

Appendix 1

CALEDON REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

From: Sandra Mortimer [<mailto:sandramortimer.crp@hotmail.co.uk>]

Sent: 03 September 2019 11:50

To: Paul McCreedy <Paul.McCreedy@midulstercouncil.org>

Cc: Adrian McCreesh <Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org>

Subject: CALEDON WOOL STORE

Dear Paul

RE CALEDON WOOL STORE

Following on from our previous contact in respect of the conversion of Caledon Wool Store into a children's daycare facility, considerable progress has been made in respect of this project.

- Feasibility study and condition report has been completed with funding from AHF and Mid Ulster District Council
- Project viability report has been submitted
- Plans have been submitted to Mid Ulster District Council
- Business plan has been completed

The project has been costed at £510,000. Funding of £50,000 has been secured from Caledon Estates Company, who have drawn up a lease in respect of the transfer of the Wool Store to Caledon Regeneration Partnership for a period of 25 years.

- Application for funding for £250,000 has been submitted to National Lottery Heritage Grant.

The following funding applications are currently underway:-

- HED DAERA Village Catalyst Pilot - £150,000
- Esme Mitchell Trust - £10,000

There remains an amount of £50,000 gap funding required.

The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering very positive economic and social benefits for the local community. Publicity surrounding the project has already acted as a catalyst for restoration. The adjoining properties Nos 1 and 2 Mill Street, on the HARNI register are in the process of being sold. The buyer has already been in discussion with CRP. Restoration of the Wool Store and two derelict adjoining properties will be transformative for Mill Street and the entire village.

We very much appreciate the support of Mid Ulster District Council to date and would wish to make application to the council for assistance with gap funding to enable delivery of this project. Can you please advise us how we should proceed.

Kind regards

William Beattie
Caledon Regeneration Partnership



**Proposal from the Board of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership
to Mid Ulster Council to fund
an initiative to promote Dungannon town and reduce vacancy**

Prepared October 2019

Executive Summary

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

1. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre reducing vacancy to below 5%.
2. Undertake work that will inspire the development of vacant and derelict parts of the town and increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre.

It is proposed that an external town centre development management contactor would be employed by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a 3-year period. and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. Dungannon town precinct would be regarded as an 'asset' and marketed just like a commercial shopping centre, to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years' time.

Funding of £5,000pa for 3 years has been secured from Dungannon Enterprise Centre and a further £5,000pa will be secured from the town centre traders and property developers.

DRP are requesting that Mid Ulster Council and DSD each fund the shortfall funding of £40,000 per year for a 3-year period.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Formation

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. DRP has been highlighted as an example of best practice in 'partnership working' by DfC and has won two awards from ATCM for best practice projects. The economic vibrancy of town centres is dependent on successful town centre management.

1.2 DRP Membership

The DRP membership is drawn from the public, private and community sectors including Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities (DfC), Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Traders Association and representatives from the education, banking and voluntary sectors. DRP acts as a single voice of town centre regeneration and support and has the following characteristics:

- Already in existence for many years and constituted as company limited by guarantee
- A recognised partner of the Council.
- Recognised by DfC.
- Award winning organisation.
- Excellent past record of delivery.
- Accounts presented annually.
- Members comprising Town Councillors, Dungannon Enterprise Centre, Town Traders Assoc, South West College and local businessmen, banking sector, with council staff and DfC staff represented at meetings.
- Newly agreed strategic aims expressly aimed at town centre regeneration with emphases on partnership, people, places and promotion.
- Existing successful working relationship with Council's Regeneration Manager.
- Strong focus on vision and delivery.
- Regular monthly meetings.
- Excellent inter working relationship between members.

1.3 Aspirations

It is an aspiration of DRP to develop its role within the area as follows:

- Dedicated town centre management support
- Enhanced financial and manpower resources
- Full working relationship with Council officers.
- Support of all partners.

- Greater business and public awareness of the functions of DRP
- Ability to provide coordination and or leadership with all town centre events and marketing of same.
- Working relationship with community safety partnership and local Policing Board

In 2018, the Board adopted a strategy with the following aims:

Objective 1: Dereliction - meaningful progress made on 2 identified sites.

Objective 2: Reduced Vacancy Rate of property in the town.

Objective 3: Promote the town centre of Dungannon as a place to visit and shop.

1.4 Council report on town vacancy

In the 2017 Mid Ulster Council report “Innovative Approaches to Reducing Vacancy and Dereliction in Dungannon Town Centre” made a clear statement of intent to, not only proactively reduce vacancy and dereliction, but plan and shape it in such a way that re-positions the town as a competitive destination.

“Council will work with key public and private stakeholders to lobby for pilot status for Dungannon town centre to adopt a more holistic regeneration approach to addressing town centre vacancy and dereliction and access to more innovative funding mechanisms”.

“A strong public/private delivery model will be a critical success factor in driving this project forward. **It is recommended that Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) a public/private regeneration agency/vehicle and a company limited by guarantee become the main delivery vehicle.** Stakeholder involvement in DRP is strong and the organisation does act as a project driver and catalyst for change”.

It was recommended that as part of this development process that Council explore the potential with DRP to initiate a BID Feasibility Study to ascertain the potential role a Business Improvement District could play. This study has been completed and it was found that Dungannon was the most suitable of towns in Mid Ulster for a BID initiative.

2. PROPOSAL

The initiative should be considered as a three-year pilot with the positive experience replicated in other large retail centres in Mid Ulster.

The proposal could be considered as a precursor to a potential BIDS application in 4 years time.

It is proposed to create an initiative to:

1. Actively manage and fill vacant outlets throughout Dungannon town centre reducing vacancy to below 5%.
2. Undertake work that will inspire the development of vacant and derelict parts of the town and increase shopper and visitor footfall in Dungannon town centre.

A Dungannon Town Centre Management team would be contracted by Dungannon Regeneration Partnership for a fixed term and would report to the DRP Management Committee and the DRP Board of Directors. This independence from a local and central Government will enable a commercially driven post holder to work with urgency and be an unbiased driver of change who will coordinate with all relevant stakeholders to achieve success for the town.

The management contactor would be responsible for employing staff and external support, to deliver upon the plan of work.

3. RATIONALE TO THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Active marketing of vacant units

When retail units become vacant it weakens the performance of nearby stores, reduces footfall in the area and increases the likelihood of further store closures – this cycle will continue unless proactive, innovative action is taken to ensure use of available units. No one is responsible for the proactive selling and promotion of vacant units to prospective tenants. Vacant units are usually let via letting agents on a commission basis and, in most cases, a passive marketing strategy is adopted. A clear understanding of consumer and business perceptions is important to work with landlords and letting agents to identify top end retailers/businesses, make them aware of the potential retail location and, when

required, work with landlords to bring their vacant properties up to a quality standard to attract such tenants.

The plethora of vacant retail units could be the impetus to strategically re-balance the town centre visitor offering, and a chance for culture and leisure-related outlets and community services to gain more of a foothold in the town centre. Staff will work with key stakeholders to ensure vacant units are repurposed and promoted to ensure the desired innovative approach to reducing vacancy and dereliction.

3.2 Increased rates revenue

Increased occupancy of retail units means increased revenue generated from rates for the Council. It is anticipated that, not only will the increase in revenue generated from more rates cover the cost of the Council investment, but there will also be a surplus.

At present there is vacant retail space is at 14% (Place Management Solutions BIDs Feasibility Study 2019).

There are currently 32 vacant or derelict properties in Dungannon town centre out of a total of 284 properties. It is estimated that there is 40,000 sq. ft. of lettable vacant retail space in the town at present (excluding derelict sites) – a potential rates revenue of £350k per year, if occupied.

3.3 Creating opportunities from nothing

Dungannon town centre is littered with derelict sites which have the potential for development. The initiative would inspire and support the property owner to consider ways to repurpose sites. Bringing together the many stakeholders is needed to breathe new economic and community life into the many derelict areas of Dungannon town centre.

The aim would be to 'sell' the town as an investment opportunity for, not only for retailing, but the many other sectors that make up the vibrant and diverse community that is Dungannon. This could enable our town centre to become a prosperous and exciting space once again. By exploring the potential for a diverse range of services and businesses there is a greater chance of developing an 'evening' economy for the town, providing increased opportunity for employment and social opportunities rooted in the interests and needs of local people.

3.4 Attracting Investment

It is planned that the Management Contractor would work develop a portfolio of development opportunities to attract public private investment to the town. This work would be done in conjunction with the owners of derelict and vacant properties

3.5 Enhanced marketing of retailing in the town

Mid Ulster Council are currently implementing the “Discover Dungannon” brand with the objective to attract provincial and local awareness of the town. The brand is controlled by the Council and governed under its marketing protocols.

The promotion activities planned under this initiative will complement the “Discover Dungannon” brand and will carry out targeted commercial marketing which, under Council policy cannot be undertaken.

3.6 Enhanced social well being

The impact of the retail sector goes well beyond economic output. Research has shown that a diverse retail offering can also contribute to the social well-being of local communities and serve as a key driver for tourism by increasing the attractiveness of town centres. In fact, retail has made a significant contribution to urban regeneration and the vitality and viability of town centres in the UK for decades by contributing to their socio-economic health.

3.7 Future proofing

Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster Council and soon to become the second largest town in Tyrone after Omagh. Demographic forecasts indicate that over the next 10 years the area is facing the largest a population boom in the province. The recent Feasibility Study into BIDs found that Dungannon was the best suited town in Mid Ulster for the initiative. However, it is the view of the DRP Board that the BIDs model for Dungannon might not gain the support of the traders in the town because of the current high rates demands on shop owners. While the BIDs model has proven itself to be beneficial in many towns, the timing could be premature for Dungannon. A failed BIDs process could land negatively on the image of Dungannon. Commitment from all traders will take time before any additional levy is considered. We believe this proposal is an alternative to BIDs and will secure traders’ commitment for the future.

4. Key responsibilities of the Management Contractor

- Undertake an annual audit of the vacant properties in the town centre and their potential of development.
- Support property owners in the town centre to maximise their rental returns and minimising tenancy 'void' periods.
- Work with property owners to develop initiatives and incentives to attract prospective retail tenants to the area.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to support the development of derelict properties
- Bring empty stores/units into use through collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Inspire and collaborate with private developers and public sector agencies to explore initiatives that could contribute towards the strategic development of Dungannon town centre
- Develop retail property initiatives that have the potential of attracting public/private investment
- Actively promote the towns property portfolio to attract, where possible, “high street name” retailers to Dungannon.
- Work in partnership with the Traders Association and the Council to promote Dungannon as an outstanding place to visit and shop and to provide visitors with a quality of experience that encourages them to keep coming back.
- Work with Dungannon Enterprise Centre to promote retail start-ups, retail incubation and pop-up shop initiatives.
- Where appropriate, implement recommendations from reports, such as the Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study, Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan as well as innovative reports to rejuvenate town centres.

5. Rationale and Justification for Management Contractor

Dungannon Regeneration Partnership is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. It employs no staff and is grateful for the secretarial support it receives from Mid Ulster Council staff and Dungannon Enterprise Centre staff.

DRP does not have the in-house professional competence or extensive network to develop the town centre. Employing the services of a professional property development agency with UK wide contacts will give DRP a resource to develop the Dungannon town centre at a level of competence not previously possible.

6. Budget and Proposed Funding

Funder	Funding Activity	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	Total Costs Per Funder
Mid Ulster District Council	Professional support	£980				£5,000
	Advertising support	£4,020				
	Management contractor costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dept for Communities	Management contractor Costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Dungannon Traders	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Total Costs		£5,000	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£275,000

7. Performance targets

Targets	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	By the end of Year 3
Management Contractor	Contractor is appointed	-	-	-	
Reduction in Town Centre Vacancy Levels	Base vacancy rate is identified	2%	2%	2%	Overall Reduction in Town Centre Vacant Premises is over 5%
Town centre investment by developers	-	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000	£1.5m investment in town centre

8. Conclusion

It is the responsibility of Dungannon Regeneration Partnership to expand upon the potential of the Dungannon town centre. A decision by Mid Ulster Council to fund a Management Contractor to develop the Dungannon town centre makes commercial sense with regards increased revenue from rates, and a practical approach to reducing dereliction and vacancy in the town. Dungannon is the largest town in Mid Ulster. It is essential to regard the properties in the town precinct as an 'asset', and market the town just like a commercial shopping centre to increase its vibrancy and to give local people and visitors a complete shopping experience.

APPENDIX 3 – INTERREG VA FASTER PROJECT

From: Dette Hughes <Dette@eastborderregion.com>

Sent: 23 September 2019 12:21

To: ahall@monaghancoco.ie; mmcgarvey@donegalcoco.ie; Addy, Stephen <stephen.addy@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk>; padraig.o'hora@louthcoco.ie; leo.strawbridge@derrystabane.com; Alison McCullagh <alison.mccullagh@fermanaghomagh.com>; Lewis Porter <Lewis.Porter@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk>; tkilfeather@sligo.ie; McEldowney, Sheena <Sheena.McEldowney@nmandd.org>; Thomas Ryan <tryan@cavancoco.ie>; Clare J McKeown (Sustainable Development) <McKeownCJ@BelfastCity.gov.uk>; Bernard Greene <bgreene@leitrimcoco.ie>; Adrian McCreesh <Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org>

Cc: Pamela Arthurs <Pamela@eastborderregion.com>

Subject: INTERREG VA FASTER Project

Hello all

As you are aware East Border Region submitted an application to the INTERREG VA Programme for the FASTER Project, which seeks to install a network of Rapid EV chargers throughout the INTERREG VA eligible area. Local Authorities are Associate Partners in this proposal.

EBR submitted the application in November 2018 and SEUPB have been working through the approval process which has proven to be very slow. SEUPB recently appointed an Independent Consultant to review the project and to liaise with the Government Departments in the three jurisdictions to address a number of concerns they had in relation to the project. The Consortium are working through these issues and we are hopeful that the project will be recommended for approval and presented to the INTERREG Steering Committee before the end of this year.

One of the requests from the Departments was for EBR to secure a letter of support from each of the Local Authorities for the project. I have attached a template letter, if each Local Authority could please complete this letter and return to EBR as soon as possible that would be much appreciated. The Consultants report is due to be completed by the end of September.

Thanking you in anticipation of your ongoing support, and if you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

Best regards

Dette Hughes
Programme Manager
East Border Region
2 Monaghan Court
Newry
BT35 6BH

Tel: 028 / 048 30252684

www.eastborderregion.com

www.enjoyebr.com

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Pamela

Re: FASTER Project

I am writing to confirm that.....Council are committed to the FASTER Project as an Associate Partner.

..... Council is committed to increasing the use of Sustainable Transport and reducing carbon emissions within our region and the FASTER project complements our Regional and National strategies in relation to this goal. The shared learning and sharing best practice gained by working on a cross border basis and across three Jurisdictions, combined with the deployment of innovative smart new technologies will bring significant added value to the region.

As an Associate Partner Council will be involved on the following aspects of the project:

- 1) To participate in the Project Advisory committee to provide strategic support across the eligible region.
- 2) To assist with the scoping exercise to identify existing EV Charge points, and to work with the project steering committee to identify key strategic locations for new rapid charging points.
- 3) To assist with statutory approvals for the installation of the charge points e.g planning & connection to the grid
- 4) To provide support to the Steering Committee in relation to the Public Awareness campaign, utilising existing Council media and PR mechanisms where appropriate
- 5) To assist with the dissemination of the project outputs within our region and beyond.

I look forward to working with the project Consortium in the implementation of this project.

Yours sincerely

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum
Monday 1st July 2019 at 5.30pm
The Cornmill, Coalisland

Present

Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr R McGinley	Mid Ulster District Council
Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities

In Attendance

Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION																												
1	<p>Apologies</p> <table> <tr> <td>Cllr N Doris</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Joe O'Neill</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Francie Molloy MP</td> <td>Coalisland Residents & Community Forum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dermott McGirr</td> <td>Translink</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td> <td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JP McCartan</td> <td>PSNI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oliver Donnelly</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael McGibbon</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Celene O'Neill</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> </table> <p>In the absence of Cllr N Doris, the Vice Chair, R O'Neill, took the position of Chair.</p>	Cllr N Doris	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council	Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum	Dermott McGirr	Translink	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	JP McCartan	PSNI	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
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2	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – 5th June 2019</p> <p>Amendment to minutes held on 5th June 2019 to show Cllr M Quinn in attendance.</p> <p>Minutes of 5th June 2019 was a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed by P Anderson Seconded by U Marshall</p>																												
3.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Introductions were carried out between those present</p>																												

<p>4</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting</p> <p>M Leavey gave an update on the status regarding Brangan’s building, whereby Council were still awaiting confirmation from the owner to allow works to progress on site.</p> <p>M Campbell updated that there were no units available at the Enterprise Centre that would accommodate Glass Blowing.</p> <p>Action: R O’Neill to ask Gary Currie to ring Melanie Campbell to discuss other potential units. RO’N</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Coalisland Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Public Realm Scheme <p>M Leavey advised the Forum that Council had held meetings with landowners regarding the layby on Lineside. Another meeting was scheduled for the 5th July for the remaining landowner. The BT work has been completed and all lines have been taken down.</p> <p>R O’Neill asked for an update on the proposed one-way system on Main Street. M Leavey updated that the approval for the amendment is still with DFI Roads Division Headquarters and Mid Ulster Council are still awaiting a response.</p> <p>Approval is required on samples of materials before the Programme can be approved. Mid Ulster Disability Forum and the local traders will all then be shown the approved materials before the project can commence.</p> <p>R O’Neill referred to, and handed out, copies of his previously circulated 10-point objection letter and discussed Councils ‘Town Centre First’ approach, which was mentioned at a planning meeting by Cllr M Glasgow.</p> <p>R O’Neill reiterated the impact that the one-way system down Main Street, would have on the Town by funneling all through traffic down Lineside. Drivers coming from Stewartstown who were going to a business on Main St would have to drive all the way round the Town, passing by other similar businesses, which he felt they would be inclined to stop at rather than coming on to Main Street.</p> <p>P Anderson responded to R O’Neill’s concerns, stating that the footpaths do not meet current standards; parents cannot get up or down the street with prams. To bring the footpath to an acceptable width of 2m on both sides, there is only room for one lane, therefore the one-way system would be only option allowing both sides to park on with an improved flow of traffic.</p> <p>P Anderson advised that the Department for Communities (DfC) are interested in accessibility for all and it would be safer for all pedestrians. If the system proved not to be working, there would be an obligation to get it fixed.</p> <p>U Marshall raised the walkabout she had taken part in where crossing and footpath issues were problematic. She felt that a wheelchair user couldn’t get access to</p>

the Town Centre without having to use the roads. Currently with an ageing population, more people with mobility issues.

R O'Neill replied that he was well aware of the dynamics of the Town and that the traffic in town is diabolical, as it is not managed. He suggested that 1.6 m is ample width for the footpath.

P Anderson responded that 2m is the minimum, which has to be achieved with bins, lampposts etc. which takes away from the 2m. P Anderson suggested that this is an opportunity for the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to fix roads, pavements and many other issues within the Town. DfC would like Coalisland Town Centre to be thriving with people walking about and that there were road safety issues with no crossings and footpaths that were too narrow.

R O'Neill replied that the street is 350 years old and has worked to date and referred to point's number 8 and 10 on his handout.

M Campbell asked whether the entrance to the enterprise centre could get a crossing included at Supervalu. P Anderson replied that it was the responsibility of DfI to decide what can be allowed.

- **Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment**

M Leavey updated that the Economic Appraisal and the preferred options had been presented to Council in June. A meeting has been arranged with the Irish Football Association (IFA) to discuss proposals and determine the standard of the pitch. The venue also hopes to receive Disability Sport NI accreditation. It is anticipated that by the Autumn, enabling works will have commenced on site.

- **Coalisland Great Places**

C McKenna referred to the previously circulated written report from Keith Beattie, Heritage Officer with Lough Neagh Partnership, which gave an update on progress on the project. C McKenna advised that in the future a report would come to the Forum quarterly to advise of progress however if any member wished to get involved that they could contact Keith Beattie directly.

- **Summer, Halloween & Christmas Events**

Cllr M Quinn commended all organisers of the Summer Bash for the successful delivery of the event. Over 2,000 people attended the evening, which had a great atmosphere and had brought the whole community together for an enjoyable evening. R O'Neill also thanked everyone involved.

The usage of plastic water bottles was raised and to ensure that these were to be recycled at future events.

Action: Council to discuss with organising Committee and explore options in regard to use of plastic bottles at next year's event **CF**

	<p>C Fox updated that with the enabling works now happening later in the year on Gortgonis Recreation Centre, the Council may still be able to use the venue for the annual Halloween display. Confirmation was required from the project Board and if this were the case, the event would take place as normal. An alternative venue of Coalisland Na Fianna GFC grounds had been an option and was currently with GAA headquarters for approval.</p> <p>Action: Seek confirmation from project board of Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment in relation to Halloween event location CF</p> <p>The location of the Christmas Tree for this year's switch on was discussed. C Fox advised that this year the tree would be in same location, however next year, with a new civic space, the tree would be relocated. Members of the Forum would be consulted regarding the type of tree for example either a real tree or artificial.</p> <p>Action: Council to consult with the Forum following completion of the Civic space and when deciding on type of new tree CF</p>
6	<p>Town Centre Graffiti</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn advised that the graffiti on the wall at Creenagh Road had been covered within the last week.</p>
7	<p>CCTV Cameras</p> <p>M Campbell updated that she has been liaising with J McNeill in Council in relation to the specification for the CCTV Cameras.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>C Fox raised the marketing of Coalisland Town Centre and if the Traders had any ideas that they would like Council to consider promoting shopping/businesses in the Town. A marketing discount booklet and a Facebook page were discussed alongside training for traders in the use of social media. C Fox stated that currently, Council operate 3 Facebook pages for the main towns in the district - Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.</p> <p>P Anderson advised that following the completion of the public realm scheme, a £200 -250,000-revitalisation scheme would follow which could include money to be spent on a marketing initiative. It was agreed that a meeting be set up to discuss marketing options.</p> <p>Action: Meeting to be organised with Traders to discuss marketing initiatives and training for Coalisland Town Centre CF</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn referred to an incident that morning and raised the issue regarding PSNI response times as it took half an hour to get to house. Another incident involving an assault in Dernagh, PSNI did not respond. Cllr M Quinn advised that he was having a meeting with PSNI to discuss further.</p>

	<p>R O'Neill asked would it be possible to get directional signs for GAA grounds in the Town.</p> <p>Action: R O'Neill to be given contact within the Department of Infrastructure who have responsibility for road signage CF</p>
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting will be 2nd September 2019 @ 5.30pm.</p>
10	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 6.50pm</p>

Mid Ulster Skills Forum

**Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 8 March 2019 at 10.00am
Venue: Square Box, Ranfurly Visitor & Arts Centre Dungannon**

Present:

Food & Drink	Alan McKeown, Consultant (Chair)
Manufacturing	Jane Millar, SDC Trailers Ltd Liz Kearns, Emerson Cookstown
Engineering	Clodagh McGovern, Mallaghan Engineering Ltd Sinead Gaynor, Mallaghan Engineering Ltd Sharon Cain, McAvoy Group Brian McElroy, TES Ltd
Public Sector	Niall Casey, Invest NI Ethna McNamee, Invest NI Ciara Kilpatrick, Invest NI Linda Jamison, Invest NI Michael Gould, Dept for the Economy Keith Fox, Dept for Communities
Education Providers	Ciaran McManus, South West College Laura Firth, Northern Regional College Catherine Devlin, CAFRE
Sectoral Bodies	Roisin McAliskey, FSB NI Mary Meehan, Manufacturing NI Margaret McCloskey, Business in the Community

In Attendance:

Council Officers	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities Marissa Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development Colin McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager Paul McCreedy, Funding and Investment Manager Oliver Donnelly, Project Officer
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Apologies:	Stephen Kelly, Manufacturing NI Harry Hamilton, NI Food & Drink Association Gillian McKee, Business in the Community Jennifer Cruickshank, Henry Brothers Ltd Stephen Mohan, CUBA Dean Mohan, CUBA Sharon McAleer, Elected Member Frances Burton, Elected Member
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1. Welcome and Introductions

A McCreesh welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Position of Chairman of Skills Forum

A McCreesh provided an update on the current Chairman's employment status and following discussion it was agreed that A McKeown should remain as Chair of the Skills Forum.

A McKeown entered the meeting at 10.05am.

A McCreesh suggested that a Code of Conduct is drafted for the next meeting and circulated to all members for them to sign up to.

3. Apologies

Apologies were noted on behalf of those who could not attend.

It was noted that H Hamilton had suffered illness and it was agreed to send a card to him on behalf of the Forum.

4. Minutes of the last meeting (Friday 22nd June 2018)

A McKeown referred to minutes of meeting held on Friday 22 June 2018. All present agreed that these were an accurate account of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Paper on Skills Forum

P McCreedy presented a paper on Membership and Structure of Mid Ulster Skills Forum. Key points out of this report include;

- Attendance at the Forum meetings is generally strong with a few members having less than 15% attendance
- There is currently no representation from 'Digital Sector' or the Engineering Training Council NI
- Requests have been made from Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group and 2 Area Learning Partnerships (Dungannon & Cookstown) to sit on the Skills Forum.

The following recommendations contained in the paper were agreed: -

Membership -

- 1.) That officers contact the four member organisations with low attendance to ascertain their interest in remaining as members of the Forum and if they no longer wish to serve on the Forum, officers seek an appropriate representative from the relevant sector.
- 2.) That the Skills Forum approves the requests from the Area Learning Partnerships and Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group (equates to an additional 3 representatives).

- 3.) That an invitation is extended to Jill Robb (Cicli Sport, Moneymore) to give a presentation at the next meeting as a local Digital sector representative.
- 4.) That the appointed MEGA Project Facilitator will provide updates on project progress at meetings of the Skills Forum and necessary sub-groups, however the facilitator will not be a member of the Forum.
- 5.) That future membership requests to the Skills Forum are deferred for consideration until March 2020; unless the Forum agrees there is value in inviting the organisation to sit on one of its sub-groups.
- 6.) That the Forum develops and agrees criteria and process to deal with future membership requests.
- 7.) That officers will automatically contact a member who misses three consecutive Skills Forum meetings.
- 8.) That a member may at any time resign by giving not less than one month's notice in writing to the Forum.
- 9.) That a report on members' attendance at Skills Forum Meetings is presented in March 2020 for monitoring purposes.

Sub-Group Structures

- 1.) That the MEGA Collaborative Network is established as a sub-group of the Skills Forum.
- 2.) That the 'Apprenticeships' and 'Education engagement and linkages' sub-groups are merged into one sub group, which has responsibility for taking forward relevant actions contained in the Skills Action Plan (2018-21).
- 3.) That the existing 'Brexit' sub group is retained.
- 4.) That the existing Skills Report & Action Plan (2018-21) sub-group is retained.

7. Update on Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth and Advancement (MEGA) Collaborative Network

P McCreedy updated members on the MEGA programme stating £169k had been secured from Invest NI with further match funding from EDGE Innovate, Mallaghan Engineering, Specialist Joinery, Four Dee, Steelweld, Northern Hydraulics and Specdrum. The programme is designed to work with the Department and schools in attracting the next generation to the engineering workforce. A McKeown informed members that interviews for the post of Project Facilitator had been completed.

A McCreesh stated that whilst the MEGA Programme is good for the Engineering sector that the Skills Action Plan is a wider framework document and that all other actions detailed in the document are as important for future delivery. He suggested that there should be a focus on other actions and similar arrangements for delivery are put in place.

8. Update on Brexit Summit

P McCreedy updated members that the proposed Summit was currently postponed due to the uncertainties around Brexit.

E McNamee informed members that Invest NI are to hold an event in the Glenavon Hotel Cookstown on Tuesday 12 March as part of their "Get Ready for

Brexit” series of Workshops. So far there has been high demand from businesses with topics covered include Migration, Taxes and finances. A Brexit diagnostic is also available on the day which companies can complete but there has been a slow uptake from businesses on this. Invest NI are continuing to assist businesses to prepare for Brexit including a ‘Get Ready for Brexit’ section on their website and a further series of events have been organised and planned in the next few weeks. L Kearns informed members that whilst there are uncertainties on the outcome of Brexit negotiations that Emerson are preparing as best they can.

L Jamison advised that Intertrade Ireland have financial support for local businesses to get them ready for Brexit. This financial support was originally £2000 but businesses can now receive up to £5,000 worth of support.

9. OECD Report – ‘Engaging Employers and Developing Skills at the Local Level in Northern Ireland’

C McKenna gave a summary of the circulated paper from the OECD “Engaging Employers and Developing Skills at the Local Level in Northern Ireland”, referring to the levels of apprenticeships in Northern Ireland in comparison to other areas of Europe. M Gould stated that there is a cultural difference in attitude to apprenticeships in other European Countries. In Germany for example, 67% of school leavers go into apprenticeships as opposed to going to University. He stated that there is a low level of apprenticeships in some sectors of the economy where employers don’t encourage completion of the apprenticeship.

C McManus informed members that South West College currently has 1600 young people in work-based learning through apprenticeships and currently has a 90% retention of apprenticeships which is a huge positive. The College are also organising a “Get Engineering” Careers Fair on Saturday 9th March 2019.

S Cain briefed members on an Open Evening McAvoy Group have organised for 28th March which currently has a good uptake from local schools in the area.

M Gould referred to the fact that there are 15% fewer 16 year olds as an overall percentage of Northern Ireland population which is a factor in the number of young people taking up apprenticeships.

M Gould agreed to forward a link for current Department for the Economy statistics on apprenticeships noting there has been around 55,000 young people through apprenticeship programmes in the past 10 years which is encouraging.

10. Update on Community Plan – Education & Skills Thematic Group

M Canavan provided an update on the Education & Skills Thematic Group within the Community Planning process. The group are working towards achieving short term actions. The sub-group are supporting the idea of Peer Mentoring within schools and liaising with Area Learning Partnerships to highlight the importance of Numeracy and Literacy programmes in schools.

11. Update on NI Strategic Migration Partnership (Skills Sub-Group)

P McCreedy referred to the circulated briefing paper for councils on issues relating to migration. Reference was made to the Government White Paper on Post Brexit Immigration. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published its final reports on EEA migration in the UK.

12. Any other business

12.1 Request from local groups

P McCreedy reported that Superstars and First Steps Women's Centre have requested to give a presentation to the Skills Forum. It was agreed that both presentations be scheduled in at a future meeting.

12.2 Council Business Programmes

F McKeown gave a synopsis of four upcoming business programmes that will be delivered over the next four years including Gearing for Growth, Tender Ready, Digital First and Transform. She advised that the programmes were funded by Mid Ulster District Council, the ERDF Investment for Growth & Jobs Programme and Invest NI and were targeted at micro and small businesses (<49 employees).

13. Date of next Skills Forum Meeting

It was agreed that forum meetings should be held on a quarterly basis going forward. Dates of 2019 meetings to be issued by Council officers.



Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 6.30pm

Committee Room, Mid Ulster District Council,
Circular Road, Dungannon

	Action
<p>Members Present: Councillor D Molloy (Chair) Councillor W Cuddy Councillor M Gillespie Councillor M Kearney Councillor S McGuigan Councillor S McPeake Councillor W Robinson Councillor T Wilson</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive MUDC Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities Marissa Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development Colin McKenna, Economic Strategies Manager</p> <p>Apologies: Councillor Elatter Councillor McLean</p>	
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The Chair, Councillor Molloy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported apologies on behalf of Councillors Elatter and McLean.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting – 26th November 2018</p> <p>Members agreed that meetings of the Brexit Working Group would be held in the Committee Room of the Dungannon Office.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 November 2018, were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings;</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Wilson and Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan</p>	

3. Brexit Discussion – Potential impact on:

(i) People:

Councillor Molloy acknowledged that this group may not have all the answers as there are many complex issues to be addressed, but acknowledged as a proactive Council we must explore and mitigate against the potential impact they may have.

Discussion commenced on the impact of Brexit on current MUDC staff and if the Council had any migrant employees. If so, could the employees remain post Brexit and could the Council guarantee their employment.

The Director of Organisational Development said the Council employed up to 12 migrant staff. There was no current threat to their employment with the proviso that Brexit is an unknown quantity. Also in the Rural Development Programme, contracts were coming to an end and a number of these employees did have contract rights. Therefore, Council may have to map out options for these staff, looking at redeployment as a consideration in due course.

The Director of Business & Communities added that the Mid Ulster Skills Forum was working on future skills and recruitment matters. He advised that a new Collaborative Growth Programme, funded by Council and Invest NI, called 'MEGA', is being driven by the private sector to assist the manufacturing and advanced engineering businesses. Local engineering company, Edge Innovate, is leading this initiative over the next 2 years with approx 80% funding from Invest NI and 20% funding from MUDC.

The Chief Executive said there was a potential impact on Environmental Health staff being required to certify products in terms of food safety for export. If there is a no deal Brexit it could impact the Council with more Environmental Health staff needing training.

If this happened, it will require additional staff and additional hours, without an additional funding resource being available. Presently MUDC is not fully equipped to meet this need and added there may be difficulties in recruiting sufficient numbers of Environmental Health officers to fulfil such roles. If this is the case, the Council will need additional funding to play a more prominent role in food safety.

Within the MUDC area there are many companies who export goods and would feel the impact of Council not having sufficient staff to certify food safety such as Lough Neagh Eels and the agri-food industry.

It was noted that within the Civil Service a team to deal with the impact of Brexit has been set up. They have invited Councils to

be part of this. However, this is not workable at the moment as there are no resources supporting the request.

The Mid Ulster Skills Forum has agreed to organise a Brexit Summit once the impact of Brexit becomes clearer. This will also assist migrants to better understand what is happening. In the meantime, Council staff are signposting businesses to other measures to assist them prepare for Brexit.

(ii) Supply chain:

Looking at the short/medium term impacts of Brexit it is unclear of the full impact on fuel, gas, electricity and raw materials at this time.

Council's senior management have been consulted on this issue and keeping the matter under review. In the short term, waste management issues are under control. There was a view that within the supply chain, goods may become more expensive.

(iii) Funding:

On a positive note Peace IV & Interreg funding has been secured in the short term. However, the viability of new Community projects beyond this current funding call is uncertain. Budgets for the next 2 years are secure with a directive from Central Government confirming this. Existing Letter of Offers regarding EU funding will be honoured for Programmes up to 2021.

Head of Economic Development stated that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is set to replace European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) when the UK leaves the European Union. At this juncture, she advised that it was unclear where any new Rural Development Programme would be positioned, but early indications would suggest it is closely aligned with the Industrial Strategy, which is productivity driven, and not a natural fit with 'rural'. She advised that NILGA is actively lobbying for Councils to maintain the same level of funding under the new UKSPF as it did previously under ESIF which she added will be a challenge.

Members were informed that access to borrowing from the European Investment Bank may be more difficult in future but this was not cited as a major concern as Council did not rely on this as a source of funding.

4. Brexit Support Fund

Local Councils in England will receive £56.5m to help them address Brexit and to date no such fund was available in Northern Ireland. The Chief Executive said that he felt that any support the Councils needed may come retrospectively.

<p>The Director of Business & Communities said that our local businesses already portray a great spirit and that they will find a way to survive but the loss of EU funding support for our community groups will have a significant impact.</p>	
<p>5. Future Actions</p> <p>It was acknowledged there are a lot of ‘unknowns’ at the moment and it was felt that things would be a lot clearer after the Brexit negotiations were finalised.</p> <p>The Chief Executive said the UU Study (May 2017) – “Brexit and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor: Potential Impacts and Things to Consider” was being updated with regards to crystallising the needs of the border region on such matters as investment, skills, energy, connectivity and barriers to growth.</p> <p>Councillor McPeake complimented the work ongoing by ICBAN on this issue of which Council are a member.</p> <p>Councillor Cuddy said that on a positive note there will be business opportunities following Brexit which we must be ready to grasp. At the moment exports were currently cheaper and local firms were already exploiting this.</p>	
<p>6. Any Other Business</p> <p>The Director of Organisational Development asked if the minutes of the Brexit Working Group could be made available on the Councils website.</p> <p>C McKenna to liaise with Council’s Communications Team on the matter.</p>	<p>CMcK</p>
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Future meeting dates to be agreed as the Brexit negotiations progress.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 7.10pm.</p>	