

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 2) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt 3) Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event 4) Business in the Community Proposal 5) Town Centre Visitor Information Points 6) Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags 7) Branded Town Centre Merchandise 8) PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19 9) Town Centre Enhancement Works 10) Management & Leadership Network Event 11) NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event 12) Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event 13) Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 14) Women in Business Awards and Conference Request 15) Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request 16) Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week 17) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19 18) Business Improvement District Feasibility Study 19) Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019 20) Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme 21) 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition 22) Invest NI - Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme 23) DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations 24) Mid South and West Region Growth Deal
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
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1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 The current Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2017-2019) is scheduled to complete in December 2019, following which a Report will be submitted to Council in February 2020 detailing work completed and the achievement of targets. Progress Reports received demonstrate that there is a strong need for a programme aimed at supporting the growth and sustainability of Mid Ulster's social enterprise sector and the type of assistance being delivered is addressing the needs of the sector. To ensure there is no 'gap' in the provision of support approval is sought to develop a new Programme to commence in early 2020.</p>
2.2	<p>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt Over the last four 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>
2.3	<p>Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event CRAIC Theatre Company has submitted a request for funding towards the Christmas Lights Switch-on event as per previous years. Historically, the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough supported Christmas events in Coalisland and the annual lights switch-on event was organised by CRAIC Theatre Company. Last year, the Council continued this support and the event was organised by CRAIC Theatre Company.</p>
2.4	<p>Business in the Community Proposal Business in the Community (BITC) works with local businesses helping them to develop their responsibility towards their People, the Planet and the Places. They have approached Council to fund a pilot proposal for 6 months.</p>
2.5	<p>Town Centre Visitor Information Points In recent months Officers have explored the possibility of developing a joint project between the economic development and tourism sections. This project relates to the introduction of outdoor digital visitor information points, initially in the three main town centres of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. These information points or kiosks will be extremely useful to inform and publicise forthcoming Council events, facilities, etc. Whilst officers recognise there are Visitor Information Centres in each of these towns, the VIC's are weak in providing 24 hour visitor information to locals/tourists/out of district visitors etc. Obviously the units required will need to be robust and fit for purpose and reach the appropriate ratings for a town centre environment, but at the same time be attractive and blend in with the recent public realm schemes.</p>

2.6	<p>Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags Jute shopping bags have proven to be a successful way to promote the town brands messages in the public domain. It is now timely to make a new order for bespoke jute bags for each of the three towns to ensure delivery prior to Christmas 2019.</p>
2.7	<p>Branded Town Centre Merchandise In 2017/2018, the three town brands were refreshed and merchandise was purchased to promote the new brands and enhance a positive image of the town centres. This action is ongoing and permission is now sought to purchase additional town centre merchandise to continue the brand promotion campaign to various user audiences for the year ahead.</p>
2.8	<p>PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19 Following a Proposal from the PLATO EBR Network (East Border Region) in 2017, Council agreed to the delivery of a PLATO Networking Programme in Mid Ulster over a 10-month period from 2018/2019 to a minimum of 12 companies at a cost of £15,000. In addition to the Mid Ulster programme of monthly meets, participants would also have access to a number of inter-group/inter-region training and networking events within the larger regional network.</p>
2.9	<p>Town Centre Enhancement Works From time to time it is necessary to undertake a review of our five town centres with a view to looking at gap sites and how we make them more visually attractive, as well as undertaking other minor works to tidy up the town's appearance.</p>
2.10	<p>Management and Leadership Network Event The Management and Leadership Network has advised they wish to hold one of their signature events outside of Belfast. Mid Ulster was selected due to its strong business base. The event will be held on 24 September 2019 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and MLN has sought Council sponsorship towards hosting the event.</p>
2.11	<p>NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event The NI Chamber of Commerce has advised that they propose to deliver one of their popular Regional Networking Events on 9 October 2019 in Mid Ulster as part of their 'Business Development & Networking Series' in 2019 and have requested Council sponsorship towards hosting this event.</p>
2.12	<p>Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event The Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) is a project designed to deliver Full Fibre Broadband into semi-rural areas, by utilising Council buildings as start and finish points in its delivery. The project is being delivered by a consortium of 10 local Councils, excluding Belfast City Council.</p>

2.13	<p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 At a meeting of the Council's July 2019 Development Committee it was agreed the Council would provide sponsorship for the Awards Category of 'SME Business of the Year'. The Awards were formally launched at The Hill of the O'Neill, Ranfurly House on 14 August 2019, attended by the Council Chair.</p>
2.14	<p>Women in Business Awards and Conference Request Women in Business have approached Belfast City Council to request a contribution from all 11 Councils under the regional 'Go For It' brand, towards the Women in Business Awards and Conference (in November 2019) for the Award Category 'Best New Start-Up'</p>
2.15	<p>Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request Social Enterprise NI have approached Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (L&CCC) to request a contribution towards their Annual Awards Ceremony (October 2019) and Conference (January 2020).</p>
2.16	<p>Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week 18- 22 November 2019 marks Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) and Council is planning to deliver its first ever 'Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week' to include 2 large scale events and a range of smaller workshops all geared to assist local businesses.</p>
2.17	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19 Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019 along similar lines to the Forums / Partnerships already operating in Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and recently Maghera. The Forum is a strategic body providing advice and guidance to Strategic Bodies and others regarding the growth of Coalisland town.</p>
2.18	<p>Business Improvement District Feasibility Study A Business Improvement District (BID) is a collaborative partnership between a local Council and local businesses to provide a sustainable funding mechanism that will improve and manage a clearly defined commercial area. It is based on a mandatory levy on all defined ratepayers within the defined area following a majority vote and is established for up to five years for a prescribed set of services additional to those already provided by the local Council.</p>
2.19	<p>Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019 Cookstown Continental Market was held Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 June 2019, in William Street, Cookstown. The Market was delivered in association with Marketplace Europe, Mid Ulster District Council and Cookstown Town Centre Forum.</p>

<p>2.20</p> <p>2.21</p> <p>2.22</p> <p>2.23</p> <p>2.24</p>	<p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Council approval was granted to deliver Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme to offer businesses/commercial properties grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. Eligible commercial premises within the town centre boundaries, as per Area Plans are eligible to apply (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera & Magherafelt). Eligible commercial premises within the development limits of the villages as per the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, with the additional village of Moygashel.</p> <p>5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced on 27 August 2019 a new 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant worth £30m for 10 innovative projects from across the UK.</p> <p>Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme Invest Northern Ireland has recently completed an economic appraisal looking at the availability of early stage and grow-on workspace across Northern Ireland. The appraisal has shown that occupancy levels in early-stage workspace is high and there appears to be demand for new early-stage accommodation, with the availability of suitable “move-on” space (up to c4,000 sq. ft. units) being highlighted as a constraint on availability of early-stage accommodation.</p> <p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations DAERA has published their 5 key Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Council believe it is an opportune time to forward DAERA our views and recommendations on these.</p> <p>Mid South and West Region Growth Deal Significant progress has been made on the Mid South and West Region Growth Deal, details of which are outlined in the main report below.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 Approval is sought to progress and procure delivery agents for a follow-on three year Social Enterprise Programme to be delivered from 2020 to 2022. Specific criteria, targets and bespoke support requirements have been established. It is proposed this Programme would again provide a range of interventions to build on the success of the current Programme including assistance to groups to explore new ideas, establish a new enterprise and help existing social enterprises grow and become more sustainable. The Contract will be awarded for up to 2 years with the possibility to extend to December 2022, depending on delivery agent performance, and will include targets such as a minimum of 40 new and existing</p>

enterprises supported, the creation of 20 new jobs and funding leveraged of £250,000. This will require a budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) over 3 years, from the economic development budget.

3.2

Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt

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: -

The first 3 hours parking for 10 pence in all Pay & Display Car Parks (except Central car park in Magherafelt) from Saturday 23rd November 2019 to Saturday 4th January 2020 (6-week period). The total cost of implementation will be £23,400.

The normal tariff is 40 pence for 1 hour (except for Central car park 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:

- Ann Street East, Castle Hill, Perry Street West and Scotch Street North in Dungannon.
- Rainey Street, Union Road and Central in Magherafelt.

3.3

Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

CRAIC Theatre Company has submitted a request for funding towards the Christmas Lights Switch-on event as per previous years (Appendix 1). Officers have requested further information on the proposals and when this is received and if deemed acceptable, it is proposed that Council fund the initiative to the value of £4,200 in Coalisland for a switch-on event on 1st December 2019 and permit officers to work with CRAIC Theatre Company to deliver the event. Funding for the event is included in this year's economic development budget.

3.4

Business in the Community Proposal

Attached is proposal from Business in the Community (BITC) to Mid Ulster District Council. The BITC proposal requests funding for 'Transformational Level Support' from Mid Ulster Council of £3,300+Vat for an intensive 6-month pilot period (Oct 2019-Mar 2020) to deliver a range of actions as identified within the attached proposal on Appendix 2. The Director of Organisational Development and the Head of Economic Development is aware of the proposed activities contained within the action plan and are satisfied they align with work priorities within the Human Resources and Economic Development Sections.

<p>3.5</p>	<p>Town Centre Visitor Information Points Officers are seeking approval to purchase three digital information kiosks for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt to display visitor information and to advertise and promote special Council events throughout the year. In addition to the purchase of the hardware (units), software will also be required to manage the displays. It is important that Council attains a solution that has the ability to take feeds from Council’s website and social media channels.</p> <p>An indoor solution is also available and the tourism section is keen in future to look at this and extend the original proposed solution beyond the three towns and into wider strategic points within the district, such as hotels, shopping centres and visitor attractions etc.</p> <p>It is anticipated a budget of up to £29,000 for the hardware and software (including expenses and excluding Vat) will be required to introduce the initial 3 digital visitor information points in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, subject to Members approval.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p>Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags The branded jute bags for each town have proven to be a success and as such a new order for the same is required. Therefore, it would be prudent to procure the jute bags as one tender for the 3 towns which should provide better value for money. It is recommended that a budget of up to £60,000 (excluding vat) is set aside for the procurement of jute bags before we approach one of the busiest periods in the retail calendar and where the demand for bags is greatest.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>Branded Town Centre Merchandise To maintain the longevity of the three town centre brands (for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) there is a need to sustain its profile within the towns. Therefore, it is recommended to purchase further merchandise materials which can be distributed at key signature town events and to the various town centre user groups. Therefore, approval is sought to set aside up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) from within the economic development budget for 2019/20, to procure the supply of a variety of merchandise materials which can be used to promote the 3 town centres.</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p>PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19 The Mid Ulster PLATO Programme completed in June 2019 and the programme activities delivered and the impact and outcomes achieved are detailed in the Final Report on Appendix 3.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p>Town Centre Enhancement Works Across the five main towns there are many areas which need some enhancement works. For example, there are gap sites which look unsightly and would benefit from hoarding erected to make the area more appealing to town centre users/visitors. Even some of the previous hoarding erected has faded and is in a poor state of repair and does not project a positive image of our town centres. A number of town centre banners are broken and in need of replacement and some areas which attract heavy footfall would benefit from power hosing, where Council’s gum-buster/cleansing machines cannot access.</p>

Much of this can be undertaken by seeking competitive quotations to carry out enhancement works, however, there is a need to procure by way of public tender, bespoke hoarding at various sites across the 5 main towns. Economic Development staff have undertaken a stock take of each of the 5 towns and identified areas where they believe enhancement works would be of benefit.

Indeed, it is important that such enhancement works occurs on a regular basis to keep the look and feel of the town centres fresh and appealing to visitors.

3.10 Management and Leadership Network Event

The Management and Leadership Network (MLN) wish to hold one of their signature events outside of Belfast for the first time. Mid Ulster was selected as the desired location due to the large number of businesses located in the region. The event is scheduled to take place on **24 September 2019** from 8am to 11am in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown. MLN has sought Council sponsorship towards venue and catering costs for hosting the event (and depending on attendance numbers) may include costs of up to £1,040 (excluding Vat). Speakers will include the Chair, Mid Ulster District Council, a few prominent business representatives from Mid Ulster who serve on the MLN, and a variety of other key business speakers. MLN has indicated that Council funding will be acknowledged in all event publicity and materials. The event is open to all local businesses to attend free of charge.

3.11 NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event

As part of their Business Development & Networking Series, the NI Chamber of Commerce plan to deliver an event in the Burnavon Theatre on **Wednesday 9 October 2019** from 11am to 1pm. The Chamber have held a Networking event in Mid Ulster over the past two years and these have attracted in the region of 100+ delegates. Speakers will include the Chair, Mid Ulster District Council; a Chamber representative and a successful Mid Ulster entrepreneur(s) who will also participate in a Q&A session.

The Council has been requested to sponsor the venue and catering costs which (depending on numbers) may total approximately £850 (excluding vat). It is recommended Council support the Mid Ulster Business Networking event from Council's economic development budget to cover venue and catering costs, with the Chamber being required to ensure that Council support is acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee being waived for Mid Ulster businesses.

3.12 Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event

Elected members and officers are invited to attend the Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) launch event on Friday 20 September 2019 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Copy of invite enclosed in Appendix 4. The purpose of the FFNI Programme will be explained and how it will be delivered connecting public sector buildings in each Council area throughout Northern Ireland (outside of Belfast).

3.13	<p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 The 9th annual Mid Ulster Business Awards will take place as follows: Date: Wednesday 20 November 2019 Time: 7pm Venue: Corick House Hotel & Spa</p> <p>Two complementary tickets have been allocated to Mid Ulster District Council and it is proposed that the Council Chair attends along with an officer. If additional Members wish to attend, tickets can be purchased directly through Julie Forde at JPI Media for a fee of £65 per person (rather than booking online as this will incur an additional charge for which category sponsors are exempt). Costs for additional tickets will have to be charged to individual Member's Annual Allowance budget.</p>
3.14	<p>Women in Business Awards and Conference Request The total requested is £4,000 from all 11 Councils towards the 'Best New Start-Up Award' Category; Councils contributing will each have the opportunity of one place at the Awards, which will take place as follows: Date: Thursday 7 November 2019 Time: 7pm Venue: Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast Full details are provided in Appendix 5 The cost to Mid Ulster Council will be in the region of £375.</p> <p>One complementary ticket has been allocated to each Council. It is proposed that the Council Chair attends. Any additional Members interested in attending should express their interest to the Head of Economic Development by 7 October 2019. Costs for additional tickets are £110 which will be charged to individual Member's Annual Allowance budget.</p>
3.15	<p>Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request The recommended contribution is for the 'Bronze' package of £3,000 from all 11 Councils, under the 'Go For It' brand, which will include 4 free places (and 2 places at the Conference). As there are 4 places available this will be co-ordinated by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.</p> <p>The Social Enterprise NI Awards will be held on; Date: Friday 11 October 2019 Time: 7pm Venue: Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast The cost to Mid Ulster will be in the region of £280. Four free tickets have been provided to the 11 Councils; decisions on attendance will be made once level of interest from all Councils is identified. It is recommended the Council Chair's name is put forward for consideration to attend the Awards, if he or his nominated representative wishes to go, subject to the availability of tickets. Full details are provided in Appendix 6.</p>
3.16	<p>Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week Two large scale events have been scheduled to take place during entrepreneurship week in Mid Ulster:</p>

- Mid Ulster Business Showcase event on Tuesday 19 November 2019 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and
- Mid Ulster Jobs Fair on Wednesday 20 November 2019 in Cookstown Leisure Centre

Officers are also liaising with key economic stakeholders to put together a package of short business workshops / seminars covering a broad range of business topics including start up clinics, digital, funding/finance, winning new work, managing employees' mental health etc over the course of the week. These will either be delivered in partnership with the Council or, if being run separately, will be included in Council's promotion of the week. Events will take the form of workshops/seminars during mornings, afternoons and evenings of the week. It is anticipated that some will be delivered by key figures from local businesses and that the majority of events will be held in venues across the entire District.

Members will be provided with full details, once the Programme for the week is finalised.

3.17 Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19

Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 5th June 2019 is enclosed for information on Appendix 7.

3.18 Business Improvement District Feasibility Study

Northern Ireland BIDs was appointed by Council in June 2018 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 provided 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.

The Feasibility Study is now complete and recommendations are made for each town as set out below. An Executive Summary of the full BIDs Feasibility Study is contained on Appendix 8.

Town	Recommendation
Dungannon	Proceed to full BID development in the first instance, acting as a pilot project from which the other locations within Mid Ulster can learn from.
Magherafelt	BID for Magherafelt Town Centre is viable, but that given the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.
Cookstown	BID for Cookstown Town Centre is viable, but that given the issues surrounding the identification of the BID Boundary and the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on

		whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.
	Maghera	BID for Maghera Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis, which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.
	Coalisland	BID for Coalisland Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis, which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. Furthermore, the Town Centre Forum is still very new. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.
3.19	<p>Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019 To receive Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market held Saturday 1 June – Sunday 2 June 2019 (Appendix 9)</p>	
3.20	<p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme The Chartered Architects appointed through a tender process are Knox & Clayton, Lisburn.</p> <p>The scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and will close for applications Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 4pm. A number of workshops will take place geographically spread over the Mid Ulster District Council area to advise and assist applicants with completion of applications. Following applications closing, a rigorous assessment process will be conducted by Chartered Architects Knox & Clayton, with assessment report presented to October 2019 Development Committee. Information regarding the scheme is available at www.midulstercouncil.org/spruceupscheme</p>	
3.21	<p>5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition The Rural Connected Communities (RCC) competition will fund up to 10 5G research and development projects to run over the course of two years. There will be grant funding ranging from £2 million to £5 million for around 10 projects, totalling up to £30 million. The funding does require match funding. The deadline for RCC applications is 25 October 2019 with the winning projects expected to be announced before the end of the year.</p> <p>Connectivity applications are expected to show a combination of societal and economic benefits that will together create a stronger case for investing in the</p>	

deployment of 5G infrastructure for rural areas. This competition is open to applications from consortia which are a mixture of organisations including the public, private and third sectors, and academia.

The consortium must include one or more organisations capable of owning and operating 5G infrastructure and services in the area. Note that this is not designed as a network roll-out programme, but a series of trials and testbeds to de-risk and inform future network roll-out programmes. Further information on the 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant is available on Appendices 10A and 10B.

3.22

Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme

Invest NI recently invited expressions of interest from property developers with plans to develop start-up and early stage grow-on workspace. The scheme offered loans up to a maximum of 40% of total development costs. Subsidized interest rates will only apply for the initial loan period and interest rates will revert to commercial rates thereafter. Proposals submitted were required to align with both Council and Invest NI strategic priorities. The deadline for expressions of interest from property developers was 5pm on Friday 30 August 2019. Further details on the scheme is available at

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/flexible-workspace-loan-scheme>

Mid Ulster District Council issued 3 letters to prospective developers to accompany their application, none of which contained any formal commitment from Council.

3.23

DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations

It is recommended that Mid Ulster District Council write to DAERA to enclose our recommendations/comments on their 5 Rural Policy Framework Objectives. The five objectives are as follows;

Policy Objective 1 – to create a rural society where innovation and entrepreneurship flourish

Policy Objective 2 – to maximise the contribution that sustainable rural tourism makes to rural society and to the wider economy and environment

Policy Objective 3 - To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers;

Policy Objective 4- To increase employment opportunities available to people living in rural areas;

Policy Objective 5 - To improve connectivity between rural and urban areas;

Council's draft response and recommendations on each Policy Objective is contained on Appendix 11.

3.24	<p>Mid South and West Region Growth Deal</p> <p>On 29 July 2019 the Prime Minister Boris Johnston MP announced the government’s commitment to a growth deal for the Mid, South and West region of Northern Ireland. This announcement is a good news story and acknowledges the work that has taken place over recent months in lobbying for investment for a regional economic approach to support growth and development.</p> <p>Further discussions are taking place with officials from the NIO and the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities on the next stages of the process which will require meetings with Treasury officials in London.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the compilation of a Regional Economic Strategy which will provide details of an outline bid and identify the economic interventions required as part of a growth deal.</p> <p>In parallel work will start on developing the promotional messaging and narrative on promoting the region.</p> <p>The Governance Working Group met on the 18th June 2019 and received a briefing on the economic analysis and performance of the region. Professor Gordon Matheson who led the Political Cabinet for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal will provide an overview to the next Governance Working Group of the stages involved and the governance requirements for working with Treasury.</p> <p>A business engagement event has been arranged for early September 2019 which will enable businesses to identify the challenges impacting on growth and the interventions needed to support increased economic output.</p> <p>Two officers have been appointed to the project team and will commence employment in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Over the next twelve months a significant amount of work will be required from those involved at Councillor and senior officer level in developing the bid and negotiating the financial level of investment.</p> <p>A request will be made to meet with the Secretary of State and government ministers to brief them on the growth deal proposals.</p> <p>Continued engagement will take place with MP’s and political parties.</p> <p>Further updates will be provided through Committee.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 A budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) provided for over 3 years within economic development budget 2020-2022.</p>

Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt

£23,400 available from within Economic Development Budget in 2019/20.

Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

£4,200 available from within Economic Development budget in 2019/20.

Business In The Community Proposal

£3,300 available from within Economic Development budget in 2019/20.

Town Centre Visitor Information Points

A budget of up to £29,000 (excl Vat) will be required to purchase the hardware and software for the digital information points in the 3 towns of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, split as follows from each existing budget during 2019/20;

- Economic Development budget £25,000
- Tourism budget £4,000

Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags

Up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) available within the Economic Development Budget 2019/20.

Branded Town Centre Merchandise

Up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) available within the Economic Development Budget 2019/20.

PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19

Final payment of £2,500 from Economic development budget

Town Centre Enhancement Works

Budget for town centre enhancement works in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland of up to approx. £100,000 (excluding Vat) from existing Economic Development budget.

Management and Leadership Network Event

Costs up to £1040 excluding Vat (dependent on attendance numbers which will be confirmed nearer the time). Funds available in economic development budget in 2019/20.

NI Chamber of Commerce Request

Costs in region of £850 excluding vat (costs dependent on attendance numbers which will be confirmed nearer the time). Funds available in economic development budget in 2019/20.

Women in Business Awards and Conference

Up to £375 is available from the 2019/20 economic development budget.

Social Enterprise (NI) Awards and Conference

Up to £280 is available from the 2019/20 economic development budget.

Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week

Costs included with Council's Business Events budget in economic development.

	<p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Employment of Chartered Architect, Project Grant Aid and Marketing & Promotion to value of £103,000 from within economic development budget (Year 1 Costs)</p> <p>5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition If Council submits a funding bid, between 40%-60% match funding will be required from the project partners, however, at this juncture costs are unknown but can be reported upon at future meetings.</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: Key risks identified and monitored regularly.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020/22 – Underway</p> <p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme:- Completed</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020/22 – Underway</p> <p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme:- Completed</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022</p> <p>(i) Approve for a budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) to be granted from Council's economic development budget over a period of 3 years (2020-2022) to develop and deliver a new Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme; and</p> <p>(ii) Approve for officers to proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2020-2022)</p>
5.2	<p>Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt Approve the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 23rd November 2019 to Saturday 4th January 2020 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.</p>

5.3	<p>Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event Approve the request for financial support received from CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland to the value of £4,200 to deliver the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-on event, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.</p>
5.4	<p>Business in the Community Proposal Approve the funding proposal received from Business in the Community for 'Transformational Level Support' in relation to delivering a range of activities during an intensive 6 month pilot period from October 2019-March 2020, at a cost of £3,300+Vat.</p>
5.5	<p>Town Centre Visitor Information Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve a budget of up to £29,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the existing economic development and tourism budgets during 2019/20 for the purchase of 3 number visitor information kiosks to be located in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt town centres. (ii) Approve officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the 3 number visitor information kiosks.
5.6	<p>Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve that up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the economic development budget in 2019/20 to purchase branded jute shopping bags for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. (ii) Approve officers proceed to procure by way of tender, a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the relevant quantities of the town branded jute bags.
5.7	<p>Branded Town Centre Merchandise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve that up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the economic development budget in 2019/20 to purchase new town centre merchandise for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. (ii) Approve officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to supply and deliver the relevant quantities and types of branded town centre merchandise.
5.8	<p>PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19 Note the PLATO Final Report and approve the release of the final payment of £2,500.</p>
5.9	<p>Town Centre Enhancement Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve budget for town centre enhancement works of up to £100,000 across the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland from the existing economic development budget.

- (ii) From within the above budget of £100,000, approval is sought to seek tenders for the production and erection of hoarding around unsightly derelict/gap sites and/or replace some existing hoarding which is now in a poor state of repair.

5.10 **Management and Leadership Network Event**

Approve the Management and Leadership Network's request for a contribution towards sponsorship costs (venue hire and catering) of their MLN Mid Ulster event on 24 September 2019 with costs up to £1,040 excluding Vat, subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and there being no charge to local businesses to attend the event.

5.11 **NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event**

Approve the NI Chamber of Commerce's request for a contribution towards the costs (venue hire and catering) of their Mid Ulster Business Networking event on 9 October 2019 in the region of £850 (excluding vat), subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee waived for Mid Ulster businesses.

5.12 **Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event Full**

Note receipt of invitation to FFNI Launch Event to be held on Friday 20 September 2019 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry.

5.13 **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019**

Approve that the two complementary tickets are allocated to the Council Chair and one officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 to be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm in Corick House Hotel & Spa.

5.14 **Women in Business Conference and Awards Request**

Approve a contribution of up to £375 towards the 'Best New Start Up Category' at the Women in Business Awards and allocation of Council's complementary ticket to the Council Chair or his nominated representative to attend the Awards Evening on Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7pm in the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.

5.15 **Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request**

Approve a contribution of up to £280 towards the 'Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020 and the attendance of the Chair, if he or his nominated representative, wishes to attend the Awards (subject to the availability of tickets) on Friday 11 October 2019 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.

5.16 **Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week**

Note proposal to deliver a Programme of events to mark Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week taking place during 18-22 November 2019.

<p>5.17</p> <p>5.18</p> <p>5.19</p> <p>5.20</p> <p>5.21</p> <p>5.22</p> <p>5.23</p> <p>5.24</p>	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum 5.6.19 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 5 June 2019.</p> <p>Business Improvement District Feasibility Study Approve the Mid Ulster Business Improvement District (BIDs) Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019 Note Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Note progress regarding Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition</p> <p>(i) Approve Officers explore the possibility of submitting a bid to the 5G Rural Connected Communities grant competition, either from a Mid Ulster perspective, or part of a wider bid with a number of other Local Councils, if that offers greater opportunities.</p> <p>(ii) Approval also requested to procure any specialist technical expertise deemed necessary to assist with the bid preparation.</p> <p>Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme Note update.</p> <p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations Approve Mid Ulster District Council’s draft Recommendations to DAERA on their Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions</p> <p>Mid South and West Region Growth Deal Note update.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached & References</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Letter from CRAIC Theatre Company</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Business In The Community Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 3 – PLATO Final Report</p> <p>Appendix 4 – FFNI Launch Event Agenda</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Women in Business Awards and Conference 2019</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020</p> <p>Appendix 7 - Minutes Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting - 5.6.19</p>

Appendix 8 - Mid Ulster Business Improvement District (BIDs) Feasibility Study
Executive Summary

Appendix 9 - Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019

Appendix 10A – 5G Rural Connected Communities – Funding Notification

Appendix 10B - 5G Rural Connected Communities – Overview and Application
Guidance

Appendix 11 - DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions –
MUDC Draft Recommendations