council and delivered by South West College InnoTech Centre



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

A comprehensive publicity campaign took place to promote the event which included using social media, pre-event adverts in six local newspaper, postal and email invitations, local radio news promotion etc.

The event's keynote speaker, was renowned manufacturing expert Peter Marsh, former Financial Times Manufacturing Editor and author of “The New Industrial Revolution”. His keynote presentation focused on the technological drivers within 21st century manufacturing and how they are rapidly transforming the sector.

Harald Egner, Chief Engineer at the Manufacturing Catapult Centre, home to some of the most advanced manufacturing equipment in the world and a recognised expert in 21st century manufacturing also presented. He discussed the latest manufacturing innovation, industrial equipment and successful models for academic-industry collaboration.

To provide a local perspective, a group of panellists representing successful Mid Ulster businesses were pulled together to discuss their approach to driving forward digital advances. The four representatives included;

- Sean O'Hagan, Contracts Director, Specialist Joinery Group
- Connor McGuckin, Mechanical Design Engineer, Strickland Ireland
- David Clark, Head of Manufacturing & Innovation, McAvoy Group
- Darryl McShane, Operations Manager, Greiner Packaging.

The Q&A panel, facilitated by Peter Marsh, provided an excellent insight into how local companies are applying new digital solutions and lean processes to improve efficiency and productivity of their manufacturing processes. Nine business support agencies including Invest NI, Mid- Ulster Enterprise Partnership, InterTrade Ireland and the Institute of Engineering & Technology exhibited at the event to provide advice and guidance to businesses on funding opportunities available to improve their innovation capability and success.

The event was attended by 116 people representing 33 businesses and 9 exhibitors.

MUDC was presented with a full event evaluation report in August 2018.

4. Achievement of Programme Targets

Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme aimed to meet the following targets by January 2019:

- **To recruit, audit and provide up to 8 days’ one-to-one innovation consultancy support**, including access to Innovation Centres and bespoke Action Plans to 18 engineering businesses
- **Innovation** – 18 businesses supported to develop a new product, process and/or service
- **Job Creation** – create a minimum of 15 new jobs
- **Job Retention** – sustain a minimum of 18 existing jobs
- **Turnover** – to achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover
- **Follow-on Support** –
 - All 18 businesses to be provided with written information detailing all other relevant sources of support
 - Minimum of 10 businesses to access follow-on support from other support providers

An overview of the programme results in relation to the targets is shown below as of 14th March 2019. The table provides more details on the specific performance against stated targets.

Target	Achieved
<i>Recruit 18 engineering businesses</i>	✓
<i>Conduct 18 business audits</i>	✓
<i>Provide up to 8 days’ one-to-one innovation consultancy support per business</i>	✓
<i>Develop 18 action plans</i>	✓
<i>18 Businesses supported to develop a new product, process or service</i>	New Product – 14 New Process – 4 New Service – 0
<i>Create 15 new jobs</i>	15.5 new jobs created. Total value £291.5k. Apex Fasteners – 1 Full Time JMS Engineering – 1 Full Time and 1 Part Time Quinn Building Supplies – 2 Full Time and 2 Part Time Strickland – 3 Full Time Surfaceform – 1 Full Time TBC Conversions – 6 Full Time A further 10 jobs are anticipated in following 12 months valued at £208k
<i>Sustain 18 existing jobs</i>	Exceeded - 200.5 jobs sustained Total value £3.5M
<i>Achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover</i>	✓

Provide 18 businesses with written information of relevant follow-on support

✓

10 businesses to access follow-on support

✓

Job Creation – create a minimum of 15 new jobs

Businesses Name	New Jobs Created, When & Why	£ Value	No of F/T Jobs	No of P/T Jobs
Ajea Products	Expect to create in 2019: 1F/T general op £18-20 1F/T cad operative £21 1F/T admin £16-18	Total: £59k	TBC	0
Apex Fasteners	1 F/t CNC lathe - £28K Aug '18 1 F/t General operative - £22k March '19	£28k/yr	1	0
DEV Automation	1 F/T fabricator to be recruited in the upcoming year	£18K	TBC	0
Eurosprings	One F/T Eurozone sales person to be recruited during May 2019 due to widening market in Eurozone	Estimated £30k/yr	TBC	0
Fibre-Tec	Currently recruiting for 2 F/T general operatives (March 19) – one a replacement, the other a new post created due to increased demand.	Each post: £18K/yr est. Total: £36k/yr	TBC	0
JMS Engineering	1 F/T laser operator employed due to better workflow and usage of machinery. 1 P/T account assistant required due to increased workload. Recruited August 2018.	Laser Operator: £21k/yr Acc. Assistant: £8k/yr Total: £29k/yr	1	1
Maximus Crushing and Screening	Currently recruiting for 1 F/T engineering position valued at £30-35 dependant on experience (March 19).	£30-35k/yr	TBC	0
Mclvor Aviation	2 F/T fabricator posts to be recruited ~ Oct 2019 when manufacture of the product is underway	2 x £25k/yr Total: £50K	TBC	0
Nugent Engineering	2 F/T welding posts to be recruited July/August 2019.	2 x £18k/yr Total: £36K	TBC	0
Oakfield Engineering	2 F/T welding fabricators to be recruited in the coming year to manufacture the new machine.	Each post: £18k/yr Total: £36k/yr	TBC	0

Oddball Engineering Solutions	2 F/T welding/fabricators to be recruited in 2019 to manufacture new machine valued at £18k each per annum	£36k/yr	TBC	0
Quinn Building Supplies	1 F/T truss manufacturer post filled in December 18. 1 F/T KTP engineering associate post in May 2019. 2 P/T truss manufacturer posts in September due to increased work load.	F/T posts: 1x £20k/yr 1x £24k/yr P/T posts: £5k/yr each Total: £54k/yr	2	2
Strickland	1 F/T Fabricator at £18,000 per annum recruited in July 18. 2 F/T production at 20k per annum recruited in Feb 19.	1 x £18k/yr 2x £20k/yr Total: £38k	3	0
SUPH	2 F/T fabricator posts to be recruited ~ April 2019 when manufacture of the product is underway	2 x £17k/yr Total: £34K	TBC	0
Surfaceform	1 F/T admin post at £13,500/yr recruited March 2019	£13.5k	1	0
TBC Conversions	3 F/T welding positions - £23k March '19 2 F/T wood skills tech - £20k March '19 1 F/T wood skills tech - £20k starting 8th April	£129k	6	0
Total		£683.5K	14	3

15.5 new jobs have been created (14 full time jobs valued at £273.5K + 3 part time jobs valued at £18k) = Total Value £291.5k

Businesses have indicated that there will be further recruitment in 2019 and it is anticipated that this will be 10 new jobs (10 full time jobs valued at an estimated £208K).

The businesses which are shaded in grey are deemed ineligible for inclusion in programme targets but it is worth noting that these businesses are anticipated to create 9 F/T jobs valued at £184k.

Job Retention – sustain a minimum of 18 existing

Business Name	Value £	No of Full time Jobs	No of Part time Jobs
Ajea Products Ltd.	£5k	0	1
Apex Fasteners	£18k	1	0
Crooks Trailers	£160K	7	0
DEV Automation	£9K	1	0
Eurosprings	£248K	15	0
Fibre-Tec	£35K	2	0
JMS Engineering	£425k	25	5
Maximus Crushing & Screening	£35k	1	0
McIvor Aviation	£62.5K	4	2
Nugent trailers	£1.5M	85	2
Oakfield Engineering	£18k	1	1
Oddball Engineering Solutions	£40k	2	0
Quinn Building supplies	£730K	32	2
Strickland Ireland	£54.5k	2	0
SUPH	£40K	2	0
Surfaceform	£62,399	6	2
TBC Conversion	£140k	7	0
Total	£3.5M	193	15

200.5 jobs have been sustained - (193 full time jobs valued at £3,444K + 15 part time jobs valued at £84K) = Total Value £3,582.4K

Turnover – to achieve an average of at least 5% increase in turnover

Business Name	Turnover at Commencement of Programme £k	Turnover at End of Programme £k	% Increase Attained
Ajea Products Ltd	£ 20	£ 20	0%
Apex Fastening Solutions – product not yet on sale	£ 2,100	£ 2,800	33%
BMI Trailers	£ 13,000	£ 14,500	11.5%
Crooks Trailers	£ 500	£ 550	10%
DEV Automation	£ 230	£ 230	0%
Eurosprings	£ 1,800	£ 1,930	7%
Fibre-Tec – reported decrease due to loss of staff member and issues recruiting for backfill and additional staff.	£ 139	£ 137	-1%
JMS Engineering	£ 1,420	£ 2,100	48%
Maximus Crushing and Screening	£ 14,600	£ 19,000	30%
McIvor Aviation	£ 1,200	£ 1,300	8%
Nugent Trailers	£ 8,800	£ 9,700	10%
Oakfield Engineering	£ 48	£ 48	0%
Oddball Engineering	£ 240	£ 350	46%
Quinn Building Supplies	£ 3,980	£ 4,180	5%
Strickland Ireland	£ 2,800	£ 3,800	36%
SUPH	£ 100	£ 100	0%
Surfaceform - reported a decrease due to the loss of a large contract (unrelated to MUEIP Project)	£ 1,110	£ 600	-46%
TBC Conversions	£ 9,970	£ 10,000	0.30%
TOTAL	£ 62,057 K	£ 71,345 K	15%

- 11 companies reported an increase in turnover of 5% or over from programme commencement to end of programme.
- 5 companies reported little or no change in turnover as they are not yet at production and sales stage of their new product, however they all reported that the programme has moved development forward and they expect to see a generous increase once full production commences.

- Fibretec reported a small loss due to losing a critical member of staff, resulting in loss of output. They are currently recruiting for a number of general operative positions.
- Surfaceform reported a loss of 46% due to the loss of one large contract that was unrelated to the support given.

Follow-on Support - Provide 18 businesses with written information of relevant follow-on support

All businesses benefitted from a signposting service advising them of further business development and Innovation Support Programmes and academic support available.

Business Name	Date Referred	Reason for Referral	Outcome and Details support / or other information
Ajea	03.07.18	Invest NI innovation voucher.	Ajea haven't utilised the Invest NI Innovation Voucher Scheme. This could be used to finalise any further design work on the existing product or new products.
Apex Fastener Solutions	30.11.18	Financial and technical support for further CAM/Industry 4.0 development	Signposted to Invest NI for financial and business development support.
BMI Trailers	06.11.18	Further business development and financial assistance required	Signposted to Invest NI for available programmes and grant assistance.
Crooks Trailers	28.11.18	Further product development assistance and upskilling	Innovation Voucher Scheme can assist in further product development. Skills Focus Programme can provide accredited training funding for digital marketing. For further POC funding, the client was signposted to Techstart NI, MUDC, and KTP.
DEV Automation	16.10.18	Further product development and validation. Staff skills shortage	InnovateUs and Innovation Voucher Scheme funded programmes can assist in accessing skills for further product development. For longer project requirements, the company may avail of KTP or FUSION projects from Innovate UK and InterTrade Ireland respectively. Some staff upskilling can be undertaken at reduced cost through Skills Focus.
Eurosprings Ltd	16.11.18	Further development of the equipment.	Signposted to Invest NI for assistance for prototype build and eligibility for Innovation voucher.

Fibre Tec	28.09.18	Upskilling in design software and 3D printing	Skills focus or InnovateUs, are best options for upskilling. Invest NI Innovation Voucher can further assist in product development. The company may wish to explore KTP or FUSION programmes in the future to embed further skills and knowledge.
JMS Engineering	11.6.18	Invest NI assistance recommended.	The company have never utilised Invest NI funding and therefore it was recommended they explore the various schemes available and capitalise on these.
Maximus	13.11.18	Further development of FEA simulation through new product development.	The company has expressed an interest in working with SWC through a KTP project. SWC have met to discuss and will invite the KTP advisor to further investigate eligibility.
Mclvor Aviation	14.11.18	Further product development or production process assistance	Some signposting options have already been accessed by Mclvor, however there may be assistance available from Invest NI for implementation of software to aid digital manufacturing and improve productivity.
Nugent Engineering	23.11.18	Upskilling and further product development	Nugent were made aware of current funding for InnovateUs and Skills Focus which they used to upskill employees with accredited welding qualifications.
Oakfield Engineering	23.10.18	Upskilling of staff and further product/prototype development.	The company were made aware of InnovateUs and Skills Focus training which would be of benefit to upskill employees. Invest NI Innovation voucher scheme can also provide access to skilled KPs for further product development.
Oddball Engineering	23.11.18	Embedding of skills and knowledge of product design and development within the company.	Oddball were signposted to the KTP programme for embedding of skills within the company. SWC to discuss and check eligibility.
Quinn Building	29.08.18	KTP	InnoTech and InnovateUK attending a meeting at Quinn Building to assess their suitability for the KTP programme. An application has been developed and will be submitted in the October call.
Strickland	03.07.18	InnovateUs programme.	Sourcing suitability technical skilled staff and upskilling existing staff is Strickland's primary issue. They have since benefited from CAD training through the InnovateUs programme and a welding skills academy delivered by SWC.

SUPH	30.10.18	Upskilling of staff, further product development and marketing.	SUPH have been signposted to Skills focus, Innovation vouchers and Dungannon Enterprise Agency for a number of possible assistance avenues.
Surfaceform	01.05.18	KTP, Fusion & Skills Focus	As recruitment of technical skilled staff is difficult, they were advised on the KTP and Fusion scheme. The Skills Focus programme was also provided as another option if they would prefer to upskill existing staff in CAD.
TBC	13.12.18	Access to skilled labour and upskilling of current staff	TBC have been signposted to Skills Focus, InnovateUs and KTP/Fusion Programmes for access to various levels of upskilling. SWC to discuss eligibility for all types of support.

Follow-on Support - 10 businesses to access follow-on support

The following businesses have confirmed they have accessed follow-on support:

Business Name	Details of Follow-on Support Accessed	Date
BMI Trailers	L5 Leadership & Management Skills Focus Hydraulics Training Skills Focus Business Improvement	Ongoing
Crooks Trailers	Innovation Voucher Skills Focus Digital Marketing Training L5 Leadership & Management	Ongoing
Eurosprings	Applying for a Fusion project with InterTrade Ireland	Ongoing
Fibre-Tec	Currently applying for 60 hours InnovateUs bespoke training	Ongoing
JMS Engineering	Attended Co-Innovate workshop run by InterTrade Ireland to access skilled assistance and/or a funded graduate recruit.	Ongoing
Maximus	Connected Programme Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnership	Ongoing
Nugent Engineering	Assured Skills Welding Academy	Aug-18
Oakfield Engineering	InnovateUs Water Jet cutter Training	Ongoing
Quinn's Building Supplies	InnovateUK Knowledge Transfer Partnership	Oct-18
Strickland	InnovateUs CAD Training Assured Skills Welding Academy	July '18 Aug '18

5. Conclusion

This evaluation has examined in detail how South West College have delivered the Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme and provided the following key target outputs and delivering the following results:

- Delivery of 144 consultancy days to 18 participating businesses
- 18 bespoke Action Plans developed
- 18 businesses were supported to develop a new product, process and/or service
- 15.5 new jobs were created with a value of £291,500 with a further 10 eligible jobs likely in 2019 at a value of £208,000
- 200.5 jobs sustained with a value of £3,582.4K
- Overall average increase in business turnover of 15% to the value of £9,288,000
- All 18 businesses were provided with written information detailing all other relevant sources of support
- 10 businesses confirmed they accessed follow-on support from other support providers
- 1 Engineering Innovation Seminar delivered 19th June 2018 - attended by 116 people representing 33 businesses and 9 exhibitors.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTION 2018/19



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

This Report provides an overview of the comprehensive range of work delivered across the economic development section in 2018/19 and details some of the year's highlights and initiatives delivered under each of the 4 key Themes of the Council's economic development strategy, 'Our Plan for Growth'.

THEME 1: ENABLING ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Business Programmes

NI Business Start Up Programme (April 18/March 19) 'Go For It'



In the twelve month period to March 2019, 332 local entrepreneurs were supported to develop Business Plans, promoting **204 jobs** in the Mid Ulster area.

A number of initiatives have been delivered over the year to promote the support available from 'GoForIt', including a free 'Drop – In' opportunity run by all partners which enabled interested entrepreneurs to meet those who had started their business through GFI.



Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme 2017/19



This Programme was delivered by the South West College's InnoTech Centre and completed in December 2018, providing support to 18 small engineering businesses to develop new products, processes or services. It achieved all its ambitious targets including:

- 15.5 new jobs created with a value of £617,500
- 200.5 jobs sustained
- Stimulating a combined average increase in turnover of 15%

Over 120 people attended the Engineering Innovation Seminar entitled 'Facing the Future' in June 2018, which was delivered as part of the Programme.



The keynote speaker, Mr Peter Marsh, also visited a number of Mid Ulster engineering businesses to look at examples of innovation and good practice across the the local industry

Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2017/20

Launched in Sept 2017 and delivered by Workspace Enterprises Ltd, this Programme is also on schedule to achieve its targets; by March 2019:

- 29 groups were supported to explore their potential to become a social enterprise; 13 progressed to set up
- 11 enterprises received growth support
- 5 new jobs created (value £99,000)
- Additional funding levered of £823,000

50 people (incl 35 organisations)

attended the successful 'Marketing for Social Enterprises' Seminar in the Burnavon in November 2018.



- Business Events



Helping Mid Ulster Businesses Maximise Digital Media Opportunities

In Autumn 2018, three successful Breakfast 'Digital Media' Seminars were delivered (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt areas) by Digital 42 and attended by 125 people; these promoted the use of Digital Media to Mid Ulster businesses and demonstrated how businesses should use this to maximise their potential.

Mid Ulster Skills Forum



The Skills Forum published a three-year action plan for the Mid Ulster area which it launched at a special event in October 2018. The broad-ranging plan identifies a series of priority actions, from enhancing the image and perceptions of key sectors, increasing the quality and quantity of apprenticeships, and improving engagement across education and employers to supporting technological change and innovation and securing resources and finance for the plan's implementation. In 2018, the Skills Forum was recognised as a model of best practice having won the '*Best Enterprise Initiative*' at the Local Government Awards.

MEGA (Manufacturing and Engineering Growth & Advancement) Collaborative Network

Following the publication of the Mid Ulster Skills Report & Action Plan in October 2018, a small cluster of local SMEs and stakeholders, with a particular focus on the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing sector submitted an application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme to deliver a 30-month pilot programme in Mid Ulster. Invest NI approved the application to the value of £166k and the industry-led collaborative network has secured additional funding of £37,500 from Council to support the implementation of a Work Programme. The Work Programme is designed to consolidate and build on work already begun by the Council and Skills Forum, and proposes a collaborative approach to addressing the skills and employability issues facing the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing sectors in Mid Ulster. The MEGA Collaborative Network will be established as a sub-group of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum.

ESF Employability & Skills Programmes

Following the success of the three-year ESF1 Programmes (2015/18), Council committed to a providing match funding for a further four years (2018/22) towards these 4 Programmes:

- Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE+)
- Exploring Enterprise 4
- Up for Work
- Job Match

By the end of yr 1 Council funding of £48,920 leveraged £1.467m and resulted in:

- Supporting 501 participants
- Helping 179 people into employment
- 701 qualifications being achieved
- 103 progressing to Further Education / training

SUSE+ participants receiving their certificates of achievement from the Chair



THEME 3: ENABLING URBAN & RURAL REGENERATION

Rural Development Programme (£10.1m) – Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (MURDP) manages the delivery of a Local Development Strategy for rural areas of Mid Ulster District Council. £10.1m was allocated to the LAG to implement this strategy in Mid Ulster.

Rural Business Investment Scheme – grant aid of over £2.8m has now been approved to 95 rural businesses across the district. During 18/19, 36 of these businesses completed their funded project which generated a total investment just over £2.7m in business development and expansion activities. 72 new jobs have been created to date by businesses supported under the Rural Business Investment Scheme and further 160 jobs are projected.

Rural Basic Services Scheme – a further 10 community / voluntary sector organisations were approved for funding in October 2018 to the sum of £1.27m for the construction or improvement of facilities to serve as community hubs for the local community. This brings the total number of groups supported under the Rural Service Scheme to 19 overall who will receive over £2.7m for capital developments. Four funded projects supported under the Rural Services Scheme have now completed. Letters of offer to all remaining approved projects are to be issued by July 2019



Construction on going by Aughnacloy Community Presbyterian Community Church Group

Ballygawley

Knocknagin Hall- opening launch of the renovated facility



Rock St Patricks GFC Community Hub under construction

LAG Co-Operation – the LAG and Council are in the process of developing three co-operation projects at present. These involve the International Appalachian Trail, tourist infrastructure on Lough Neagh and its waterways and improving access to archaeological heritage at Davagh Forest.

Village Renewal Scheme

Council are responsible for delivering the Village Renewal element of the Rural Development Programme and Economic Development Officers are working with 37 villages to develop projects. Over the period 2018 to 2019, 4 large village enhancement schemes were completed in Upperlands, Ardboe, Maghera and Fivemiletown. Smaller schemes were completed in 16 villages - Benburb, Castlecaulfield, Gulladuff, Newmills, Killyman, Glenone, Swatragh, The Loup, Ballynakilly, Ballylifford, Ballinderry, Ballyronan, Clogher, Desertmartin and Longfield.



Ardboe



Fivemiletown



Upperlands



Upperlands



The Loup



Killyman



Swatragh



Benburb



Newmills



Gulladuff



Castlecaulfield

Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project

The Seamus Heaney HomeGround project aims to enhance the Seamus Heaney HomePlace experience by developing a literary and heritage experience linking with the local landscape and local heritage that inspired so much of Seamus Heaney's group. Funding has been secured from DAERA through the Rural Tourism Scheme to deliver this project.



Magherafelt Revitalisation Project

Funding was secured from Department for Communities to carry upgrade the pedestrian linkages from Central Car Park and Union Road Car Park including resurfacing, lighting and street furniture.



Public Realm Schemes

Council's Public Health and Infrastructure Dept are working alongside Council's Economic Development team to progress public realm schemes in Coalisland and Maghera.

Redevelopment Maghera High School Site

The former High School site is owned by Council has been identified as a strategic site for economic development purposes within the Maghera Development Framework Plan 2017-30. Planning application's have been submitted to allow for the construction of a number of industrial units on fully serviced sites and the creating a new access road and installing the associated utilities.



A6 North Western Transport Corridor

Officers are working closely with Department for Infrastructure (DfI) on the installation of a piece of Public Art as a gateway feature on the pedestrian / cycle bridge that will be constructed at the Castledawson Roundabout.



Gas to the West

Officers are in regular liaison with contractors working to install the gas network in Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. Significant works have been completed in Coalisland and works are currently underway in Cookstown and Magherafelt.

Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

39 Schemes were completed in Phase 2 with a total investment of £196,564.24. Council Grant Aid of £128,878.99 has leveraged a total of £67,685.25 private sector investment. Through the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme, 109 properties were enhanced, resulting in a total of £496,112.62 spent on improving properties in the villages. This included a total of £323,997.09 of grant aid and £172,115.53 of private sector investment.

THEME 4: ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

Ann Street Development Site, Dungannon

This prime opportunity site in Dungannon town centre has lain derelict for over 30 years. Following the release of a development brief Council appointed a preferred developer in July 2017 last year to take forward the development of this gateway site to Dungannon. Future plans include a retail led mixed use development comprising commercial, office and leisure uses including a 30-bedroom hotel.

Redevelopment of Maghera High School Site

Mid Ulster District Council plans to develop the former Maghera High School site to create a business park which will allow qualifying businesses to construct their own purpose-built facilities ranging in size from 4,000sqft to 20,000sqft. In August 2018, the Council formally invited businesses to submit expressions of interest in serviced sites. The Council has applied for planning permission on the site which will also include a community walkway and associated landscaping.

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing Campaigns are delivered for the town centres at key retail periods building on the town centre brands. Promotional materials have been procured to reinforce the town centre brands and new town centre photos have been taken for use.





Reduced Christmas Car Parking

Dungannon & Magherafelt benefitted from reduced Christmas Car Parking charges from November 2019 – 5 January 2020.



24



Cookstown received a Highly Commended Award at the Great British High Street Awards for the Champion High Street category in November 2018.

Town Centre Wi-Fi

Town centre Wi-Fi is installed in each of the five town centres. The Wi-Fi equipment in Cookstown and Magherafelt was upgraded this year and continues to be maintained in Maghera, Dungannon & Coalisland.

BIDS Feasibility Study

A Feasibility Study was carried out to look at the potential for developing a Business Improvement District in the town centres in Mid Ulster. Surveys, workshops and business engagement events were held to gauge the level of interest in the town centres and a report is being compiled of the findings.

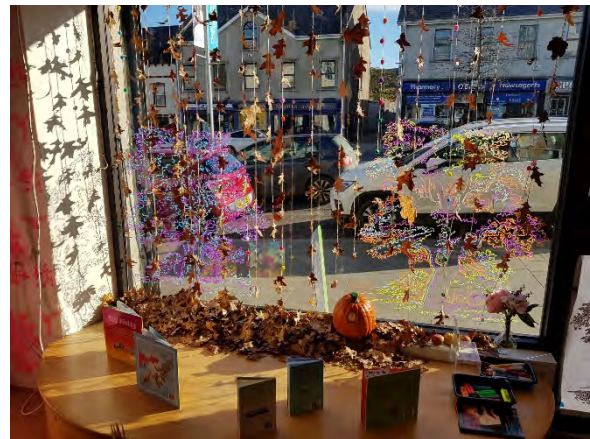
Economic Development Website

During 2018/19 a review was carried out on the Economic Development Section of the Council Website. As a result a Content Management System has been developed for a new Council website. The new website along with the new Business Directory is expected to go 'live' in Summer 2019.

Creative Shops Project Magherafelt

Big Telly Theatre Company delivered a creative shops project in a vacant unit on Broad Street for 8 weeks from October – December 2018.

Total Direct Participants	596
Total Audience	1900
Local artists / groups performing/participating	9
Visiting artists / performers commissioned	8



Events

12 strategic events were delivered attracting 84,400 people into our five large town centres (Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera). These events included Cookstown Continental Market, Christmas / Halloween Events, Maghera Walled Garden Event and Community Events in Coalisland.





Heels on The Hill, Dungannon

Christmas Lights Switch on, Dungannon



Key Projects

- Ann Street Development Site (Dungannon)
- Former Maghera High School Site
- Engineering Centre of Excellence (Dungannon)
- Broadband
- Cookstown By-Pass
- A6 Dualling Scheme
- Gas to the West

Future Initiatives being taken forward...

Business Programmes

- Gearing for Growth Programme
- Tender Ready Programme
- Digital First Programme
- Transform Programme
- Social Enterprise Programme
- Food Capability Programme

ESF Employability & Skills Programmes 2018/22

- SUSE
- Exploring Enterprise 4
- Up for Work
- Job Match
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum & MEGA

Regeneration and Infrastructure

- Maghera High School Site Development
- Ann Street Development
- Public Realm Schemes (Coalisland & Maghera)
- Rural Development Programme
- Village Regeneration Projects
- Seamus Heaney HomeGround
- Business Improvement Districts Feasibility Study (5 towns)
- Developing the Mid Ulster Sales Proposition
- Infrastructure Development
- Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 2

HEADLINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2018/19

The activities the Council's economic development section have undertaken over the past 12 months have resulted in the achievement of some key outputs which include:

✓ 204 new jobs created through the business start programme
✓ ESF Programmes recruited 501 participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helped 179 people gain employment - Assisted participants to achieve 701 new qualifications - Helped 103 participants progress to Further Education/Training
✓ 18 engineering businesses received specialist innovation support to develop new products and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 new products, processes and services delivered - 15.5 new jobs created with a value of £617,500 - Turnover increased by an average of 15%
✓ 40 groups/enterprises supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 29 groups provided with Action Plans; 13 of these becoming new social enterprises - 11 existing enterprises also supported to grow - 5 new jobs created with a value of £99,000 - Additional funding levered of £823,000
✓ 3 digital events & 3 seminars hosted with 395 attending
✓ £1.187m funding secured for 4 new business programmes including 80% funding from ERDF / Invest NI of £950,320 to support 690 businesses over the next 3 years
✓ 12 strategic events delivered attracting 84,400 into our 5 town centres
✓ Generated in excess of £6.3million external investment leverage (for every £1 invested, the economic development section has levered an additional £10 of other external monies)
✓ 37 villages being supported to develop projects with a total cost of £2.86m
✓ £5.9m of Public Realm Schemes being progressed in Maghera and Coalisland

APPENDIX 8

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT - EXTERNAL INVESTMENT LEVERAGE 2018-2019								
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
Funder/Source	Name of Programme/Project	Description of Programme/Project	Partners	Duration	Total Cost (£) 2018-19	MUDC (£) 2018-19	Ext Leverage Funding (£) 2018-19	Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and South West College (SWC)	(SUSE+) Step Up to Sustainable Employment Programme	Seeks to target a total of 900 clients (225 in each year). The project operates across 2 Council areas Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. The Programme aims to engage disadvantaged young people from rural areas to support them to obtain employability skills, qualifications and progress into further education training apprenticeships and employment.	DfE/ESF, South West College, Northern Regional College, DAERA, Raduis Housing and Mid Ulster District Council	2018-2022 (Year 2018-2019 costs and targets noted here)	£ 574,779.08	£ 25,575.09	£ 549,203.99	Year 1 Targets: 203 participants recruited from MUDC area, of which 137 were from rural areas. 383 qualifications achieved, 54 entered into employment and 58 undertook further training/education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Enterprise Northern Ireland (ENI)	(EE4P) Exploring Enterprise 4 Programme	Seeks to target a total of 178 participants (40 x 2 years and 49 x 2 years) The project operates across 25 regional areas including Mid Ulster District Council. This is a pre-start enterprise programme targeting disadvantaged groups who are unemployed / economically inactive to help them address barriers to progression into education training and employment, attain employability skills/qualifications and explore self employment or return to the labour market.	DfE/ESF, Enterprise NI, Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership, and Mid Ulster District Council	2018-2022 (Year 2018-2019 costs and targets noted here)	£ 34,081.86	£ 5,964.33	£ 28,117.53	Year 1 Targets: 31 participants recruited from MUDC area, 22 individuals achieved Level 1 Understanding Business Enterprise qualification, 12 entered into employment and 0 entered further training/ education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Network Personnel	(UFWP) Up for Work Programme	Seeks to target a total of 300 clients (75 clients in each year). The programme adopts a youth based methodology targeting those aged 16-24 years who are NEETS to develop personal, social and employability skills qualifications and progress into employment or further training.	DfE/ESF, Mid Ulster District Council and Network Personnel	2018-2022 (Year 2018-2019 costs and targets noted here)	£ 243,031.50	£ 8,506.10	£ 234,525.40	Year 1 Targets: 116 participants recruited from MUDC area, 195 qualifications achieved, 46 into employment and 29 undertook further training/education.
Department for the Economy, European Social Fund (DfE/ESF) and Network Personnel	(JMP) Job Match Programme	Seeks to target a total of 392 clients (98 in each year) from marginalised groups (i.e. those with mental health problems, debt problems, caring responsibilities, etc. to help them develop personal and social employability skills and qualifications to enable them to progress into further education, training and employment opportunities	DfE / ESF, Mid Ulster District Council and Network Personnel	2018-2022 (Year 2018-2019 costs and targets noted here)	£ 664,932.26	£ 8,874.87	£ 656,057.39	Year 1 Targets: 151 participants recruited from MUDC area, 101 qualifications achieved, 67 into employment and 16 undertook further training/education.
ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme	NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP)	NIBSUP - Funding leverage of 80% provided to resource i) the Programme of delivery of Business Plans, ii) the Regional Marketing Campaign and iii) the Enquiry Handling facility.	11 NI Councils and Invest NI	NIBSUP Sept 2017 - Jan 2021 (Yr 2 costs only noted here)	£ 167,826.00	£ 59,746.00	£ 108,080.00	NIBSUP (from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019) saw 332 Business Plans delivered in Mid Ulster, promoting 204 jobs.
Department for Communities (DfC)	Magherafelt Revitalisation Project	Upgrade of pedestrian linkages from Central and Union Road Car Parks to Broad Street	Translink	2018/19	£ 204,000.00	£ 40,800.00	£ 163,200.00	Improved appearance of 2 alleyways leading to Broad Street 300 sqm in Magherafelt Town Centre through improvements to the physical environment.
Private Sector	Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme	Grants of up to £5,000 available to property owners in 46 villages across Mid Ulster at a rate of 75% to conduct internal / external improvements to their properties.	Private Sector	April 2018 - October 2018	£ 196,564.24	£ 128,878.99	£ 67,685.25	39 properties across the 46 villages grant aided for internal / external improvements. Breakdown of Leverage funding: £128,878.99 (MUDC) & £67,685.25 (Private sector).
Department for Communities (DfC)	Coalisland Public Realm Scheme* (*Project led by Dept. of Public Health & Infrastructure and supported by Economic Development Team).	The project involves creating a high quality physical environment on the following streets - The Square, Dungannon Road, Barrack Square, Main Street, Stewartstown Road, Station Road, Lineside, Barrack Street, Washingbay Road, Platters Hill, Birney Square, Seagrave Terrace	DfC	2019-2020	£ 40,880.00	£ 4,088.00	£ 36,792.00	Enhanced Town Centre aesthetics.
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership - Local Rural Development Strategy (Village Renewal Scheme)	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership	2014-2020	£ 1,001,804.00	£ 250,451.00	£ 751,353.00	Village improvement projects completed in 13 villages
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership - Local Rural Development Strategy (Rural Business Investment Scheme)	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership	2014-2020	£ 2,700,000.00	£ -	£ 2,700,000.00	36 rural businesses receiving grant aid through the Rural Development Programme. 39 jobs created. £1,230,000 DAERA grant funding, £1,470,000 from local business groups
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership - Local Rural Development Strategy (Rural Business Investment Scheme)	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership	2014-2020	£ 1,080,000.00	£ 70,900.00	£ 1,009,100.00	7 of 19 supported community /voluntary groups receiving grant aid through the Rural Development Programme £810,694 DAERA grant funding, £198,708 from community/voluntary sector

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -TOTAL 1								
					£ 6,907,898.94	£ 603,784.38	£ 6,304,114.56	
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT								
Funder/Source	Name of Programme/Project	Description of Programme/Project	Partners	Duration	Total Cost (£) 2018-19	MUDC (£) 2018-19	Ext Leverage Funding (£) 2018-19	Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)
Department of Justice	Policing & Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety / Policing.	Statutory (Designated) & Independent members	April 2018 - March 2019	£ 344,786.00	£ 38,995.00	£ 305,791.00	To empower communities, to help develop solutions that will help tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. 55 Strategic Projects/Interventions.
Department for Communities (DfC)	MUDC Community Support Programme.	Resourcing the community and voluntary sector with particular focus on provision of Advice Services.	Council, informal social compact with the local community and voluntary sector	April 2018 - March 2019	£ 784,976.00	£ 597,793.00	£ 187,183.00	To strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services. 800 Groups/Projects supported across 14 different programmes.
Department for Communities (DfC)	Coalisland and Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.	Addressing under investment in disadvantaged areas.	Multi-agency/stakeholder Partnership.	April 2018 - March 2019	£ 48,000.00	£ 4,200.00	£ 43,800.00	Tackling Deprivation & Disadvantage in top 10% of MDM wards. 8 Posts supported. 11 Strategic Programmes supported (Social, Economic, Community & Environmental).
Office of First & Deputy First Minister	Community Relations Programme	TBUC - Together Building a United Community.	Internal / External Stakeholders	April 2018 - March 2019	£ 416,000.00	£ 104,000.00	£ 312,000.00	T:BUC Objectives promoting a shared & inclusive society. 8 posts part supported. 65 Groups support with small grants. 32 Strategic Projects. 33 Decade of Anniversary Projects.
Department for Communities (DfC)	MUDC Community Festival Programme	Encouraging and support community events.	Internal / External Stakeholders	April 2018 - March 2019	£ 100,000.00	£ 71,300.00	£ 28,700.00	Support festival development and wide diversity of community participation. Over 125 events supported.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - TOTAL 2:					£ 1,693,762.00	£ 816,288.00	£ 877,474.00	
TOURISM								
Funder/Source	Name of Programme/Project	Description of Programme/Project	Partners	Duration	Total Cost (£) 2018-19	MUDC (£) 2018-19	Ext Leverage Funding (£) 2018-19	Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)
Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	Davagh Observatory and Visitor Exhibition	Scoping Study for external visitor experience at Davagh Forest Observatory		1 year	£ 19,451.00	£ 4,863.00	£ 14,588.00	To continue the visitor experience outdoors and enhance the overall experience. Completion of a Scoping Study
Landfill	Davagh Dark Skies	Visitor Exhibition at Davagh Observatory		2 years	£ 150,000.00	£ -	£ 150,000.00	£150K drew down March 19. 6 FT/PT jobs created, educational programmes, events, tourism attraction to regional, national and international visitors. Interactive exhibiton
Tourism Ireland	NI Industry Co Operation Fund	Marketing opportunities with trade, consumers and tour operators.	Quinns Coaches, J&K Coaches, Lough Neagh Tours, Lough Neagh Fishermans Co-Operative, Walsh's Hotel (World Travel Market only)	1 year	£ 5,689.04	£ 1,189.04	£ 4,500.00	Showcase Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Mid Ulster Tourism to GB Trade, Tour Operators and consumers. Attendance at World Travel Market, London, Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh, Christmas advertising campaign with Easyjet
Northern Ireland Hotels Federation/Tourism NI	Say Hello to More Campaign	Marketing campaign in ROI focused on increasing the uptake of visitors from border counties.	Tourism	Mar - Apr 2018	£ 5,700.00	£ 1,691.00	£ 4,009.00	Advertising to promote Hill of the O'Neill around the border counties - Irish Independent, Donegal Democrat, Anglo Celt, Northern Standard, Northern Sound Radio
Heritage Lottery Fund	The Heart of Ancient Ulster LPS	Reinstate Blanket Bog and improve access to heritage and archaeological sites.	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	5 years	£ 96,250.00	£ 11,250.00	£ 85,000.00	Improved access to ancient heritage and archaeological sites, conservation, support community groups.
TOURISM - TOTAL 3:					£ 277,090.04	£ 18,993.04	£ 258,097.00	

CULTURE & ARTS								
Funder/Source	Name of Programme/Project	Description of Programme/Project	Partners	Duration	Total Cost (£) 2018-19	MUDC (£) 2018-19	Ext Leverage Funding (£) 2018-19	Outputs (e.g. no. of jobs created, groups supported)
Department for Communities (DfC)	Access and Inclusion Programme	Automated doors and infra red loop system		Mar-19	£ 22,185.46	£ 1,881.96	£ 20,303.50	Increased access to and use of facilites for patrons with disabilities
Department for Communities (DfC)	Enhanced works at Tullaghoge Fort	Tarmac, additional bench seating, paving, bins		Mar-19	£ 30,526.94	£ -	£ 30,526.94	Enhanced visitor experience at Tullaghoge Fort
Community Relations Funding	The Suitcase	Theatre performance and post show discussion for Holocaust Remembrance Day		Feb-19	£ 2,700.00	£ 1,200.00	£ 1,500.00	Fostering community relations
Film Hub NI	Cinema Day NI	Support to screen Bad Day for the Cut and corresponding Q&A session	Film Hub NI	Aug-18	£ 510.00	£ 260.00	£ 250.00	Supporting local cinema provision
Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) Peace IV	About the Place	Events linking Heaney and Yeats		Aug-18	£ 7,785.16		£ 7,785.16	Cross border literary links
CULTURE AND ARTS - TOTAL 4:					£ 63,707.56	£ 3,341.96	£ 60,365.60	
OVERALL TOTAL:-					£ 8,942,458.54	£ 1,442,407.38	£ 7,500,051.16	