

Report on	Revised timeframe for publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan), and Outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objectives 2023 – 2024.
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Reporting Officer	J Mc Guckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on the revised timeframe for publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) 2023/24 to 2024/25 as per Department for Communities (DfC) guidance, and the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objectives 2023 – 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (hereby referred to as "the Act") requires council to publish an 'improvement plan' setting out its plans for discharging its duties under sections 84(1), 85(2) and 89(5) of the 2014 Act for a financial year. Paragraph 45 of the statutory guidance on Local Government Performance Improvement (Local Government Circular 21/2016) indicates that the publication of an improvement plan should take place by the <u>end of June each year</u> . Council refers to the 'improvement plan' as set out in the legislation and guidance as Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan).
2.2.	Section 87 of the 2014 Act requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published i.e. <u>must consult</u> with persons appearing to the Council, " <i>to be representative of:</i> <i>a); persons liable to pay rates in respect of hereditaments in the district; b) persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the council; and c) persons appearing to the council to have an interest in the district.</i>

2.3	Due to the local elections being undertaken in May 2023 the Department of Communities issued guidance to all Councils in relation to an extended publication date for Councils' Performance Improvement plans (PIP plan).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="240 477 1281 510"><u>DfC Advise of extended Publication Date of Councils' PIP plans 2023-2024</u></p> <p data-bbox="240 517 1414 931">Each year the Council develops an annual Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), containing improvement objectives, with associated activity/measures and outcomes for citizens and local communities. The plan also includes the statutory performance indicators and standards as outlined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, as well as Council's suite of Corporate Health Indicators (measures). An annual consultation exercise in relation to the proposed improvement objectives is also undertaken in order to inform the PIP plan and to comply with legislation and statutory guidance. As outlined above the associated legislation and statutory guidance requires that the PIP plan be published by the 30th of June each year.</p> <p data-bbox="145 981 1390 1518">3.1.1 A letter was received from Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government Housing Regulation, DfC - (refer to Appendix One: Correspondence from Anthony Carleton dated 11th May to all Council Chief Executives). The letter outlined that in Section 87 of the 2014 Act requires a council to consult on how it intends to discharge its duties under section 84 and 85 before the improvement plan is published and that in Section 92(4) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires a council to publish an 'improvement plan'. DfC states that given the need to consult and taking account of the upcoming local government elections on 18 May 2023, some concerns have been raised as to whether there would be sufficient time to have plans approved by councils by 30th June. The Department has decided to move the suggested publication date as set out in paragraph 45 of the guidance. For 2023, councils will be required to have their performance improvement plans published by 30th September 2023 at the latest.</p> <p data-bbox="145 1570 1414 1771">3.1.2 The Council had already scheduled the launch of the annual public consultation survey relating to the performance improvement objectives (public consultation survey was held between February through to April) and the results are highlighted below. The PIP plan will be published as per new DfC guidance, i.e. by the 30th of September 2023 having taken into account the local government elections.</p>

3.2	<p><u>Results from the Improvement Objectives Consultation Outworking's Report May 2023</u></p> <p>The Committee at its February 2023 meeting, considered and approved the proposed four Draft Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2023 - 2024 to 2024 - 2025, the objective's rationale and associated links to the community and corporate plan. The improvement objectives were then included in a public consultation exercise.</p> <p>3.21 This year the consultation exercise ran from Monday 27th February to Friday 21st April at 12 noon. Under each improvement objective, the Council asked whether respondents agreed with the objective or disagreed with the objective. Respondents were also asked to provide any related commentary they had regarding the proposed improvement objectives. The consultation survey also asked respondents to outline any improvements the council should consider in the future. The final question asked respondents to provide any further comments relating to the draft Improvement objectives.</p> <p>3.22 The consultation involved a survey made available for completion and submission online and or by post to the council. To ensure engagement the process was promoted through a variety of communication channels including social media outlets, the council's website, press releases, e-mails, staff intranet and internal staff meetings. In total 34 consultees responded to the consultation – refer to Appendix Two (Outworking of public consultation on MUDC Improvement Objectives).</p> <p>In summary the % of respondents who agreed with the Council's proposed improvement objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.18% of respondents agreed with objective one: - <i>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.</i> • 91.18% of respondents agreed with objective two: - <i>We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them.</i> • 93.94 % of respondents agreed with objective three: - <i>To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment.</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87.88% of respondents agreed with objective four: - <i>We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people</i> <p>With such significant endorsement of the four proposed improvement objectives, together with additional commentary provided, the council will be able to develop its Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) around them. When reviewed, the respondent's commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed. The additional commentary and views provided, will inform our wider improvement activity across the services. As outlined the PIP plan will be published by 30th of September 2023.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: NA
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: N/A.
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee note the revised date of publication of Council's Performance Improvement Plan and consider the outcome of the Council's Corporate Improvement Objectives Consultation 2023 to 2024.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix One – Correspondence from Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation, Department of Communities 11th May 2023.</p> <p>Appendix Two - Outworking's from Consultation on Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Objectives 2023 – 2024.</p>