

<b>Report on</b>	<p>1) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</p> <p>2) DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</p> <p>3) Review of Council's Online Business Directory</p>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b> Over the last five years, a car parking scheme was implemented in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres to boost trading over the key Christmas period. Following positive feedback from businesses and the public, it is proposed to bring into effect a similar scheme this year to support the local retail sector.</p>
2.2	<p><b>DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b> DAERA has launched a public consultation on a Review of Further Education Support and Charging Policy at CAFRE.</p> <p>DAERA provides a range of full-time and part-time further and higher education courses as well as industry training courses at CAFRE. The courses cover agriculture, equine, food, horticulture and business for agri-food and rural enterprise.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> The function of this directory is to provide a facility for Mid Ulster businesses to include their details on Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory. Businesses will have given their permission for their details to be published. It also enables members of the public to have access to a list of businesses located in the District. Recently, Mid Ulster District Council received complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Directory.</p>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b>  As part of this year's Christmas Promotional Campaign, officers have considered options for a car-parking scheme in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres aimed at encouraging footfall and spend during the critical festive trading period. Following positive feedback from trader groups, it is proposed to implement a similar scheme to last year as follows:-</p> <p>The First 3 Hours parking for 10 pence in <u>all</u> Pay &amp; Display Car Parks from Saturday 21 November 2020 to Saturday 2 January 2021 (6 week period). The total cost of implementation will be £23,400.</p> <p>The normal tariff is 40p for 1 hour (except for Central in Magherafelt, which has a tariff of 40p per three hours) and the proposed pricing arrangements are intended to boost town centre trade at one of the busiest times of year. The very nominal fee of 10p for the First Three Hours is being charged to prevent 'all day parkers' and ensure town centre car parks are available to visitors and shoppers. The car parks included in the scheme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ann Street East, Castle Hill, Perry Street West and Scotch Street North in Dungannon.</li> <li>● Rainey Street, Union Road and Central in Magherafelt.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p><b>DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education (FE) Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b>  DAERA has developed a set of proposals for future FE support at CAFRE. The purpose of this consultation is to gather the views of the public on FE support and charging proposals.</p> <p>The consultation documents are available to review at <a href="https://bit.ly/3gINTD2">https://bit.ly/3gINTD2</a>.</p> <p>A draft consultation response for Council has been prepared and this is contained on <b>Appendix 1</b> for Members' review.</p> <p>DAERA's consultation closes on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. As such, it will not be possible to bring the consultation response through Full Council in September for approval, prior to submission. It is therefore, requested that delegated authority be granted to the Development Committee to approve the response (taking on board any amendments) and submit the response on 11 September 2020.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b>  Recently, Mid Ulster District Council received some complaints in relation to the perceived religious beliefs of groups listed in the Online Business Directory.</p> <p>In aiming to be inclusive, it appears that the scope of Council's Online Business Directory is too wide ranging in terms of what is deemed a 'business'.</p>

	<p>An Equality Screening Exercise (<b>see Appendix 2</b>) has been undertaken which has identified a minor negative impact. Mitigating actions have been proposed.</p> <p>To summarise, it is now proposed to focus the Online Business Directory only on those businesses that are 'commercial entities' and can demonstrate this at registration stage by providing their HMRC number.</p> <p>The organisations impacted by this proposal will be those from the community/voluntary, social enterprises and charity sectors. Council proposes to make contact with them to advise that the introduction of this new criteria requires their details to be removed from the Business Directory. They will be offered the opportunity to have their details included on the Council's Community Services Database.</p> <p>Going forward, those seeking to register their business details will be offered the option of completing an Equality Monitoring Form. This will enable Council to monitor the impact of this proposed following its implementation.</p>
	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b> Budget of £23,400 available under the Economic Development Budget</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: <b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b></p> <p>The process of requesting businesses to provide their HMRC number to verify that they are 'commercial entities' has been used in application forms for other Council Grants Schemes and no issues have been raised to date.</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: <b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> An Equality Screening Exercise has been undertaken which has identified a minor negative impact. Mitigating actions have been proposed.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: <b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b> A Rural Needs Assessment is underway.</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that;
5.1	<p><b>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon &amp; Magherafelt</b>  Members <b>approve</b> the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay &amp; Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt during the Christmas period from Saturday 21 November 2020 to Saturday 2 January 2021 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.</p>
5.2	<p><b>DAERA Public Consultation - Further Education Support &amp; Charging Policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)</b>  <b>Approval</b> be granted to delegate authority to the Development Committee to <b>approve</b> the draft consultation response to enable it to be submitted to DAERA before the closing date for submissions of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Review of Council's Online Business Directory</b>  Members <b>approve</b> the recommendations contained in the Review of Council's Online Business Directory.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - MUDC Consultation Response on Review of Further Education Support &amp; Charging Policy at CAFRE.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Equality and Good Relations Screening Report – Council's Online Business Directory (August 2020).</p>