

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | 1. Tourism Development Group Minutes - 7.9.22 2. Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 7.2.22 3. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 - Evaluation 4. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) |
| Date of Meeting | 12 January 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism and Strategic Programmes |

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

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | <p>Tourism Development Group Minutes - 7.9.22</p> <p>The Tourism Development Group (TDG) was established to create a working forum between Council and private sector businesses. The TDG will assist with policy development and support the implementation of Council's Tourism Strategy and associated work in order to create economic growth, increase visitor numbers and create employment. The group meet on a bi-monthly basis and as per the agreed Terms of Reference all business will be reported to Council through the Development Committee.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 7.2.22</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 – Evaluation</p> <p>To coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week 2022, Mid Ulster's fourth Enterprise Week comprised 13 events: 5 in-person events and 8 virtual, which took place between 14-18 November 2022. This year Council was supported by its delivery partner "plannd" in the promotion and set up for the week's events, and management of the webinars.</p> |

| | |
|-----|--|
| 2.4 | <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership</p> <p>Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities (DfC). The Mid Ulster LMP aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative and multiagency partnerships. The LMP provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council's priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future. Council received a Letter of Offer (dated 1 November 2022) for £368,009.25 from the Department for Communities to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022-23.</p> |
| 3.0 | <p>Main Report</p> |
| 3.1 | <p>Tourism Development Group Minutes – 7.9.22</p> <p>Minutes of the Tourism Development Group held on 7 September 2022 are attached at Appendix 1.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 7.2.22</p> <p>Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on 7 February 2022 are attached at Appendix 2.</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 – Evaluation</p> <p>Over 350 people participated in Mid Ulster's fourth Enterprise Week (14-18 November 2022), attending 13 free business events, focusing on providing companies with help to find ways to address a range of challenges being faced by businesses. During the week a broad range of local and regional speakers were featured and also well-known representatives of local industry such as: Paul Creighton, AES Global, Claire Murray, Deli on the Green, Dungannon, Dermot Friel, Friel's Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh and Mareanne Bradley, Specialist Group, Maghera, who took time out from their busy schedules to share insights into their own business challenges.</p> <p>A 'Leading Ladies' evening saw Denise Murtagh (Dungannon Enterprise Centre) in conversation with three Mid Ulster female entrepreneurs to hear about their journeys to success – Mona Houston, The Fashion House, Magherafelt, Leona Morrow, LM Transport Consultants, Dungannon and Rachel Molloy, Café 47, Cookstown.</p> <p>This year's theme was '<i>Adapt, Evolve, Overcome</i>'. Some of the popular events included 'The Power of Video' with Aislinn Higgins, 'Net Zero: Challenge Accepted' with Jamie Delargy and Steven Agnew, and 'Growth through Innovation'.</p> <p>An Mid South West (MSW) Growth Deal event was facilitated by Clodagh Rice (BBC), which saw business leaders from across the three MSW Council areas, discuss how innovation has helped them drive their growth ambitions.</p> |

In their feedback, participants said the events were 'motivational', 'inspirational', 'fantastic', 'insightful' and 'thought-provoking', demonstrating the week's impact.

The Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 Evaluation Report, at **Appendix 3**, details the week of events, all marketing activity and the range of feedback received.

Recordings of the webinars are now available on Council's YouTube Channel under Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzfkoqzAiZjWBhOpe51lCx1RNJPVTdgti>

3.4 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

The Mid Ulster LMP aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative and multiagency partnerships.

Members will be aware Council received a Letter of Offer (dated 1 November 2022) for £368,009.25 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022-23. This section of the report includes an update on six key projects currently being delivered. It is important to note that to be eligible for support through the LMP, applicants must live in the Mid Ulster District and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Out of work (unemployed);
- Working 16 hours or less (under-employed);
- In paid employment, but at risk of redundancy.

1. Sector-focused Employability Academies

South West College have been appointed to deliver 12 employability academies across 5 of Mid Ulster's key sectors to at least 180 participants. The sectors include Manufacturing & Engineering, Construction, Agri-food, Health & Social Care and Hospitality. Each academy will be co-designed between SWC and Industry and run for a four week period with approximately 15 participants per course. By engaging in the Academies, participants who complete the courses will gain a basic (level1/level2) unit qualification relevant to their sector of interest as well as receiving employability skills training and mentoring to assist in areas such as job readiness training & development, CV writing, interview techniques, mock interviews and work placement organisation & planning. On completion of the academy, SWC will ensure each participant is connected to appropriate work placements/jobs with mentoring continuing for a 6-month period. One Manufacturing Academy has commenced in December 2022 with the remaining 11 scheduled between 1 January and 31 March 2023.

2. HGV / Coach Driver Training & Licensing Academy

People 1st continue to successfully deliver this programme to 25 participants. All theory tests are due to be completed by early January 2023 with a practical element to be completed by the end of February 2023. Mentoring support is on-going and engagement with local companies who have open vacancies has commenced to match newly qualified participants with job opportunities. There were some initial

delays in receiving the letter of offer from DfC resulting in a potential underspend, however, DfC has approved that this funding can be allocated to cover the costs of 7 further Academy participants, bringing the total to 32 participants.

3. Employer-led Disability Inclusion Programme

This Programme is being delivered by The Cedar Foundation and aims to educate and inform employers to the benefits of employing people with a disability or long term illness, assisting them to understand how to remove barriers and make reasonable adjustments; whilst working with 20 participants to assist with employability/job ready skills in order to match them with open vacancies.

Mid Ulster currently has the highest disability employment gap in Northern Ireland highlighting the need for this pilot programme. The current labour shortage in Mid Ulster can potentially be addressed by tapping into the available pool of those with disabilities or long-term illness, of whom at least 1 in 3 wish to return to work.

4. Registered Childminder Training Academy

Following a procurement exercise, NICMA were appointed to deliver this project and are currently recruiting 25 participants to undertake training to enable registration as a Registered Childminder with the Early Years Team within the local Health Trusts. In addition to Childminder training, NICMA will provide business start-up training to ensure participants understand the requirements to start a new business as a Registered Childminder. On achieving registration, participants will also receive support with equipment needed to safely deliver child-minding e.g. fire guards, stair gates, baby monitor etc. This project aims to increase the provision of affordable childcare in the region within the Mid Ulster area therefore potentially removing barriers for parents of young children returning to the labour market.

5. Employability and Skills Services Register

During the development of its 2022/23 Action Plan, the Mid Ulster LMP identified that employer and participant awareness of Employability NI and available support schemes to be low. To address this issue, Cogent were appointed to build a register of all regional and local employability and skills delivery organisations and initiatives to provide stakeholders, including employers and residents with a complete understanding of the existing support landscape for the unemployed, economically inactive, or those who are employed but wish to reskill/upskill to access better quality employment. The completed Register will be a useful resource for Mid Ulster LMP and promoted to residents and businesses throughout the district.

6. Construction Sector Employability and Skills Review

The construction sector employability and skills review will identify and inform current and future employability and skills supply versus employer demand to which future employability initiatives can be targeted. Food for Thought have been procured to assist with the formation of a local Construction Collaborative Group and to develop a Sector Specific 3-year Employability and Skills Action Plan (ESAP). This will be used to identify sectoral specific interventions, support education partners in the development of future courses/programmes, and future applications for potential grant funding for sectoral skills development.

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <p>Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-24</p> <p>A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop a new one-year year Interim LMP Action Plan (2023-24). A quotation exercise is currently underway to appoint professional support to assist the Mid Ulster LMP to develop a 2023/24 Action Plan. This important piece of work will involve extensive research and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders to help ensure future priorities and interventions meet local need.</p> <p>Mid Ulster LMP Staff Team</p> <p>Email contact details of staff:</p> <p>LMP Manager Shelly Grimes E: shelly.grimes@midulstercouncil.org</p> <p>LMP Project Delivery Officer Colleen Bell E: colleen.bell@midulstercouncil.org</p> <p>LMP Administration and Finance Officer Catherine McMenamin E: Catherine.McMenamin@midulstercouncil.org</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | <p>Financial</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) - LMP activity detailed above is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> |
| | <p>Human</p> <p>Officers time.</p> |
| | <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) - Organisations assisting with delivery of actions for the LMP are managed on a weekly basis against a delivery framework and timeline.</p> |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | <p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>Tourism Development Group Minutes – 7.9.22 Note minutes of Tourism Development Group held on 7 September 2022.</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 5.2 | Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 7.2.22 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on 7 February 2022. |
| 5.3 | Mid Ulster Enterprise Week - Evaluation Note evaluation report on Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022. |
| 5.4 | Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Note update on Mid Ulster LMP projects. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix 1 – Minutes of Tourism Development Group - 7.9.22 Appendix 2 – Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum – 7.2.22 Appendix 3 – Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 Evaluation Report |