



07 December 2022

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Wednesday, 07 December 2022 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording  
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest  
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business

### Matters for Decision

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 5.  | Social Inclusion - NIHE Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25  | 3 - 58    |
| 6.  | Development Report  | 59 - 64   |
| 7.  | Liaison Agreement for The Investigation of Work-Related Deaths within Northern Ireland  | 65 - 80   |
| 8.  | Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group Request   | 81 - 114  |
| 9.  | Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model | 115 - 118 |
| 10. | Sports Representative Grants  | 119 - 122 |



11.	Economic Development Report – OBFD	123 - 130
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Matters for Information

12	Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 November 2022	131 - 176
13	Leisure Disability Provision and Swimming Lesson Pilot	177 - 184
14	Positive Ageing Month Update	185 - 198
15	Economic Development Report – OBFi	199 - 214

**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.**

Matters for Decision

16. Agewell Project – Contract Extension
17. Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

Matters for Information

18. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 November 2022
19. Economic Development Report – CBFi
20. Mid South West (MSW) Region Growth Deal Update



<b>Report on</b>	Social Inclusion - NIHE Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martina Totten

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval for Council's response to NIHE's Consultation on their Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Housing Executive have published a Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan for public consultation. <b>(Appendix 1)</b> The draft plan acknowledges the challenging planning context facing the Housing Executive. As this situation continues to evolve they will update the relevant sections of the plan, prior to final publication, where deemed appropriate.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The draft plan has been developed through extensive consultation and engagement with a broad range of partners and stakeholders to help identify key themes and objectives for the three year period covered by the plan. This involved consultation and engagement with key partners and experts across the housing sector, local government agencies, with community based organisations, and of course with our tenants and customers.</p> <p>As a result of this, they have developed the Housing Executive's draft corporate plan with six high level objectives, a three year high level action plan (detailing some key initiatives we will undertake in the coming years) and a one year business plan.</p> <p>The draft Consultation Response <b>(Appendix 2)</b> includes points on the allocation of the 6,000 social housing target for the 3 year period; releasing of land for social housing development; infrastructure constraints; Intermediate Rent Products; climate change/energy efficiency agenda and housing standards; Community Wealth Building; and implementation of the Rural Strategy'</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>



<b>4.1</b>	<b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b>  Financial: None  Human: None
<b>4.2</b>	<b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b>  None
<b>4.3</b>	<b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b>  None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To approve the Council's response NIHE's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix 1 - NIHE's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25.  Appendix 2 - NIHE's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 – MUDC Response



# **Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25**



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## Foreword

As the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland and a landlord at scale, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive is an organisation of housing professionals, committed to fairness and to making a difference for our customers. This document sets out how we will work to achieve our vision over the next three years, and is emphatically focused on the principles of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic.

The organisation's vision is clear. Everyone, irrespective of their background or means, should be able to live in an affordable, sustainable and decent home that is appropriate to their needs, in a safe, attractive, and climate-resilient place. This vision drives us in everything we do, and is underpinned by our values and behaviours.

As professionals, we solve problems through housing; whether this is reducing inequality or mitigating the effects of climate change. This document presents an exciting moment for our organisation, its people and its customers as it renews our focus in some key areas while **also** focusing on sustainable growth. The document recognises that some of the big changes we seek to achieve will go beyond the lifetime of this plan and throughout this decade, and therefore some work-streams are foundational- building our capacity to achieve transformation later on.

The plan commits the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to

- A significant shift towards sustainable development – locking us on a path to decarbonising our homes and protecting our assets;
- Putting us in a position where we can borrow to build and to invest – and building our capacity to do so;
- Extracting social value from our spending power- delivering local inclusive economic development, by investing in skills and supply chains;
- Inclusion and involvement of the customer in decisions and services that affect their lives;
- A strategic shift towards prevention of homelessness and urgent re-housing for those experiencing homelessness;
- Being a delivery partner for all of government- towards the reduction of economic inactivity, delivery of green growth and early intervention to improve lives.

We welcome your comments or feedback on these plans and we will take account of the feedback from consultation and other comments in the final document.

**Professor Peter Roberts**  
Chair

**Grainia Long**  
Chief Executive



## Section 1

### Introduction

The development of a new strategy is an important moment for any organisation, its people and its customers. In developing this strategy we have sought to undertake a genuinely inclusive process, we have based our conclusions on evidence of need and demand, and have focused on opportunities for the future. As we emerge from Covid-19, the scale of the pandemic's impact on our communities, and on the public services they need are obvious. We have therefore sought to strike a balance between ambition for the future, while operating with a realistic perspective of what is possible.

During the summer and autumn of 2021, we engaged with our customers and stakeholders as we commenced the process of developing our new three year Corporate Plan. These engagement exercises enabled us to consider key strategic themes that would help inform and shape our priorities. We would like to thank all those who took part.

This three year plan reflects those discussions, and is set in the longer term strategic context within which we operate.

In this section we detail our vision and values, provide an overview of our main services, describe the planning context in which we operate and our resulting priorities for the next three years.

### Our Vision and Values

Our vision statement ensures that we remain focussed on our long term purpose. On this basis, we are keen to ensure that it reflects our commitment to sustainable development and addressing the impact of climate change.

***'Everyone is able to live in an affordable, sustainable and decent home, appropriate to their needs, in a safe, attractive, and climate-resilient place.'***

### Our Values

Our values were developed in collaboration with our colleagues. They reflect our culture and underpin how we approach our work. During the period of this Corporate Plan we will further develop these to ensure that our values are embedded and consistently demonstrated in all we do.





## Overview of our core activities and scale of our business

**The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland, and a public landlord at scale. With an annual budget of more than £1.2bn, we provide a range of public services across Northern Ireland. Our footprint extends to more than 220,000 homes, and our services impact on the lives of one in every three people.**

- We provide responsive repairs and planned maintenance across an asset base of just under 84,000 homes. In 2022/23 we aim to have invested over £250m in our homes, generating local economic outcomes, sustaining jobs and supply chains, and improving health and well-being of our residents.
- With statutory responsibilities for homelessness, we provide a comprehensive Housing Solutions Service, ensuring advice and assistance to thousands of people who present as homeless, who require temporary accommodation and who need a holistic and sustainable resolution to often complex issues. In 2021/22 we made more than 9,260 placements in temporary accommodation (around 3,500 at any one time), managing an increase of 105% in demand, during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Working closely with our homelessness and housing solutions colleagues, is our Supporting People Team, which oversees a budget of £72.8m, providing housing support to more than 19,000 people. This support enables people to sustain tenancies, improve well-being and reduces pressure on health and social care services.
- We are responsible for the management of the Common Selection Scheme, and are currently taking forward a fundamental review of allocations to ensure a modernised and fit for purpose system of allocation of social housing.
- As the strategic housing authority, we oversee the administration of the system of Housing benefit, ensuring access for the public to a responsive and efficient service, paying just under £500m in 2021/22;
- We oversee the Social Housing Development Programme; in 2021/22 we ensured that £171.796m was invested to ensure that work commenced on the provision of 1,713 new social homes, in partnership with housing associations.
- Our housing management expertise underpins our substantial community cohesion work. Collaborating with residents and community organisations at a local level we



implement Community Strategies for Cohesion; Safety, Involvement and Social Enterprise.

- We seek to improve conditions across all tenures by providing a Private Sector Home Improvement Grants Service.
- We are the Home Energy Conservation Authority for Northern Ireland with responsibility to report on energy efficiency across the residential sector. We also provide advice on improving domestic energy efficiency helping which can help to reduce fuel poverty; and provide information on our energy innovation schemes and partnership schemes;
- As a Community Planning Partner working with local councils, we carry out Housing Need Assessments used for Place Shaping and Housing-led regeneration. Our work includes unlocking key Housing Executive sites for housing towards the achievement of 6,000 new homes by 2026. Our Place Shaping work enables the development of housing on strategic sites across Northern Ireland. We will support local authorities working with DfC and in partnership with others, through mapping exercises, to identify potential sites for development on strategic sites across Northern Ireland.
- Our accredited Research Department ensures our work is underpinned by data and is vital in helping us to meet our objectives. We have a statutory responsibility to regularly examine housing conditions and need and we carry out a programme of client-led research each year which are published on our website;
- Are a large and inclusive employer and our Business Services include Human Resources, Legal Services, Communications, Risk and Governance and Strategic Planning services; financial services, Internal Audit, Economists and Counter Fraud as well as our Information Technology Department.



## The Scale of our Business – 2021/2022

### Landlord Services



We managed  
under 84,000  
social homes.



Our homes  
housed 171,536 tenants  
41,053 younger than 16 years old  
84,043 older than 60 years old

99.3% of housing  
stock occupied.



3,156 of our homes were  
allocated during the year.

£342m collected in rent and  
rates

Equating to 99.4% income collected



We are the largest funder of  
domestic violence services in Northern  
Ireland



We invested:

£117m in maintenance schemes and housing stock improvements;  
and  
£79m on 260,000+ response maintenance repairs;



4,779 minor adaptations;  
113 major adaptations.

We answered over 440,000 phone calls to our offices











There were approx. 300 confirmed Housing Community Networks



## The Scale of our Business – 2021/2022

### Strategic Housing Authority Regional Services

	<b>44,426</b> applicants on the waiting list; 31,407 in housing stress; 9,859 deemed to be homeless.	
	<b>835</b> new social homes competed; <b>1,713</b> new social homes started as part of the Social Housing Development Programme.	
	<b>757</b> Disabled facilities grants delivered to the value of <b>£8.73m</b>	
	<b>Over 19,000</b> housing support places provided to the most vulnerable through the Supporting People Programme across <b>825</b> schemes	
Affordable Warmth	<b>6,677</b> measures completed to <b>4,933</b> homes for the Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement schemes to the value of <b>£13.12m</b>	
	<b>15</b> Rural housing needs tests carried out.	
	 <b>c. £500.4m</b> paid out in Housing Benefit	



## Our Planning Context

There are a number of factors that we take into consideration when developing our plans including the Programme for Government, The Department for Communities Corporate plan and relevant strategies, other government policies, and our statutory requirements. In addition, the broader context of post-Covid recovery, environmental and climate risks, economic challenges associated with market uncertainty and increased household costs are all important factors for planning for the future.

Our Corporate Plan sets out our key priorities for the next three years (2022/23 – 2024/25). In developing this plan we have engaged with our customers and stakeholders to discuss many of the ‘big themes’ that will shape our work over the coming years. There are many challenges and opportunities as we consider our future. At the time of writing we are emerging from the worst effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and we are facing, economic uncertainty, including rising inflation and therefore increased costs for our customers and suppliers. Climate change, a competitive labour market and a changing society all impact on how we will delivery our services in the future.

In this context we have set out our plans to ensure that we address the challenges and maximise the opportunities open to us over the coming years. In the sections below we have highlighted some of these key themes and their implication for NIHE.

### Revitalisation of the Housing Executive

In previous Corporate Plans, we have set out the challenges we face in relation to improving our homes and helping to meet housing demand. Then Minister for Communities Carál Ní Chuilín in an important statement on 3 November 2020 set out her ambitions regarding the ‘revitalisation’ of the Housing Executive.

The purpose of the revitalisation programme is to “secure a sustainable future for all of its 85,000 homes and provides security for current tenants and future generations.”

Much work has been conducted during the last year to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) to consider and assess the potential options for a new financial model for the organisation, to enable it to borrow. This would enable a long-term investment programme for NIHE homes, and allow the organisation the ability to add to new social housing supply. Assuming progress continues to be made, we hope to be in a position to borrow by 2025, and ultimately to deliver much better housing solutions for our tenants and customers. This Corporate Plan therefore outlines a strong focus on preparing for a revitalised organisation.

**Please note that the following section on Cost of Living is an evolving situation and will be updated, as appropriate, at the time of final publication.**

### Cost of Living

The Consumer Prices Index rose by 6.2% in the 12 months to March 2022, up from 5.5% in February (includes owner occupiers’ housing costs) and noted that the largest upward



contributions came from housing and household services, principally from electricity, gas and other fuels; and transport costs principally from motor fuels and second-hand cars (Source: Consumer price inflation, UK: march 2022).

There are global factors which are also affecting people's cost of living such as supply issues of goods and materials and this is noticeable in the rising cost of the 'weekly shop'. There may be further increases in interest rates and it is expected that the rate of inflation will continue to rise during 2022. All of this puts pressure on household finances in meeting housing, energy and food costs, especially those on lower incomes.

## **Covid Recovery**

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt for many years to come.

At the beginning of the pandemic we responded to address immediate need, for example, significantly expanding the availability of temporary accommodation. However, the longer term impacts of the pandemic on housing and homelessness services are still to be fully understood. The Housing Executive has recently developed new strategies focussed on prevention and on continued work with partners to address homelessness.

In addition, we believe that as a key public sector partner we will make a significant impact to the recovery from the pandemic through our investment in our local economy in terms of construction, our programmes of stock improvement, our services e.g. Supporting People Programme, and through supporting employment opportunities and new apprenticeship programmes, delivering social value, right across Northern Ireland.

## **Climate Change and our role as the Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA) for Northern Ireland**

The UK Government has set a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and has committed to a strong focus on climate adaptation. Transformation of the NIHE's organisational model is therefore essential to ensure delivery against these mitigation targets, while also protecting our customers and their homes from the effects of climate change.

Housing accounts for 14% of Green House Gases (GHGs), and as the Strategic Housing Authority, and Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA) for Northern Ireland, the NIHE is a key delivery partner for the Northern Ireland Executive's strategies in this area, including the Department for the Environment Energy Strategy. We will also play a key role working with local councils to help deliver their carbon reduction strategies at a place based level. The NIHE's Sustainable Development Strategy sets out our ambition on increased levels of energy efficiency, reduction of Fuel Poverty, provision of advice and support and encouragement of innovative low carbon technologies which will contribute to reductions in carbon emissions throughout Northern Ireland.

The Strategy is holistic and our activities are summarised under the following headings:





**Built Environment** – Deliver our energy efficiency strategy and explore alternative heating sources and pilots: Provide leadership across all Housing Sector on energy efficiency and decarbonised heating good practice.



**Health Wellbeing and Sustainable Living** - Promote a sustainable environment delivering grounds maintenance to enhance tree planting and re-wilding of unused land, with community participation: Promote healthy eating campaign across staff, reduce 'single use' plastic and maximise community collaboration on sustainable living initiatives.



**Sustainable Communities** – Deliver our Climate Adaptation Plan; Place Shapers champion sustainable community initiatives into Local Development Plans; Promote sustainable procurement including social clauses and maximise social enterprise partnerships.



**Sustainable Transport Solutions** – Incentivise staff to use sustainable travel such as car sharing; and public transport; Pilot EV mini fleet in DLO and provide EV charging at DLO locations; Roll out EV charging at NIHE office locations; Review post COVID working practices.



**Education and Empowerment Leading to behaviour Change** – Establish internal apprenticeship/skills programme to enable delivery of future retrofit schemes; Pilot carbon literacy training across Housing Services Division and future rollout across staff, tenants and community groups; Enhance NI Energy Advice Service to support regional housing in 'one stop shop' for all public and private sector housing.

## Housing Supply

Over the past twenty years, waiting lists for social housing have been increasing despite the success of the Social Housing Development Programme. There are demographic and socio-economic reasons, such as the increase in the number of households, smaller average household sizes; difficulty for some to access the owner occupied market due to affordability issues and increasing house prices which puts pressure on other tenures such as social housing and the private rented sector.

The Department for communities has developed a Housing Supply Strategy 2022 – 2037 for consultation which will aim “to provide a long-term framework for the development of policy, interventions and action plans to deliver the right homes in the right locations, to meet current and foreseeable housing needs and demands.”

The proposed 'whole system' approach recognises that housing supply is complex and more than the built environment, with issues such as affordability, accessibility, sustainability, quality and security of tenure to be considered. There are some ambitious targets contained within the strategy to deliver 100,000 plus homes over the 15 years with at least a third of these homes to be social homes.



As the Strategic Housing Authority we will be at the forefront in helping deliver this strategy. We will work with Councils' to ensure that affordable housing is included in new private sector housing in their Local Development Plans and to continue to advocate a 'tenure-blind' approach to new developments.

We will use our experience in land assembly, and work with councils and others to increase access to land that would not normally be brought forward for housing. In addition, we will continue to work with DfC to consider other innovative intermediate housing and rental solutions.

## **Community Planning**

The introduction of Community Planning in 2015 has enabled the Housing Executive to further engage with council, statutory, community and voluntary partners and work together to develop and respond to the ambitions, challenges and the aspirations of the citizens of Northern Ireland. The Local Development Plan is the spatial articulation of the Community Plan and with an emphasis on outcome based accountability, strong links to programme for government outcomes and partnership working, our active involvement across the organisation is adding value to our business in a number of areas.

We have been working to ensure housing is a priority outcome across all eleven community plans. In doing this, we have been working to embed a Place Shaping approach to housing and development across Northern Ireland.

We have worked in partnership with the DfC and the local councils to pilot a Place Shaping Plan for Armagh City and Dungannon town centre. The purpose of this pilot was to examine how we could more effectively respond to housing need and residential-led development to support the social, environmental and economic priorities for the settlements.

Omagh Fermanagh, Derry City and Strabane Council and Belfast City Council are at different stages of bringing forward Place Shaping Plans for different areas across their cities, towns and villages. During 2021/22 a Housing Led Regeneration Sub-Group within the City Board of the Belfast Agenda was established. Its purpose is to direct and drive forward specific actions identified under the City Development Board's Housing Led Regeneration theme, with a key focus on the assessment of public sector lands and other mechanisms to facilitate housing led regeneration. A representative from the Housing Executive chairs the Sub-Group of the Belfast Agenda.

We have utilised our community planning partnerships to encourage councils to prioritise the processing of affordable housing planning applications. Two out of 11 councils have a dedicated social housing planning champion that staff can link with to discuss planning applications. This is particularly helpful when dealing with applications connected to SHDP in-year spend. It is our intention to develop this relationship with the remaining councils. During 2022/23, we will be giving consideration as to how this could be extended to other statutory consultees to include Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Water to further enhance collaboration in the delivery of affordable housing.



## **Community Safety**

The Community Safety strategy 'Working Together for Safer Communities 2020-2023' and the associated Action Plan continues into its second year of delivery. We are committed to continue to make communities safe and to tackle anti-social behaviour. Our strategy focus is captured in three key aims: building community confidence; ensuring local solutions; and working together. We recognise that a joined up approach is required to effectively address Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Community Safety issues, so we work at both strategic and operational levels with a range of statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations and of course our tenants. This is to ensure we are making a difference by helping people in our communities feel safe and improving the quality of life for residents in our estates.

## **Housing for All**

We continue to work with the Department for Communities on the Shared Housing Programme. There are 11 Housing Associations currently involved in delivering the Programme, with 26 Advisory Groups established supporting the delivery of Good Relations Plans in 39 schemes. The Programme now covers all Council Areas. There is on-going engagement between DfC and the Housing Executive regarding the proposed transfer of the Shared Housing Programme operational processes from the Department for Communities to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Details and timeframes are to be agreed.

## **Ukrainian Refugees**

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has seen a significant number of people displaced and seeking refuge throughout Europe and beyond. The UK Government has established two sponsorship schemes that allow entry into the UK for Ukrainian refugees:

1. Ukraine Family Scheme;
2. Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

These are being implemented in Northern Ireland through The Executive Office led Strategic Planning Group on Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The Housing Executive is taking an active role through the group in assisting with the coordinated approach to accommodating and supporting those Ukrainian refugees that arrive in Northern Ireland. Key strands of work for the Housing Executive include:

- Assistance with the implementation of the sponsorship schemes and the required home visit process;
- The provision of accommodation solutions to house refugees;
- The fulfilment of statutory homelessness duties as required;
- Out of hours emergency homelessness assistance;
- Direct support and advice to refugees and sponsors through the Ukraine Assistance Centres.

## **Building Safety**

We have introduced a new Building Safety Department which will aim to cover all aspects of statutory compliance and building safety. The focus will be on active compliance management to ensure the Housing Executive, as a Landlord, minimises risks to our tenants across a range of areas such as Fire Safety, Asbestos, Legionella, electrical and gas safety.



This includes the management of risks in the Housing Executive's high-rise residential buildings over 18 meters, through continual assessment of both fire and structural risks and resident engagement. This will establish both information and a safety case for each high-rise residential building which will mitigate risks and ensure the safety of residents in our high rise blocks.

### **Attracting, retaining and developing a talented workforce**

As a large organisation with over 3,200 people working throughout N.I. in a challenging labour market we want to be an employer of choice, reflective of our diverse community and known for developing and nurturing our people.

- We will continue to offer great career pathways and we will further develop our graduate, apprenticeship and entry level opportunities to ensure that we attract, develop, retain and enable our people to reach their full potential.
- Through our new Learning Academy we will ensure that we develop the required skills and competencies and that we develop our leaders of the future.
- We will work with partners to consider how we can develop talent for the wider sector and continue to support the development of Apprenticeship programmes through our contracts.

We will be ambitious and uncompromising in our pledge to ensure our workforce reflects the communities we serve. We will deliver an affirmative action plan across the organisation to attract and retain a diversity of talent.

### **Working in Partnership**

Our work touches on many aspects of wider Government goals. Through working in partnerships with the voluntary and community sectors, with local and central government and statutory agencies, we can together make greater progress than by acting alone. We are a statutory partner in Council's Community Planning partnerships but we work alongside many others to help to deliver many aspects of our work from Homelessness, Supporting People, the Social Housing Development Programme, to the Housing and rural Community networks. We wish to thank our partners for helping us to achieve our common goals.

### **Equality and Human Rights**

The Housing Executive is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in all we do. We want to continue to identify and eliminate any possible barriers that prevent people accessing our services or enjoying employment opportunities with us. We are focused on reducing inequalities and committed to the progressive realisation of human rights in the design and delivery of our services. We are committed to upholding and protecting human rights and to training and developing our staff to ensure that the diverse needs of our customers are properly accommodated in our policies and services.

Currently, we provide communication support, information and/or guidance in over 30 languages including British and Irish Sign Language and we will continue to develop this service, working closely with the equality sector, as the need arises. We also provide a Video



Relay Service for our deaf customers. Our staff regularly arrange for alternative formats including large print, Braille and audio for customers with sensory disabilities.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Housing Executive must promote equality of opportunity and good relations in carrying out its functions and policies. Many aspects of our work affect the quality of people's lives, and it is essential that our customers and those impacted by our work have a strong voice in the decisions we make about their homes and neighbourhoods. We include customers, resident groups, community groups, representative groups, public representatives and others in many ways.

### **Our Relationship with our Customers**

NIHE is a trusted organisation, with strong relationships with our customers, at the most local level. Delivering our vision will require continued strengthening of these relationships, particularly following a period of remote service delivery due to restrictions imposed due to Covid-19. Over this plan period we look forward to more face to face contact with customers, and making our services as seamless and easy to access as possible.

However, we intend to go further, by involving our customers much more in the decisions that impact their lives. This will mean a more central role for tenants and customers in NIHE governance. It will result in an approach to service design and delivery based on partnership or co-production, whereby we design our systems and services *with* rather than *onto* our customers.



## Our priorities\*

We will work with our partners, taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need.



- In partnership with the Department for Communities, work to develop a revitalised organisation and financial model, enabling the organisation to borrow to invest in its homes and add to new supply.
- In partnership with Housing Associations we will oversee the development of 6,000 new social homes [target as per budget outcome] and 4,500 completions;
- In partnership with DfC we will help shape and inform government policy in the delivery of a whole systems approach to housing;
- As a community planning partner in each Council area, we will unlock key sites for housing towards the achievement of 6,000 new homes by 2026 [target as per DfC Housing Strategy];
- Work to increase choice in our housing system by supporting the introduction of intermediate rent and other models of provision;
- Deliver a Land Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2026;
- We will support local authorities working with DfC and in partnership with others, through mapping exercises, to identify potential sites for development on strategic sites across Northern Ireland.

We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.



- As a delivery partner for the NI Energy Strategy, ensure HECA will be recognised as the 'one stop shop' for advice and assistance on energy efficiency.
- Invest over £40m annually in energy efficiency;
- Complete 1,700 retrofits through the NIHE ERDF Retrofit Programme;
- Deliver a programme of innovative systems to 300 homes, to provide carbon free heating with improved retrofitting;
- Develop a pilot programme of new build housing using modern methods of construction to achieve low carbon homes, and scale up a programme of new build subject to budget and approvals being secured;
- Work with DfC to deliver the Affordable Warmth measures, including Boiler Replacement, to March 2024;
- Deliver a programme of Nature Positive Solutions across c 330 acres of green space, to include sustainable urban drainage and planting over 5,500 trees and whips;
- Commence the decarbonisation of NIHE's housing stock;
- As an employer we will develop and embed sustainable working practices to support the delivery of our sustainable development strategy and increase carbon literacy in our workforce.

We will invest around £1,973m\* (over the next 3 years) into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, employment opportunities and through our support



- **£585.4m** for new social Housing, providing around 6,000 social homes **over 3 years**; [to be agreed with DfC];
- **£242.4m** over 3 years (budget permitting) supporting the most vulnerable in society through the Supporting People Programme;
- **Circa £112m over 3 years** to deliver Homelessness Services including accommodation based services delivered by 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers within our communities;
- £879m delivering planned investment and maintenance programmes to our homes in urban and rural locations throughout N.I including ~~£51.9m~~ £54.6m for adaptations for people with a disability;



for the health, voluntary and community sectors. In the same period we will process circa £1,148m in Housing Benefit payments across public and private housing tenures.

- **Invest around £104m for** Grants for the private Sector for repairs, improvements, adaptations and affordable warmth and boiler replacement schemes **over 3 years**;
- Continue our participation investing **around £11.1m** on community investment programmes **over 3 years**, delivering social value;
- Provide an efficient Housing benefit Service to assist people in the public and private sectors to sustain their tenancies **paying in excess of £1,148m over 3 years**;
- **£16.5m investment over the next 3 years** on urban renewal activities; **£22.7m over the next 3 years** implementing the Tower Block scheme;
- Monitor the outputs of the enhanced social clauses in our maintenance contracts providing opportunities for local employment and social enterprise.

We will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health & Wellbeing.



- Transform the model of homelessness provision towards prevention;
- Develop and increase the Housing First model at scale in Northern Ireland;
- End the use of bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation as temporary housing for children for more than two weeks;
- Achieve a 5% increase in the number of people benefiting from Supporting People funding with greater coherence between housing support and permanent accommodation solutions;
- Minimise the impact of the energy crisis on our customers through the delivery of our HECA role; through the Affordable Warmth Scheme and energy efficiency work to our own stock;
- Help people with a disability to remain in their own homes, where practicable, through delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants in the private sector and major adaptations to our own stock;
- Working in partnership secure 2 new sites to ensure the availability of culturally sensitive accommodation for Travellers (subject to planning);
- Implement the Rural Strategy to ensure our customers experience the same level of service and support regardless of their location;
- Deliver the objectives of the fundamental review of allocations;
- Implement a new Building Safety Team and meet the relevant requirements of the building legislation.

We will engage with our customers to ensure that they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model.



- Deliver a transformational ICT strategy to digitise our services, improving customer outcomes without compromising face to face relationships with tenants;
- Regularly engage with our customers and ensure the delivery of a high quality Landlord Service for our 170,000 tenants in just under 84,000 homes;
- Work with local communities to maintain and improve our neighbourhoods and our wider footprint (circa 200,000 houses) including through our grounds maintenance programme;
- We will ensure that our customers are involved and central to the design and delivery of improved and sustainable housing solutions.
- We will make best use of our resources to ensure that our customers receive value for money services.
- Transform the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) with objectives to deliver a well governed, well run organisation and better customer experience;



We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I.'s increasingly diverse community.

- We will establish a new Tenant and Customer Board Committee to improve our governance and oversight of service delivery.
- We will develop and implement strategies which will ensure our people feel valued, are remunerated fairly and are recognised for their contribution;
- We will deliver a comprehensive affirmative action plan to ensure our culture is diverse and inclusive and that our workforce is reflective of the community that we serve;
- We will deliver a new Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan which will support our people to reach their potential and deliver their best service for our customers.
- We will deliver a best in class Learning Academy, focused on the continued development of our talented workforce, and will work with our partners to deliver 120 apprenticeship places over 3 years;
- We will make best use of public money, maximising our resources to ensure Value for Money (VFM) for our customers.
- We will ensure the highest standards of performance and good governance and will work with DfC to effectively embed our new partnership agreement.

*\*Subject to funding allocation*



## Section 2

In this section of our Corporate Plan we describe how we set our objectives and monitor our performance, detail our three year high level action plan and provide information on how these plans are funded.

For each year of the Corporate Plan a detailed annual business plan including Key Performance Indicators will be developed. The plan for year one (2022/2023) is included in appendix A.

### **How we develop our objectives and ensure that they are met**

The planning context set out the key strategic themes that we considered when developing the plan. This included consideration of the Draft Programme for Government Outcomes, and the Department for Communities Strategy objectives and other government policies to be adhered to. These along with our statutory responsibilities, consultation responses, and research or emerging issues help to shape our priorities.

The Executive Team, led by the Chief Executive Officer hold regular meetings to discuss and prioritise activities for inclusion in the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan is approved by the Board and the final document by the Minister for the Department for Communities.

Corporate Performance is regularly reported to our Performance Review Committee which comprises of the Chief Executive, Directors, Assistant Director of Planning, Performance, Risk and Governance and Head of Internal Audit. Once scrutinised by the Committee, performance reports are submitted to our Board and Resources and Performance Committee. Our Annual Report includes details of achievements and is validated by audit to ensure accuracy and completeness of the report.

### **Risk and Governance**

The Chief Executive, as the Accounting Officer of the Housing Executive, is required to have in place adequate and effective arrangements for the management of risk and to produce an Annual Governance Statement. This Annual Governance Statement is approved by the Housing Executive's Board and forms part of the Annual Report and Accounts.

We will further strengthen our governance framework through the effective implantation of our new partnership agreement with the Department for Communities and ensure high quality public services and outcomes for all.



## High level three year Action Plan

High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will work with our partners, taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with Housing Associations we will oversee the development of 6,000 new social homes [target as per budget outcome]</li> <li>As a community planning partner in each Council area, we will unlock key sites for housing to contribute to the achievement of 6,000 new homes by 2026 [target as per DfC Housing Strategy].</li> <li>Enable the development of housing on strategic sites across Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>1,950 starts (£184.4m)</p> <p>Collaborate with local authorities to develop sites for housing led regeneration</p> <p>We will support local authorities through mapping exercises to identify potential sites for development.</p> <p>Identify/pilot innovative ways to deliver new homes and integrate tenures.</p>	<p>2,000 starts (£196.5m)</p> <p>Collaborate with local authorities to develop sites for housing led regeneration</p> <p>We will support local authorities through mapping exercises to identify potential sites for development.</p> <p>Identify/pilot innovative ways to deliver new homes and integrate tenures.</p>	<p>2,050 starts (£204.5m)</p> <p>Collaborate with local authorities to develop sites for housing led regeneration</p> <p>We will support local authorities through mapping exercises to identify potential sites for development.</p> <p>Identify/pilot innovative ways to deliver new homes and integrate tenures.</p>
<b>Deliver a Land Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2026.</b>	Develop a 3 year land asset management strategy.	Deliver year 1 Action Plan.	Deliver year 2 Action Plan.
Work to increase choice in our housing system by supporting the introduction of intermediate rent and other models of provision.	Continue to work with DfC on the Intermediate Rent Project.	Collaborate with DfC in the production of leasing options models for social housing.	Collaborate in the implementation of an intermediate rent scheme.  Support DfC to update necessary regulations



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
			to facilitate effective mixed tenure developments.
<p>Through collaborative work with DfC we will to help shape and inform government policy in the delivery of a whole systems approach to housing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To act as a statutory consultee on the local development plans and their implementation.</li> </ul>	√	√	√
<p>To carry out and publish an annual programme of research and intelligence, providing an evidence base to inform strategy and policy decisions.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>Conduct a pilot survey to inform data collection for the HCS</p>	<p>√</p> <p>To produce a House Condition Survey.</p>	<p>√</p> <p>To produce a House Condition Survey.</p>
<p>Deliver the Rural Action Plan to ensure our customers experience the same level of service and support regardless of their location;</p>	<p>Deliver year 2 of the Rural action plan.</p>	<p>Deliver year 3 of the Rural action plan.</p>	<p>Deliver year 4 of the Rural action plan.</p>



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.</b>			
As a delivery partner for the NI Energy Strategy, ensure HECA is the 'one stop shop' for advice and assistance on energy efficiency. Provide energy efficiency and advice to customer enquiries and provide onward referrals to the existing energy efficiency schemes available (Demand-led).	5,000 customer enquiries; 2,500 onward referrals.	6,500 customer enquiries; 3,000 onward referrals	8,500 customer enquiries; 3,500 onward referrals (Review after 22/23)
Produce the Annual Home Energy conservation Authority Report.	√	√	√
Invest circa £231m over 3 years in energy efficiency which includes circa £178m invested in NIHE stock.	£83.4m	£78.8m	£69m
Complete 1,700 retrofits through the NIHE ERDF Retrofit Programme. (Subject to Funding) ( <i>*Jointly funded by ERDF and NIHE **Will be solely funded by NIHE</i> )	1,297	975*	600**
Deliver a programme of innovative systems to 300 homes, to provide carbon free heating with improved retrofitting.	Develop Strategy and procurement vehicle.	Complete Yr 1 of the Strategy 100 units	200 units
Develop a pilot programme of new build housing using modern methods of construction to achieve low carbon homes, and scale up a programme of new build subject to budget and approvals.	6 Belfast (AM)		
Work with DfC to deliver the Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement Schemes in the private sector to March 2024. The homes and measures include both schemes.	c. 6705 fuel poverty measures to c. 5,137 homes in the Private Sector.	c. 7,000 fuel poverty measures to c. 5,000 homes in the Private Sector.	-----
Deliver a programme of Nature Positive Solutions across c300 acres of green space, to include sustainable urban drainage and planting 5,500 trees.	C 300 acres 5,500 trees	C 300 acres Trees Per annual BP	C 300 acres Trees Per annual BP
Commence the decarbonisation of NIHE's housing stock.	Reduce emissions by 1.6%	Reduce emissions by 1.7%	Reduce emissions by 1.8%



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.</b>			
Commence procurement and develop a strategy for the decarbonisation of our fleet.	Develop Strategy and commence procurement	Implement procurement and commence Yr 1 of the Strategy	Implement Strategy
Deliver a NIHE led Annual Energy Symposium event with our stakeholders and partners to disseminate information on pilot innovation; lessons learned to help plan energy efficiencies for future years.	√	√	√
<p>As an employer we will develop and embed sustainable working practices to support the delivery of our sustainable development strategy and increase carbon literacy (CL) in our workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will ensure that all of our people understand their role in carbon reduction and that good sustainable practice, including the required behavioural change, is embedded in our working practices;</li> <li>As we review and develop our future working practices and our workplace and customer outlets we will ensure that sustainability is a central consideration.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure sustainability is incorporated into the competency framework deliver carbon literacy training to <b>350 staff</b>.</p> <p>See section on making best use of public money, maximising our resources to ensure Value for Money (VFM) for our customers.</p>	<p>Embed competency framework and deliver carbon literacy training to at least c.800 staff.</p>	<p>Ensure the delivery of carbon literacy training to at least c.800 staff</p>



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 - 2025
<b>We will invest around £1,973m into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and community sectors. In the same period we will process circa. £1,148m in Housing Benefit across public and private housing tenures.</b>			
Social Housing Development Programme £585m for new social Housing, providing around 6,000 social homes over 3 years; [to be agreed with DfC].	£184.4m (1,950 starts)	£196.5m (2,000 starts)	£204.5m (2,050 starts)
Supporting People (SP) £72.8m p.a* (budget permitting) supporting the most vulnerable in society through the SP Programme. <i>(*dependent on Executive agreement)</i>	£78m	£80.8m	£83.6m
Homelessness Services Circa £112m over 3 years to deliver Homelessness services including accommodation based services delivered by 3 <sup>rd</sup> part providers within our communities.	£31.04m	£38.7m	£42.2m
Stock Investment and Maintenance £879m over 3 years delivering planned investment and maintenance programme to our homes in urban and rural locations throughout N.I.; [To be approved as per budget].  Carry out 38,447 elemental improvements to NIHE stock (All elements); (circa 71% of year 1 programme is to help reduce backlog).	£260.7m (incl. £16.2m for adaptations)  38,447	£293.9m (incl. £18.9m for adaptations)  See Annual Business Plan	£324.5m (incl. £19.5m for adaptations)  See Annual Business Plan
Regeneration Activities Urban Renewal Initiatives.  Implement the Tower Block Strategy.	£4.5m  £6.4m	£11.6m  £7.0m	£0.5m  £9.3m
Grants Programme £51m for Grants for the private Sector including circa £12.8m Disabled Facilities Grants.	£15.2m	£17.6m	£18.2m
£53m for Energy Efficiency Grants for the Private Sector (including Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement grants programmes).	£17m	£17.5m	£18.2m



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
Community Services Investment - Continue our participation investing £3.6m in year 1 (2022/2023) on contributions to community agencies and community let abatements, delivering social value.	£3.6m	£3.7m	£3.8m
Housing Benefit Administration - Provide an efficient Housing benefit Service to assist people in the public and private sectors to sustain their tenancies.	£467m	£389m	£293m
Monitor the outputs of the enhanced social clauses in our maintenance contracts providing opportunities for local employment and social enterprise.	See Specific Contracts	See Specific Contracts	See Specific Contracts

Notes: 1. The 2022/23 allocations are the requirements for 2022/23. Indicative allocations from DfC result in a shortfall against the Regional Services requirements and it is hoped that further funding can be secured through the in-year monitoring processes; 2. Assumes current programmes continue; 3. 2023/24 & 2024/25 forecasts updated to come in line with those recently submitted to the Department for Communities.



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 - 2025
<b>We will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health &amp; Wellbeing.</b>			
Transform the model of homelessness provision towards prevention.	Provide a baseline figure for homelessness prevention – core funded services, Homelessness Prevention Fund and Housing Executive by end of the year.	1% increase in number of cases of homelessness prevention from baseline.	2% increase in number of cases of homelessness prevention from baseline.
Develop and increase the Housing First model in Northern Ireland. <i>Note: the baseline figure is the number of units of Housing First provided during 2021/22.</i>	15% increase from baseline.(subject to funding)	25% increase from baseline.(subject to funding)	35% increase from baseline. (subject to funding)
End the use of bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation as temporary housing for children for more than two weeks.	Reduce by 70% from 2021/22 baseline.	Reduce by 75% from 2021/22 baseline.	Reduce by 80% from 2021/22 baseline.
Achieve a 5% increase in the number of people benefiting from Supporting People funding with greater coherence between housing support and permanent accommodation solutions.  The percentage translates to 1,000 additional clients over the period of the Supporting People strategy.	1% increase (from the baseline) in number of clients supported.	1.5% increase (from the baseline) in numbers of clients supported.	2.5% increase (from the baseline) in number of clients supported.
Minimise the impact of the energy crisis on our customers through the delivery of our obligations through our HECA role; through the Affordable Warmth Scheme, Boiler replacement scheme and energy efficiency work to our own stock;	(RS) £17m investment in fuel poverty initiatives to private sector.	(RS) £17.5m investment in fuel poverty initiatives to private sector.	(RS) £18.2m investment in fuel poverty initiatives to private sector.
Help people with a disability to remain in their own homes, where practicable, through delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants in the private sector and major adaptations to our own stock;	Continue to improve delivery times aligned	Continue to improve delivery times aligned	Continue to improve delivery times aligned



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
	to agreed metrics in Annual Business Plan.	to agreed metrics Annual Business Plan.	to agreed metrics Annual Business Plan.
Working in partnership commence 2 new sites to ensure the availability of culturally sensitive accommodation for Travellers (subject to planning);	-	-	Commence 2 new sites (subject to planning)
Implement a new Building Safety Team and meet the relevant requirements of the building legislation.	√	√	√



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will engage with our customers to ensure that they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model.</b>			
Deliver a transformational ICT strategy to digitise our services, improving customer outcomes without compromising face to face relationships with tenants.	IT Futures Phase 2 Delivery.	Develop a new transformational ICT Strategy through a co-design approach.	Complete implementation and review its effectiveness on an on-going basis.
Regularly engage with our customers and ensure the delivery of a high quality Landlord Service for our 170,000 tenants in just under 84,000 homes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remain a top quartile performing Landlord as benchmarked by Housemark measured as 80% of 26 areas in Quartile 1 &amp; 2.</li> <li>Maintain tenants' satisfaction with overall service at 85% or above. TBA</li> </ul>	80%  85% or above	80%  85% or above	80%  85% or above
Work with local communities to maintain and improve our neighbourhoods and our wider footprint (circa 200,000 houses) including through our grounds maintenance programme. <i>See nature positive KPI</i>	TBA	TBA	TBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will ensure that our customers are involved and central to the design and delivery of improved and sustainable housing solutions.</li> <li>Establish and support the new Tenant and Customer Services Committee to improve our Governance and oversight of service delivery.</li> <li>Lived Experience: Develop and deliver a customer engagement programme for Homelessness which will ensure we listen and respond to people with lived experiences of homelessness recognising their views are integral to the development of priorities and services.</li> </ul>	✓  Appointment of Lived Experience Strategic Partner and development of lived experience Prog.	Delivery of lived experience programme.	Co-designed services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transform the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) with objectives to deliver a well governed, well run organisation and better customer experience;</li> </ul>	Set baseline	Work towards targets in project plan.	Work towards targets in project plan.



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I's increasingly diverse community.</b>			
<b>We will develop and implement strategies which will ensure our people feel valued, are remunerated fairly and are recognised for their contribution.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conjunction with Directors, senior management and employees, review current working arrangements and develop plans and policies to support increased flexibility in NIHE working practices.</li> <li>• Implement a new pay and grading structure across the Housing Executive to ensure our people are remunerated appropriately and fairly (subject to approval);</li> <li>• Develop and implement employee engagement and reward and recognition strategies to ensure we attract and retain talent.</li> <li>• Improve our employee engagement scores in the 3 year period.</li> <li>• Further develop our Performance Management system and ensure integration with Talent Management and succession Planning Methodologies;</li> <li>• We will develop and clearly communicate our employer brand and integrate into our wider People Policies and Practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure each directorate conducts a review throughout the transition period to determine their future working practices.</p> <p>√</p> <p>Develop Strategies</p> <p>Conduct Employee Engagement survey; develop baseline and action plan</p> <p>√</p> <p>Develop employer brand</p>	<p>Commence Implementation</p> <p>√</p> <p>Commence implementation</p> <p>Communicate and integrate</p>	<p>√</p>



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I's increasingly diverse community.</b>			
<p>We will deliver a comprehensive affirmative action plan to ensure our culture is diverse and inclusive and that our workforce is reflective of the community that we serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement our affirmative action plan to increase participation from under-represented groups to ensure that our workforce is more reflective of the community that we serve.</li> <li>Develop and embed an Organisational Equality, Diversity and Inclusion steering group.</li> </ul>	<p>Develop and commence implementation outreach plan.</p> <p>√</p>	<p>Monitor agreed targets and review actions as appropriate.</p>	<p>Monitor agreed targets and review actions as appropriate.</p>
<p>We will deliver a new Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan which will support our people to reach their potential and deliver their best service for our customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a Health and Well-being strategy and action plan to increase attendance and reduce absence to be no more than 5.5% by 2024;</li> <li>Develop and embed the Health &amp; Wellbeing steering group.</li> </ul>	<p>6.1%</p> <p>√</p>	<p>5.5%</p>	<p>Review and agree new targets</p>
<p>We will deliver a best in class Learning Academy, focused on the continued development of our talented workforce, and will work with our partners to deliver 120 apprenticeship places over 3 years;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of the Construction Skills and Learning Partnership.</li> <li>Develop additional apprenticeships, traineeships and entry level recruitment options, offering a diversity of career paths and 120 apprenticeship places over 3 years.</li> </ul>	<p>Implement Year 2 Action Plan</p> <p>Agree roles for apprenticeships/other entry level work opportunities and agree recruitment plan.</p>	<p>Recruit and support Apprenticeships</p>	<p>Deliver 120 new Apprenticeship places.</p>



High level priorities	Year 1 2022 - 2023	Year 2 2023 - 2024	Year 3 2024 -2025
<b>We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I's increasingly diverse community.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and initiate a range of leadership development (LD) and personal skills courses and programmes to support our corporate objectives and our values 200 managers to be trained over three years.</li> <li>Collaborate with the wider sector and partnership organisations to build industry specific skills through learning opportunities, work experience provision (where appropriate), knowledge sharing and promotion of the sector as a career choice.</li> </ul>	<p>Develop and commence the delivery of leadership programmes for L7s and above.</p> <p>Identify synergies and partnership opportunities and develop work experience/ placement programmes.</p>	<p>Continue the roll-out of the leadership development programmes and include L6 managers</p> <p>Implement agreed opportunities and work experience/ placement programmes.</p>	<p>200 managers to have successfully completed LD programmes</p> <p>Ensure the on-going delivery of relevant programmes and gain relevant accreditation.</p>
<p>We will make best use of public money, maximising our resources to ensure Value for Money (VFM) for our customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the effective Management of NIHE Regional and Landlord services budgets within agreed constraints;</li> <li>Effectively integrating our service provision to include Rates Relief</li> <li>Review our workplace accommodation and customer outlets to ensure value for money and improved engagement for our people and our customers ensure that sustainability is a key criteria.</li> </ul>	<p>√</p> <p>Increase our Housing Benefit Services.</p> <p>Conduct a review and develop strategy</p>	<p>√</p> <p>Commence implementation of new strategy.</p>	<p>√</p>
We will ensure the highest standards of performance and good governance and will work with DfC to effectively embed our new partnership agreement.	See annual business plans for actions	See annual business plans for actions	See annual business plans for actions



## Funding the Plans

### Landlord Services Indicative Opening Budget 2022/2023

Income/Funding (Indicative)	£k	Expenditure	£k
Rental Income <sup>(2)</sup>	303,348	Employee and Administration Costs <sup>(5)</sup>	71,416
Rates Income	44,703	Support Service Employee and Administration Costs <sup>(6)</sup>	29,457
Miscellaneous income	6,526	Commissioned Service Recharges <sup>(7)</sup>	(8,603)
DfC capital grant <sup>(3)</sup>	26,945	Loan Charges	28,559
Amount of surplus rental income from reserve <sup>(4)</sup>	63,211	Capital Improvements (inc adaptations)	38,146
		ERDF Retrofit Programme	34,256
		Planned Maintenance	50,746
		Cyclical Maintenance	63,086
		Response Maintenance	74,461
		Rates Expenditure	40,831
		Miscellaneous Functions <sup>(8)</sup>	12,861
		Urban Renewal	6,760
		Office Accommodation and Equipment	2,757
<b>Total</b>	<b>444,733</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>444,733</b>

Notes:

1. Figures are as per the 2022/23 indicative opening allocations as per DfC.
2. No rent increase has been approved for 2022/23.
3. The indicative opening allocations allow NIHE to retain all receipts from the sale of land and dwellings within Landlord services as Capital Grant.
4. Funding from rental income reserve includes circa £13m which it is anticipated will be reimbursed from the ERDF allocation through the Monitoring Rounds.
5. Includes Housing Services and Asset Management Divisions direct salary and administration costs.
6. Landlord Services allocation of Support Services Divisions salary and administration costs. This includes IT programme & Accommodation running costs.
7. Commissioned Service recharges include (1) income received by Landlord Services for functions undertaken on behalf of Regional Services (e.g. waiting list management, homelessness, benefit administration), (2) expenditure as a result of Regional Services undertaking functions for Landlord services (e.g. House and Land Sales, Research).
8. Covers a range of items such as insurance costs, rent/rates write offs, hostel expenses, valuations and inspections, shared communities programme and other services.



## Regional Services Indicative Opening Budget 2022/2023

Indicative Funding 2022/23	£k <sup>1</sup>	Income and Expenditure 2021/22	£k <sup>1</sup>
DfC Revenue Grant	135,156	Income <sup>(2)</sup>	(4,092)
DfC Capital Grant	222,015	Regional Employee and Administration Costs	22,757
DfC Depreciation and Impairment	5,200	Support Service Employee and Administration Costs <sup>(3)</sup>	10,276
		Commissioned Service Recharges <sup>(4)</sup>	8,603
		Supporting People	72,798
		Homelessness	21,561
		Miscellaneous functions <sup>(5)</sup>	2,253
		Land and Property acquisition	4,450
		Social Housing Development Programme	184,400
		Private Sector Grants/Energy Efficiency	33,165
		SPED Purchases	1,000
		Depreciation and Impairment	5,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>362,371</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>362,371</b>

### Notes:

1. Figures are as per the 2022/23 indicative allocations from DfC. No separate funding was allocated for Covid-19 support. The indicative allocations result in pressures against the budget requirement and this will be reviewed and additional funding bid for through the in year Monitoring Round processes.
2. Income includes SPED Sales, Rates Relief Funding, Homeless Housing Benefit Income, Deposit Interest and Travellers Sites Rental Income.
3. Regional Services allocation of Support Services Divisions salary and administration costs. This also includes IT charges and Facility Services costs.
4. Commissioned Service recharges include (1) income received by Regional Services for functions undertaken on behalf of Landlord Services e.g. House and Land Sales, Research) (2) expenditure as a result of Landlord Services undertaking functions for Regional Services (e.g. waiting list management, homelessness, benefit administration).
5. Covers a range of items such as Travellers' sites, Affordable Warmth Council fees, Research and sundry items such as fees, grants and inspections.



## APPENDIX A - Annual Business Plan 2022/2023

We will work with our partners, taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need.				
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.	TYPE	count
<b>Work with DfC to develop options to expand the Social Housing Development Programme to increase the supply of social housing. (PfG Ref. 2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with Housing Associations we will oversee the development of 1,950 starts and 1,400 completions.</li> <li>Ensure 10%* of the Social Housing Development Programme will be to wheelchair standard. (PfG 8)</li> </ul> <p><i>* 10% of all General Needs New Build SHDP Starts to be designed to Wheelchair-Accessible standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a community planning partner in each Council area, we will unlock key NIHE sites for housing towards the achievement of 6,000 new homes by 2026 [target as per DfC Housing Strategy]. Collaborate with local authorities to develop sites for housing led regeneration.</li> <li>We will support local authorities through mapping exercises to identify potential sites for development.</li> <li>Identify/pilot innovative ways to deliver new homes and integrate tenures.</li> </ul>	RSKPI 2.1 RSKPI 2.2  RSKPI 2.5  New RSKPI 2.13  New RSKPI 2.16 New RSKPI 2.33	M M  Q  Q  Q Q	D D  D  M  M M	
Through collaborative work with DfC we will to help shape and inform government policy in the delivery of a whole systems approach to housing; (PfG Ref. 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as a statutory consultee on the local development plans and their implementation.</li> </ul>	RSKPI 2.9	Q	M	
Work to increase choice in our housing system by supporting the introduction of intermediate rent and other models of provision. (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with DfC on the Intermediate Rent Project.</li> </ul>	RSKPI 2.10	Q	M	
Develop a 3 year Land Asset Management Strategy 2023 – 2026 (PfG Ref. 2)	New RSKPI 2.14	Q	M	
To support Housing Associations in the delivery and implementation of shared (Housing for All) new build housing schemes and their associated five-year Good Relations Plans (PfG Ref 8)	LLHS KPI 3.9	Q	M	
Carry out and publish an annual programme of research and intelligence, providing an evidence base to inform strategy and policy decisions.	RSKPI 1.1	Q	M	
Deliver Year 2 of the Rural Action Plan, addressing the specific housing needs of rural customers. (PfG Ref. 2)	RSKPI 2.8	Q	M	



We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.				
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.	Type	Count
<p>Work with DfC to review and modernise the Affordable Warmth Scheme in the Private Sector. (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with DfC on the AW scheme to March 2024 and implement the recommendations of the Internal Audit Review. In addition work with DfC on any proposed new Energy Scheme.</li> </ul>	New RSKPI 3.18	Q	M	
<p>As a delivery partner for the NI Energy Strategy, ensure HECA is the 'one stop shop' for advice and assistance on energy efficiency. (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide energy efficiency and grant availability advice 5,000 customer enquiries and provide 2,500 onward referrals to the existing energy efficiency schemes available. (Demand-led)</li> </ul>	RSKPI 3.15 & RSKPI 3.17	Q	D	
Produce the Annual Home Energy conservation Authority Report.	RSKPI 3.7 (S)	Q	M	
Deliver a NIHE led Annual Energy Symposium /event with our stakeholders and partners to disseminate information on pilot innovation; lessons learned to help plan energy efficiencies for future years.	New RSKPI 3.19	Q	M	
<p>Complete 1,700 retrofits through the NIHE ERDF Retrofit Programme – 3 year target (subject to funding) (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement 2nd year of the programme to insulate 1,297 non-standard public sector properties.</li> </ul>	LLAM PI 6.7	M	D	
<p>Deliver a programme of innovative systems to 300 homes, to provide carbon free heating with improved retrofitting,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the Strategy.</li> </ul>	NEW LLAM KPI 8.6	Q	M	
<p>Develop a pilot programme of new build housing using modern methods of construction to achieve low carbon homes, and scale up a programme of new build subject to budget and approvals being secured; (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver 6 units through Modern Methods of Construction in Belfast</li> </ul>	LLAM PI 4.6	Q	M	
<p>Commence the decarbonisation of NIHE's stock: (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce emissions by 1.6% (draft)</li> </ul>	NEW LLAM KPI 8.2	A	D	
<p>Commence the decarbonisation of our fleet. (PfG Ref. 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Strategy and commence procurement.</li> </ul>	NEW LLAM KPI 8.3	Q	M	



We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.				
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.		
<p>As an employer we will develop and embed sustainable working practices to support the delivery of our sustainable development strategy and increase carbon literacy (CL) in our workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will ensure that all of our people understand their role in carbon reduction and that good sustainable practice, including the required behavioural change, is embedded in our working practices;</li> </ul>	<p>New</p> <p>SSCS KPI 1.12</p>	Q	M	
<p>Ensure sustainability is incorporated into the competency framework deliver carbon literacy training to 350 staff. Yr1 assigned to RS</p>	<p>Yr1 assigned to RSKPI 2.34</p>	Q	D	
<p>Deliver a programme of Nature Positive Solutions across c300 acres of green space, to include sustainable urban drainage and planting c. 5,500 trees and whips; (PfG Ref. 2)</p>	<p>LLHS PI 5.1</p>	Q	M	



Over the next three years we will invest around £1,973m into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and community sectors. In the same period we will process circa £1,148m in Housing Benefit payments across public and private housing tenures.			Type	Count
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.		
<p>One KPI for investments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New social Housing, providing around 6,000 social homes over 3 years; [to be agreed with DfC].</li> <li>• Year 1 - 1,950 starts (£184.4m) See Strategic Housing for numbers of new build.</li> <li>• Circa £467m p.a. paid in Housing benefit to help people to sustain a housing solution in the public and private sectors;</li> <li>• £78.0m (Subject to Budget) supporting the most vulnerable in society through the Supporting People Programme.</li> <li>• £31.04m Homelessness Services including accommodation based services and services delivered by 3<sup>rd</sup> part providers within our communities;</li> <li>• Approve grants applications in line with budget £32.2m for home improvements and repairs. (<i>Private Sector Grants £15m; £17.0m Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement</i>)</li> <li>• £260.7m delivering planned investment and maintenance programmes to our homes in urban and rural locations throughout N.I. including £16.2m for adaptations for people with a disability;</li> <li>• £4.5m for urban regeneration activities;</li> <li>• £6.4m for implementing year 3 of the Tower Block Strategy;</li> <li>• Continue our participation investing around £3.6m on community investment programmes (including social enterprise).</li> </ul>	New SSFAA KPI 1.7	Q	D	
		A	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
		Q	D	
By 31st March 2023 ensure a minimum spend of 17.5% to floating support.	RSKPI 4.10	M	D	
Implement Year 3 of the Tower Blocks Action Plan.	LLAM KPI 4.5	Q	M	
<p>Monitor the outputs of the enhanced social clauses in our maintenance contracts providing opportunities for local employment and social enterprise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets as per specific contracts.</li> </ul>	LLAM PI 5.8	Q	?	
Manage Response Maintenance contracts in line with contract conditions. (See Appendix for details)	LLHS KPI 4	M	D	



We will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health & Wellbeing.			Type	Count
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.		
Transform the model of homelessness provision towards prevention. (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a baseline figure for homelessness prevention – core funded services, Homelessness Prevention Fund and Housing Executive by end of the year.</li> </ul>	LLHS KPI 7.06	A	M	
Develop and increase the Housing First model in Northern Ireland: (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase 15% from the baseline (subject to funding).</li> </ul> <i>Note: the baseline figure is the number of units of Housing First provided during 2021/22.</i>	<b>NEW</b> LLHS KPI 7.12	A	D	
End the use of bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation as temporary housing for children for more than two weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce by 70% from 2021/22 baseline.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> LLHS KPI 7.13	Q	D	
Achieve a 5% increase (by 2025) in the number of people benefiting from Supporting People funding with greater coherence between housing support and permanent accommodation solutions. (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1% increase in number of clients supported.</li> </ul>	<b>New</b> RSKPI 4.15	Q	D	
Deliver year one Supporting People Strategy Action Plan	RSKPI 4.13	Q	M	
Help people with a disability to remain in their own homes, where practicable; (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled Facilities Grants - Improve service delivery times for processes within NIHE control by 5% from baseline established at end of March 2022.</li> </ul>	RSKPI 3.9	M	D	
Minimise the impact of the energy crisis on our customers through the delivery of our obligations through our HECA role; through the Affordable Warmth Scheme. (PfG Ref 8). Deliver approximately 6,705 fuel poverty measures to approximately 5,137 homes in the Private Sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver approximately 4,705 Affordable Warmth measures to 3,137 homes; and</li> <li>Deliver approximately 2,000 completions under the Boiler Replacement Scheme.</li> </ul>	RSKPI 3.5.1 RSKPI 3.5.3	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	
Working in partnership commence 2 new sites by 2024/25 to ensure the availability of culturally sensitive accommodation for Travellers (subject to planning); (PfG Ref 8 or 3?)	RSKPI 2.11	Q	M	
Implement Year 2 Older People's Housing Strategy Action Plan and develop Year 3 Action Plan. (PfG Ref 4)	SSKPI 3.7	Q	M	
Maximise the use of Housing Executive stock – Explore and evaluate the tenant incentive scheme initiative which aims to make best use of previously adapted homes.	LLHS KPI 8.1	Q	M	



We will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health & Wellbeing.			Type	Count
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.		
Implement our Community Cohesion Strategy 2015 -2020 Action Plan - extended to 2022 and develop a new Community Cohesion Strategy.	LLHS KPI 3.2.1	Q	M	
Implement year 3 of the Community Safety Strategy action Plan. (PfG Ref. 3/7?)	LLHS KPI 3.1	Q	M	
Implement Year 5 of the 2018-2023 Community Involvement Strategy Action Plan.	LLHS KPI 3.3	Q	M	
Assist our tenants to sustain their tenancies for 12 or more months measured against the baseline of 86%.	LLHS KPI 1.3.2	M	D	
Deliver the objectives of the fundamental review of allocations in line with the Business Case and Project Initiation Document (PID)	LLHS KPI 8.2	Q	M	
Help people with a disability to remain in their own homes, where practicable; (PfG Ref 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work towards reducing the timescales for major adaptations to our stock.</li> </ul>	LLAM KPI 4.1	Q	D	
Implement the building safety structure and implement the requirements of legislative change as a result of the legislation review.	<b>NEW</b> LLAM KPI 8.4	Q	M	
Ensure NIHE meets its Statutory Health & Safety requirements and ensure compliance with policies and procedures.	LLAM KPI 3.3	M	D	



We will engage with our customers to ensure that they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model.			Type	Count
Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.		
Establish and support the new Tenant and Customer Services Committee and wider committee structure.	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.15	Q	M	
Lived Experience: Develop and deliver a customer engagement programme for Homelessness which will ensure we listen and respond to people with lived experiences of homelessness recognising their views are integral to the development of priorities and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint a 'Lived Experience' Strategic Partner and develop a Lived Experience Programme</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> LLHS KPI 7.07	Q	M	
Deliver a transformational ICT strategy to digitise our services, improving customer outcomes without compromising face to face relationships with tenants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IT Futures Phase 2 delivery.</li> </ul>	SSFAA KPI 3.3	Q	M	
Regularly engage with our customers and ensure the delivery of a high quality Landlord Service for our diverse range of customers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remain a top quartile performing Landlord as benchmarked by Housemark measured as 80% of 26 areas in Quartile 1 &amp; 2.</li> <li>Maintain tenants' satisfaction with overall service at 85% or above.</li> </ul>	LLHS KPI 1.5 LLHS KPI 2.9	A Q	D D	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain or improve our customer satisfaction with the quality of their home at 86%.</li> </ul>	LLAM KPI 2.6	Q	D	
Transform the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) with objectives to deliver a well governed, well run organisation and better customer experience – Set baselines	<b>NEW</b> LLAM KPI 8.5	Q	M	
Work with local communities to maintain and improve our neighbourhoods and our wider footprint (circa 200,000 houses) including through our grounds maintenance programme.	<b>New</b> LLHS KPI 5.2	Q	M	



We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I.'s increasingly diverse community.				
	KPI Ref	Reporting Freq.	Type	Count
We will develop and implement strategies which will ensure our people feel valued, are remunerated fairly and are recognised for their contribution.				
In conjunction with Directors, senior management and employees, review current working arrangements and develop plans and policies to support increased flexibility in NIHE working practices.	SSCS KPI 1.5	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure each directorate conducts a review throughout the transition period to determine their future working practices.</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a new pay and grading structure across the Housing Executive to ensure our people are remunerated appropriately and fairly (subject to approval).</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.16	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement employee engagement and reward and recognition strategies to ensure we attract and retain talent.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.17	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further develop our Performance Management system and ensure integration with Talent Management and succession Planning Methodologies.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.22	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will develop and clearly communicate our employer brand and integrate into our wider People policies and practices.</li> </ul>	NEW SSCS KPI 1.19	Q	M	
Improve our employment engagement scores in the 3 year period.	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.18			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct an Employee Engagement survey; develop baseline and develop an action plan for improvement.</li> </ul>		Q	M	
We will deliver a comprehensive affirmative action plan to ensure our culture is diverse and inclusive and that our workforce is reflective of the community that we serve.				
Implement our affirmative action plan to increase participation from under- represented groups to ensure that our workforce is more reflective of the community that we serve.	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.20	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and commence implementation of an outreach plan.</li> <li>Agree targets for protected characteristic groups in line with the affirmative action plan.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.23			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and embed an Organisational Equality, Diversity and Inclusion steering group.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.21	Q	M	



We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I.'s increasingly diverse community.				
	KPI Ref	Reporting Freq.	Type	Count
We will deliver a new Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan which will support our people to reach their potential and deliver their best service for our customers.				
Implement a Health and Well-being strategy and action plan to increase attendance and reduce absence to be no more than 5.5% by 2024; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase staff attendance with absence to be no more than 6.1%.</li> <li>Develop and embed the Health &amp; Wellbeing steering group.</li> </ul>	SSCS KPI 1.6 SSCS KPI 1.6.1	Q Q	D M	
We will deliver a best in class Learning Academy, focused on the continued development of our talented workforce, and will work with our partners to deliver 120 apprenticeship places over 3 years.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of the Construction Skills and Learning Partnership year 2 Action Plan. (PfG Ref. 9)</li> </ul>	LLAM KPI 5.4	Q	M	
Develop additional apprenticeships, traineeships and entry level recruitment options, offering a diversity of career paths and 120 apprenticeship places over 3 years. (PfG Ref. 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree roles for apprenticeships/other entry level work opportunities and agree recruitment plan.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 2.24	Q	D	
Develop and initiate a range of leadership development (LD) and personal skills courses and programmes to support our corporate objectives and our values 200 managers to be trained over three years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and commence the delivery of leadership development programmes for L7s and above.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.27	Q	M	
Collaborate with wider sector and partnership organisations to build industry specific skills through learning opportunities, work experience provision (where appropriate), knowledge sharing and promotion of the sector as a career choice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify synergies and partnership opportunities and develop new work experience/ placement programmes.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.28	Q	M	



<b>We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I.'s increasingly diverse community.</b>				
	<b>KPI Ref</b>	<b>Reporting Freq.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Resources and Value for Money</b>				
<b>We will make best use of public money maximising our resources to ensure Value For Money (VFM) for our customers.</b>				
Ensure the effective Management of NIHE Regional and Landlord services budgets within agreed constraints.	SSKFAA PI 1.1 RS & SSFAA KPI 1.1 LL (S)	M	D	
Effectively integrating our service provision to include Rates Relief. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1st June 2022 we will increase our HB services by taking on approximately 42,000 live Housing Benefit (Rates) and LIRR (Low Income Rates Relief) owner occupier services from Land and Property Services.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSFAA KPI 1.8	Q	M	
Review our workplace accommodation and customer outlets to ensure value for money and improved engagement for our people and our customers ensure that sustainability is a key criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a review and develop a new accommodation strategy ensuring that sustainability is a central consideration.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.25	Q	M	
<b>Performance and Governance</b>				
<b>We will deliver high levels of performance to enable us to meet our statutory responsibilities and ensure compliance with regulation, legislation and in line with best practice.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the Housing Executive complies with the legislative framework governing employment and that it fully discharges its responsibilities under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</li> </ul>	SSCS KPI 6.2	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement year 2 of the Information Governance Strategy (IG), embed the IG steering groups, and ensure the information asset register is updated;</li> </ul>	SSCP KPI 1.4	Q	M	
<b>We will ensure the highest standards of performance and good governance and will work with DfC to effectively embed our new partnership agreement.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement and further develop the risk management framework and ensure that the review of the risk appetite is completed;</li> </ul>	SSCS PI 1.13	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve organisational capacity and capability to prepare for, respond to and recover from disruptions by developing a business continuity management system and business continuity policy.</li> </ul>	<b>NEW</b> SSCS KPI 1.29	Q	M	



We will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in N.I.'s increasingly diverse community.				
	KPI Ref	Reporting Freq.	Type	Count
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the NIHE governance framework through implementation of the new ALB Partnership Agreement</li> </ul>	<b>NEW SSCS KPI 1.30</b>	Q	M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure NIHE meets its Statutory Health &amp; Safety requirements and ensure compliance with policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	SSCS KPI 1.0	M	D	



## Appendix B: Performance Indicators relating to main Key Performance Indicators or High level Objectives.

Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.	TYPE	count
We will work with our partners, taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need.				
Develop 11 updated Housing Investment Plans and present them to the 11 local councils.	RSKPI 1.3	Q	M	
Monitor Waiting List, Housing Stress and Allocations.	RS PI 7.1	Q	D	
We will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations.				
Complete 1,700 retrofits through the NIHE ERDF Retrofit Programme – 3 year target (subject to funding).-	LLAM PI 5.1	Q	M	
To procure phase 3 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Project				
We will invest around £1,894m into our local economy over three years, through our housing services, construction activity, employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and Community sectors.				
Carry out 38,472 elemental improvements to NIHE stock (includes ECMs);	LLAM PI 6.9	M	D	
We will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health & Wellbeing.				
<b>Monitoring PIs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitor Homelessness Presenters and Acceptances trends for analysis and reporting. (Data only).</li><li>Monitor the average length of time in temporary accommodation in line with Homelessness reset plan against the rebaselined figure of 35 weeks.</li><li>Reduce the number of placements in non-standard temporary accommodation (National target) against the rebaselined figure of 4,170.</li></ul>	LLHS PI 7.03 & LLHS PI 7.04  LLHS PI 7.01 LLHS PI 7.02	M M M M	All data	
DATA ONLY PIs - Help people with a disability to remain in their own homes, where practicable.				
Data only - Start 125 major adaptations to NIHE stock for people with disabilities	LLAM PI 4.2	M	D	
Data only - Report the number of minor adaptations to NIHE stock started for people with a disability (demand - led).	LLHS PI 1.7	Q	D	



Description	KPI Ref.	Reporting Freq.	TYPE	count
Data only – Deliver <b>800 approvals</b> for Disabled Facilities Grant for adaptations (demand-led) to private sector homes to assist people to live independently in their own home.	RS PI 3.2	M	D	
<b>We will engage with our customers to ensure that they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model.</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise income collection – Collect 99.4% of rent due (includes income received on past tenant's accounts).</li> </ul>	LLHS PI 1.1	M	D	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current arrears, including technical arrears do not exceed = £17,443k at the end of March 2023.</li> </ul>	LLHS PI 1.2	M	D	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain relet times to an average of within 28 days and remain within the Housemark top performing quartile.</li> </ul>	LLHS PI 1.3.1	M	D	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tenantable void loss not to exceed 1.2% (=98.8%)</li> </ul>	LLHS PI 1.3	M	D	
We will make best use of public money maximising our resources to ensure Value For Money (VFM) for our customers.				
<p>Ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the Housing Benefit Service in line with agreed performance indicators, while managing the transition to Universal Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process new HB claims within an average of 15 days.</li> <li>Process change of circumstances claims within an average of 5 days.</li> <li>Ensure an accuracy rate of 97% for HB award assessments.</li> <li>Recover Overpayments to the value of £9.5 million.</li> <li>Process 60% of new claims within 10 days of receipt of the claim.</li> <li>97% of new claims decided within 14 days of having all information.</li> </ul>	SSKPI 5.0			
	SSPI 5.1	M	D	
	SSPI 5.2	M	D	
	SSPI 5.3	M	D	
	SSPI 5.4	M	D	
	SSPI 5.9	M	D	
	SSPI 5.8	M	D	
<p>Annual Report and Accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit a report to the Department for Communities. Report will be laid before the NI Assembly.</li> </ul>	SSCS PI 6.1 FA&A	M	M	



## Appendix C Response Maintenance Contracts and KPI targets.

Response Maintenance Contract KPIs CT016		Target	KPI Ref.
1.	Customer Satisfaction – Overall – Response Maintenance.	96%	4.1
2.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Cost).	92%	4.2C
3.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Quality).	92%	4.2Q
4.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time E.	94%	4.3E
5.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time U.	92%	4.3U
6.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time R.	92%	4.3R
7.	Time – Voids completed on Time.	97.5%	4.4
8.	Time – Adaptations completed on Time.	96%	4.5
9.	Safety – Contractors Accident Rate, Response and Planned.	500+	4.6
10.	First Time Fix (Responsive Maintenance).	87%	4.7
11.	Recalls to Defects in the Defects Liability Period.	95%	4.8
12.	Time – Response Maintenance Appointments Kept.	94%	4.9

Response Maintenance Contract KPIs CT068		Target	KPI Ref.
1.	Customer Satisfaction – Overall – Response Maintenance.	95%	4.1
2.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Cost).	90%	4.2C
3.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Quality).	90%	4.2Q
4.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time E.	92%	4.3E
5.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time U.	90%	4.3U
6.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time R.	90%	4.3R
7.	Time – Voids completed on Time.	92%	4.4
8.	Time – Adaptations completed on Time.	92%	4.5
9.	Task Orders Completion on Time.	90%	4.6
10.	Appointments kept.	90%	4.7



Response Maintenance Contract KPIs CT097		Target	KPI Ref.
1.	Customer Satisfaction – Overall – Response Maintenance.	95%	4.1
2.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Cost).	90%	4.2C
3.	Employers Post Inspections –Pass Rate Response Maintenance (Quality).	90%	4.2Q
4.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time E.	92%	4.3E
5.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time U.	90%	4.3U
6.	Time – Response Maintenance Completed on Time R.	90%	4.3R
7.	Time – Fire Safety Works and Commercial Works Completed on Site in Time	90%	4.3FS
8.	Time – Voids completed on Time.	92%	4.4
9.	Time – Adaptations completed on Time.	92%	4.5
10.	Time – Task Order Completion on time	90%	4.6
11.	Adherence to CPD's "Sustainable Procurement in Construction"	100%	4.7
12.	Continuity of Trade Apprenticeships	100%	4.8
13.	Community Enterprise Engagement	100%	4.9
14.	Time – Responsive Maintenance Appointments kept	90%	4.10



Back Cover to be inserted.





**Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 Consultation**  
**Mid Ulster District Council Response**  
**December 2022**

Mid Ulster District Council MUDC welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Northern Ireland's Housing Executive's (NIHE) consultation on their Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25.

Mid Ulster District Council fully supports the delivery of social and affordable housing, however, how the investment of **“£585.4m for new social housing, providing around 6,000 new social homes”** is allocated across the region is of significant importance to Council. To set the context, The Mid Ulster Housing market has experienced a great deal of change over the last 20 years with a significant increase in population and growth. Mid Ulster population growth has outpaced the NI average between 2010 and 2020 as population grew by 8.5% (compared to a NI growth of 5%). The number of households increased by 11.5% between 2001 and 2011(compared to a NI growth of 8.5%). There is a projected Housing Growth Indicator new dwelling requirement of 10,300 for the period 2016 to 2030 for the district, which is well above the NI average of 7,709. The levels of growth, particularly in Dungannon, has had an impact on housing demand and rental values. This and the limited increase in social housing stock has contributed to issues of poverty in the area.

Mid Ulster has a consistent high level of social housing need and this is reflected in the level of housing stress. At March 2022, there were 2,158 applicants on the waiting list for Mid Ulster with 1,307 in housing stress and only 265 allocations over the year. Housing stress is increasing on an annual basis, yet at the same time allocations are falling. NIHE has identified a social housing need of 780 units required for the 2021/2026 period. During 2021/22 54 units were completed and 146 units on site at March 2022; and 146 units programmed for the 2021/2026 period, falling well short of what is required. Council seeks assurances that this gap will be addressed through this High Level Objective to deliver 6,000 new social homes by 2026.

Once again, Council supports partnership work to **“unlock key sites for housing to contribute to the achievement of 6,000 new homes by 2026”**. Land banking is an issue in Mid Ulster with a number of developments approved through the Planning process but have not materialised into housing for our residents. This has an impact on the analysis of waste water and sewerage capacity by skewing the figures, which in turn impacts on the approval of future housing schemes. This issue is mainly experienced in Dungannon, adding further stress to housing demand. Greater use of land vesting for the purpose of social and affordable housing would not only ensure the release of necessary lands for the development of social and



affordable housing but may also discourage other landowners from banking land and holding up the supply of housing. Council would urge NIHE to consider exploring further the use of such powers to achieve their housing supply target.

The issue of water and wastewater management in Mid Ulster will have detrimental impact on NIHE achieving its housing supply target. Many people living in the Mid Ulster District Council area are facing significant housing stress because of house building not keeping up with housing demand. New housing developments particularly in our urban towns and key settlements are being refused by NI Water, due to lack of upgrading to waste water treatment works and new water mains not being delivered. Significant waste water network capacity issues are emerging in our five main hub towns including Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Coalisland. In addition to the waste water treatment works, waste water network capacity issues are emerging in 20 areas across the district. Because of this, new connections are being declined in parts of the catchment. It is essential that significant investment be prioritised to upgrade and provide new sewerage infrastructure across the District, in order to deliver social and affordable housing to meet the need. Council offers any support necessary to seek solutions to this issue.

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to the release of public sector land for the provision of social housing where possible and are working with NIHE to identify appropriate land for same. Council has already made land available to Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid for the development of 'Move On' Supported Living accommodation. We also continue to encourage other statutory partners, through our Community Planning powers to identify unused land assets for social and affordable housing. However, in order to 'unlock' the full potential of available sites, it will require much more than encouragement to partners. There is a need for a more formalised process, supported by a whole Public Sector Asset Management Strategy.

Council welcomes NIHE's **"work to increase choice in our housing system by supporting the introduction of intermediate rent and other models of provision"**, including its development of a new assessment of intermediate housing need, as contained in the Strategic Housing Market Analysis (SHMA) reports. Demand for intermediate housing aimed at low income households in Mid Ulster is estimated at 1,740 units between 2020 and 2035. Mid Ulster District Council welcomes a housing product that alleviates the financial burden on many of our residents struggling to meet high private rental costs, in all too often low quality housing. Mid Ulster Community Planning is fully committed to reducing poverty and the impact of poverty on individuals and communities within Mid Ulster. The Mid Ulster Anti Poverty Plan aims to provide everyone with a quality home for life, through affordable rents via rent interventions of increased rent support, adequate social and affordable house provision in mixed tenure developments and quality environments. Council seeks NIHE's continued support in the delivery of this plan.

Council is very aware that the climate change/efficiency agenda has become one of the most pertinent issues for the housing sector and it supports NIHE's objective to



**“meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change”.**

Commitments to improved energy efficiency within housing stock alongside considering solutions for the future de-carbonisation of household heating systems are positive developments. Tackling fuel poverty and maximising thermal comfort for citizens should also be a reason to create more energy efficient housing. This is particularly important when viewed in the context, that the rate of fuel poverty in NI is 22%, and that housing here accounts for 13% of greenhouse gas emissions. The update to Building Control regulations due to come into effect in 2025 and the introduction of additional standards to all new housing by the Department of Communities in 2024, will further support this work. Well-designed housing not only plays a key role in reducing carbon emissions and tackling fuel poverty but also in encouraging healthy lifestyles and creating attractive living environments which are good for well-being.

Bringing current social housing stock up to standard will be a significant challenge and will require considerable resourcing. Whilst the Affordable Warmth measures and Boiler Replacement grants, as well as the repairs, improvements, adaptations grants, are a welcomed support for private sector tenants, it is often difficult to access and have considerable waiting times. Council would ask NIHE to address these issues urgently, considering the impact of the cost of living and energy crisis tenants are facing. Council continually lobby central government on a number of housing issues, including fitness and standard levels and will continue to do so, supporting NIHE by seeking the required funding needed to deliver this objective.

Council welcomes NIHE’s pledge **“to social clauses in their maintenance contracts providing opportunities for local employment and social enterprise”** and to apprenticeships. Following on from Minister’s Hargey’s commitment to Community Wealth Building (CWB), Mid Ulster District Council is also exploring how they can contribute to this model in order to tackle inequality and poverty by redirecting wealth and public spending into communities. CWB requires a partnership approach, with the district’s anchor institutions, like Council and NIHE, working together to ‘plug the leaks’ in public sector spend leaving the district, instead ensuring it has a beneficial multiplier effect as it is spent and re-spent in an area. Council would welcome NIHE’s support in taking this forward in Mid Ulster.

With regards to the **“Implementation of the Rural Strategy to ensure our customers experience the same level of service and support regardless of their location”**, Council would draw attention to the ongoing work of NIHE to identify rural housing need. Rural communities have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and the current cost of living crisis, thus it is fundamental that the Rural Strategy provides the capability for the Housing Executive to truly assess the level of need in our rural settlements, to ensure the continuation of our vibrant rural communities. Uncovering the true extent to rural need is paramount for a rural council like Mid Ulster, where one in four of its population live in rural communities. It is positive to see a willingness by NIHE to increase the Latent Demand Testing particularly in rural areas. Mid Ulster Council welcomes the partnership working with NIHE to carry out Latent Demand Tests in rural areas of Mid Ulster. However,



Council wishes to point out that many people are still completing housing applications by stating their preference of location based on where they know the housing is going to be situated and not where their family are located or where they would choose to live. This not only puts further demand and burden on social housing developments in our towns, where the necessary infrastructure required for development is already at capacity, it also creates further social issues relating to childcare and family support and isolation. Council will continue to work with NIHE to address this issue.

The allocation of housing is a central element in achieving many of the objectives detailed in the Mid Ulster Community Plan and cannot be considered in isolation of the other key areas, including poverty, regeneration, health and wellbeing and prosperity. Mid Ulster District Council therefore welcomes the development and delivery of the NIHE's Corporate Plan and supports all efforts to increase and improve social and affordable housing provision across our district.







<b>Report on</b>	Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan-Good Relations & Peace Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Caroline Sheehy – Burnavon Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Home Place Manager, Joanne Robinson – Hill of The O'Neill/Ranfurly House Manager

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

1	<b>Purpose of Report</b>									
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rolling Community Grants</li><li>• PEACE IV Connecting Pomeroy Project – modification to the Programme Partnership Agreement</li><li>• Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) - Storage Scheme Support</li><li>• Good Relations Funding</li><li>• Development Department Update</li></ul>									
2	<b>Key Issues</b>									
2.1	<p><b>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2022 – 2023</b></p> <p>Members are advised that the grants assessment panel are making the following recommendations to award grants under the Community Festival &amp; Good Relations funds.</p> <table><tr><th>Grant</th><th>No. of groups awarded</th><th>Value of Grant Awards</th></tr><tr><td>Community Festival Fund</td><td>1</td><td>£960</td></tr><tr><td>Good Relations Grant</td><td>1</td><td>£600</td></tr></table> <p>Please see attached in <b>Appendix 1</b> grant award recommendations</p>	Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards	Community Festival Fund	1	£960	Good Relations Grant	1	£600
Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards								
Community Festival Fund	1	£960								
Good Relations Grant	1	£600								
2.2	<p><b>PEACE IV Connecting Pomeroy - modification to the Programme Partnership Agreement</b></p> <p>Connecting Pomeroy is a PEACE IV Shared Space project funded by SEUPB, which aims to create a regional iconic shared space &amp; local shared community spaces across the village of Pomeroy.</p>									



	<p>The project is currently at tender stage, with a report due to the Policy and Resources Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.</p> <p>The Capacity Building and Community Engagement elements of the Project continue to be successfully delivered by Rural Action.</p> <p>The original project application proposed Pomeroy Development Projects (PDP) as the management structure for the new Forest Building and Trails, this was due to their management experience with the Rowantree Centre. During the capacity building/engagement programme it was identified that PDP had reservations in terms of the management of the new facility. They officially confirmed that they would not wish to manage the new Forest Building and Trails. Officers are working with the funders regarding a new governance structure, which will be brought back to committee in due course.</p> <p>SEUPB requires a modification to the current Partnership Delivery Agreement which references both; (i) Rural Action (RA); and (ii) Pomeroy Development Projects (PDP), as PDP will no longer be a budget holding partner within the Connecting Pomeroy project. The budget associated with PDP will transfer to MUDC and Rural Action to facilitate the delivery of the remainder of the Community Engagement Programme. It is proposed to officially amend the Partnership Delivery Agreement to omit PDP.</p> <p>The end date for the project remains as 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023,</p>
2.3	<p><b>Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) storage scheme</b></p> <p>The VPRS is a scheme to support Syrian Refugees in Northern Ireland. Donations of food, household items etc. are stored at the central 'Storehouse' at North Down.</p> <p>The Storehouse North Down collects, holds, sorts and distributes the donations received, and in partnership with their sister charity Kiltonga Christian Centre provide volunteers and resources towards the refugees' needs.</p> <p>Support from Council (and other Councils) is requested towards the logistical operation of the store house and distribution of essential items to assist the Syrian Refugee Resettlement scheme (led by DFC). The amount requested is <b>£300</b>. Council annually contributes to the VPRS storage scheme.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Good Relations Funding</b></p> <p>The NI Office, TEO is providing further funding of £5,875 (<i>Council match funding required £1959</i>) to the Council Good Relations Programme. In furthering the objectives of the committee, as discussed as part of the Hardship Fund report in November, it is proposed that the additional funding and match Council contribution (from within existing resources) would be used to support the CAP Debt Management Project, as a partnership with Council to manage debt crisis.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Development Update</b></p> <p><u>Community Support</u></p> <p>Support is continuing to groups re community development activity.</p>



	<p><u>Good Relations</u> The Good Relations Plan continues to be delivered across the District.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> No Partnership minutes this month.</p> <p><u>Burnavon Arts Centre, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, and Hill of O'Neill &amp; Ranfurly House</u> A range of activities, events and performances are being delivered as per brochures and marketing.</p> <p><u>Regional and Minority Language</u> A new plan for the Irish Language programme is currently being developed with key community partners, Conradh na Gaeilge and Foras na Gaeilge.</p>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Community Festivals Grants £960, Good Relations Grants £600</p> <p>VPRS Storage Scheme £300</p> <p>Good Relations Additional match fund of £1,959 (within existing budget).</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Community Festival &amp; Good Relations grants.</li> <li>(ii) Approve the update to the Peace IV Connecting Pomeroy Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>(iii) Approve the contribution to the VPRS Storage Scheme</li> <li>(iv) Approve the allocation of the additional Good Relations funding to the CAP Debt Management Project.</li> <li>(v) Note the update from the development department.</li> </ul>



<b>6</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Community Rolling Grant Awards



## Appendix 1

### Local Community Festival Grants - November 2022 (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Brocagh Emmetts GFC	Community	Boxing Day Run	3	£4340	£960
<b>Total</b>					<b>£960.00</b>	

### Good Relations Grants - October 2022 (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1.	Dungannon West Recycled Teenagers	Community	Educational and Historical day out	6	£1050	£600
				<b>Total</b>		<b>£600</b>

### Ineligible (for follow up)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Request	Comments
1.	Me, You and Them	Community	Express Yourself	£1200	Failed to meet threshold

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%



**Decade of Anniversaries Grant (Maximum £2,000)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Title Of Event/project</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Community	Centenary & Book Launch	1	£1,900	£1,900
					<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>£1,900</u></b>

<b>Bands</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>%</b>
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%



<b>Report on</b>	The Liaison Agreement for The Investigation of Work-Related Deaths within Northern Ireland
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Council agreement to the updated 'Investigation of Work-related Deaths – Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison' arrangements.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	District councils and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) are responsible, under Article 20 of the <i>Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978</i> , for making adequate arrangements for the enforcement of health and safety legislation with a view to securing the health, safety and welfare of workers and protecting others, principally the public.
2.2	Members will be aware that Council's Environmental Health Service is a joint regulator with the HSENI, sharing enforcement responsibilities for health and safety which are primarily divided for the respective remits by premises sector.
2.3	A work-related death is a fatality that results from an incident arising out of, or in connection with work or a work activity.
2.4	The current death at work protocol for liaison between health and safety enforcement partners has been operational since 2007.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	On 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 district councils received correspondence from the HSENI via SOLACE, outlining the need to update the 2007 Agreement for Liaison (Appendix A)
3.2	The Northern Ireland district councils, HSENI, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) all have different roles and responsibilities in relation to a work-related death.
3.3	The agreement is designed to emphasise the importance of the appropriate investigative agencies working together to ensure that a thorough investigation is carried out of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland.
3.4	The agreement sets out the principles for effective liaison between the parties. It deals with incidents where, following a death, there is a suspicion that criminal offences such as manslaughter and breaches of health and safety legislation, may have been committed.
3.5	



3.6	At present only PSNI can investigate serious criminal offences such as Corporate Manslaughter. PSNI also has a role to establish circumstances surrounding a work-related death to assist in any coroner's inquest.
3.7	PONI are included within the framework for liaison as their role is to investigate any matters which appears to the Police Ombudsman to indicate that, for example, the actions of a member of the PSNI has resulted in the death of some other person.
3.8	<p>The agreement which is not intended to cover the operational practices of the signatory organisations, does however set out the underlying principles and need for joint investigations. It also includes (but is not limited to) considerations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance of a joint investigative strategy</li> <li>• witnesses and the bereaved;</li> <li>• the importance of communication and media strategy</li> <li>• Sourcing of experts and investigative funding.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p>The agreement also sets out the decision-making process and considerations relating to the sharing and disclosure of information and evidence from joint investigations.</p> <p>A copy of the updated protocol '<i>Investigation of Work-Related Deaths Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison</i>' which ensures that the refreshed version of the liaison arrangements previously agreed in 2007 remain in place, is appended (Appendix B).</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members note the contents of this report and agree the ' <i>Investigation of Work-Related Deaths Agreement for Liaison</i> ' between Council, the Health and safety Executive for Northern Ireland, the Police Service for Northern Ireland, and the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A –HSENI Letter to the Chairperson of SOLACE (dated 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022)
6.2	Appendix B - Investigation of Work-Related Deaths Agreement for Liaison (October 2022)



FAO Mr Stephen Reid  
Chairman (SOLACE)  
The Chief Environmental Health Officers Group  
Ards & North Down Borough Council  
Town Hall  
The Castle  
Bangor  
BT20 4BT

Sent by email: [Stephen.Reid@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Reid@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Mr Reid

**Re: Revised Liaison Agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths**

You may recall that I had previously written to you about a draft revised liaison agreement for the Investigation of Work-Related Deaths, also known as the Work-Related Death Protocol (WRDP) that the PSNI and HSENI have been working on.

The original document, which was signed in 2007, has served us well for many years. However, this new revision aims to bring the original document up-to-date and has been tentatively signed by PSNI and HSENI. I have also attached a copy of the original version of the WRDP for your ease of reference so you can see where the document has been refreshed.

I would like to try and conclude this important piece of work and would be grateful if you could please consider signing the attached revised liaison agreement on behalf of your organisation (as per the original signatories).

While I hope the new draft has comprehensively covered all relevant information, I am of course content to discuss it further. With summer leave it may be best to contact me on [nicola.monson@hсени.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.monson@hсени.gov.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I would be grateful for your comments or signature by 1 September 2022, to allow the document to proceed.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Monson**  
Deputy Chief Executive  
HSENI

► **Health & Safety Executive**  
**Northern Ireland**

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# **INVESTIGATION OF WORK-RELATED DEATHS**

**Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison**

**October 2022**



## **FOREWORD**

The partners to this agreement are the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland district councils through their representative body, Environmental Health Northern Ireland. The agreement is designed to emphasise the importance of the appropriate investigative agencies working together to ensure that a thorough investigation is carried out of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland.

We are acutely conscious of the strength of public feeling about workplace fatalities, and how these tragic incidents devastate people's lives.

All of the signatory organisations recognise the need for investigating authorities to talk to each other and to share information and best practice. We appreciate that people want to be confident that we are doing all that we can to co-ordinate our efforts and to co-operate with each other in the best interests of public safety and of those affected by work-related deaths.

We endorse this agreement. We believe that it provides an effective framework for liaison, and that its introduction will help ensure that all signatory organisations work in partnership to deliver the high standard of professionalism that the public requires and deserves.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nicola Merson", is centered within a rectangular box. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Detective Superintendent  
Serious Crime Branch  
Police Service of  
Northern Ireland**

**Deputy Chief Executive  
Health and Safety Executive for  
Northern Ireland**

**Chief Executive  
District Council**

**The Police Ombudsman for  
Northern Ireland**



## INTRODUCTION

This agreement for liaison is between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) and the Northern Ireland district councils through their representative body, Environmental Health Northern Ireland.

It sets out the principles for effective liaison between the parties in relation to the investigation of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland. In particular, it deals with incidents where, following a death, there is a suspicion that criminal offences such as manslaughter and breaches of health and safety legislation, may have been committed. The agreement addresses issues concerning general liaison and is not intended to cover the operational practices of the signatory organisations.

HSENI, PSNI, PONI and the district councils have different roles and responsibilities in relation to a work-related death.

At present, only PSNI can investigate serious criminal offences, not involving police conduct, within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act such as manslaughter. PSNI will also have a duty in establishing the circumstances surrounding a work-related death in order to assist the coroner's inquest.

HSENI and district councils are responsible, under Article 20 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (HSWO), for making adequate arrangements for the enforcement of health and safety legislation with a view to securing the health, safety and welfare of workers and protecting others, principally the public.

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils have statutory responsibilities to investigate potential criminal offences relating to breaches of health and safety legislation. Each regulator has specific areas of responsibility, further details of which are set out in Annex A of this agreement.

PONI have a responsibility under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 to, inter alia, investigate any matter which appears to the Police Ombudsman to indicate that a member of the police service may have committed a criminal offence or behaved in a manner which would justify disciplinary proceedings if it appears that it is desirable in the public interest to do so. In addition, the PSNI have a duty to report any matter to the Police Ombudsman where it appears to indicate that the conduct of a member of the police service may have resulted in the death of some other person. In such cases it is the responsibility of the PONI to fully investigate the matter.

Whilst HSENI, the district councils, the PSNI and PONI have a role in investigating work-related deaths, only the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI) (formerly the Director of Public Prosecutions for



Northern Ireland) can decide whether a prosecution in such a case of manslaughter will proceed.

The underlying principles of this agreement are as follows:

- Appropriate recommendations concerning prosecution will be made to the PPSNI based on a sound investigation of the circumstances surrounding work-related deaths;
- PSNI will conduct an investigation into potential criminal offences, such as offences within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act (formally gross negligence or corporate manslaughter). The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils will conduct investigations into potential criminal offences relating to breaches of health and safety legislation.
- There will usually be a joint investigation, but on the rare occasions where this would not be appropriate, there will still be liaison and co-operation between the investigating parties;
- PONI will conduct an investigation if the requirements of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 apply. Where this occurs, PONI may take similar investigative measures as the PSNI otherwise would have, and will retain ownership of the investigation;
- The bereaved and witnesses will be kept suitably informed; and
- The parties to the agreement will maintain effective mechanisms for liaison.

There are other authorities that have responsibility for enforcing other similar legislation. Whilst these organisations are not signatories to this agreement they may wish to take onboard the principles enshrined within it.

## **IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THIS AGREEMENT APPLY?**

For the purposes of this agreement, a work-related death is a fatality resulting from an incident arising out of, or in connection with, work<sup>1</sup>. The principles set out in this agreement also apply to cases where the victim suffers injuries in such an incident that are so serious that there is a clear indication, according to medical opinion, of a strong likelihood of death.

There will be cases in which it is difficult to determine whether a death is work-related within the application of this agreement; for example, those arising out

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<sup>1</sup> "Work" as defined in Article 2(4)(a)(b)(c) and (5) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 as amended.



of some road traffic collisions<sup>2</sup>, or in prisons, or health care institutions, or following a gas leak. Each fatality must be considered individually, on its particular facts and a decision made as to whether it should be classed as a work-related death. In determining the question, the enforcing authorities will hold discussions and where possible agree upon a conclusion without delay.

## **1. STATEMENT OF INTENT**

- 1.1 In the early stages of an investigation, whether any criminal offence has been committed is not always apparent. The parties to the agreement are committed to ensuring that any investigation into a work-related death is thorough and appropriate, and agree to liaise closely together in order to achieve this. Decisions in relation to who will lead the investigation, and the direction it will take, should be timely, informed by the best available evidence and technical expertise, and should take account of the wider public interest. Should there be any issue as to who is to be involved in investigating any work-related death, then the parties will liaise together to reach a conclusion.
- 1.2 The provisions of the ECHR as given effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 will apply to investigations carried out under this agreement.
- 1.3 Article 2 ECHR, the right to life, requires, by implication that there should be some form of effective official investigation when there is reason to believe that an individual has sustained life-threatening injuries or death in suspicious circumstances. The investigation must be capable of establishing the cause of the injuries and the identification of those responsible with a view to their punishment.

## **2. INITIAL ACTION**

- 2.1 A PSNI or PONI officer attending an incident involving a work related death should arrange to carry out duties, according to the officer's own general orders governing unexplained deaths, including:
  - identify, secure, preserve and take control of the scene, and any other relevant place;
  - supervise and record all activity including photography and mapping;
  - inform a senior supervisory officer (PSNI in accordance with the Service Instruction SI2016);
  - enquire whether the employer or other responsible person in

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<sup>2</sup> "Collisions" can include any incident on the roads where a person or persons are killed.



control of the premises or activity has informed HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority; and

- contact and discuss the incident with HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority, and agree arrangements for controlling the scene, for considering access to others, and for other local handling procedures to ensure the safety of the public.
- consider the need for seizing of any physical or documentary evidence.

2.2 A PSNI or PONI officer of supervisory rank should ordinarily attend the scene and any other relevant place to assess the situation, review actions taken to date and assume responsibility for the investigation. See Service Instruction SI2016. Before leaving the site, PSNI or PONI officer of supervisory rank should also arrange for a follow-up meeting with staff from relevant authority.

2.3 It shall be assumed that the PSNI or PONI has primacy in the case unless Section 4.2 of this document is applicable.

2.4 Should any other investigating or enforcing authority have staff in attendance before the police or PONI arrive, it should ensure that the police or PONI have been called, and preserve the scene in accordance with the initial actions (above) until the police or PONI get there.

### **3. JOINT INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGY**

3.1 A Joint Investigative Strategy should be drawn up at the follow-up meeting and subsequently recorded as agreed. The purpose of this document is to ensure that investigations are always managed professionally, with communications between the relevant signatory organisations continually maintained and expectations of the parties clearly set out.

3.2 PSNI, PONI, HSENI, the district councils and/or other relevant authority, as part of drawing up the Joint Investigation Strategy, should consider and agree upon:

- Investigative primacy and cooperation between relevant authorities (see Sections 4.1 and 4.2).
  - How evidence is to be shared, used and disclosed between the parties;
  - How, and to what extent, corporate or organisational



- failures should be investigated;
  - The mechanism by which the PSNI, PONI, HSENI or the district council or other relevant authority will keep the progress of the investigation under review; and
  - What liaison if any, may be required with the PPSNI at an early stage and throughout the course of investigation;
- Witness/suspect status.
  - Agreement on how witnesses and suspects will be approached and interviewed (recognising that a witness for one agency may be a suspect for another).
- Sourcing of expert or forensic requirements.
  - How the instruction of experts and the forensic examination of exhibits is to be coordinated; and
  - Identification and use of established frameworks for sourcing.
- Investigative funding.
  - Equal division of costs between relevant parties for expert/forensic requirements;
  - Who will take the lead in specific contracts; and
  - If applicable, the need for budgetary approval of costs.
- Liaison with other interested parties.
  - Consideration should be given to a single point of contact with the agency who has primacy. This should include how the bereaved, and other interested parties such as the coroner, will be informed of developments in the investigation and level of information shared; and
  - The need for media liaison to take account of media interest and the sensitivities of the bereaved and those involved in the incident, and to encourage consistency of approach in responding to such queries.

#### **4. DECISION MAKING**

- 4.1 At the initial follow-up meeting, consideration should be given to determining if the investigation gives rise to a suspicion that a criminal offence, within the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, or police officer conduct may have caused the death. If so, PSNI (or PONI) will continue to have primacy for the joint investigation. The arrangements for joint working will be set out in the Joint Investigation Strategy.
- 4.2 Where it becomes apparent during the investigation that there is insufficient evidence that a criminal offence within the Corporate



Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, or police officer conduct caused the death, the investigation should, by agreement, be taken over by HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority. Such a decision must be recorded in writing<sup>3</sup>. Arrangements, subject to legal restriction, should be made to allow access to or release of, if appropriate, exhibits which were in the possession of PSNI or PONI and are relevant to the investigation.

- 4.3 Where HSENI, the district council or other enforcing authority is investigating the death, and new information is discovered which may assist PSNI or PONI in considering whether a criminal offence (other than a health and safety criminal offence) has been committed, or police conduct may have led to the death, then the enforcing authority will pass that new information to PSNI or PONI. The police or PONI should then consider whether to resume primacy for the investigation. The decision and reasons should be recorded in writing<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.4 Where PSNI or PONI no longer maintain primacy for an investigation, the relevant enforcing authority will establish contact with the Coroner's Office to advise of a continuing criminal investigation which may result in criminal proceedings. Close liaison between the relevant enforcing authority and the PSNI (acting as the Coroner's Officers) will be necessary to ensure any action by the Coroner's Officers does not adversely impact or conflict with the criminal investigation.
- 4.5 There will also be rare occasions where as a result of the coroner's inquest, judicial review or other legal proceedings, further consideration of the evidence and surrounding facts may need to be made. Where this takes place PSNI or PONI and the enforcing authority with primacy for the investigation will liaise to ensure an early decision on the need for further investigation.

## **5. SHARING AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND MATERIAL**

- 5.1 Sharing and disclosure must always follow the established law and procedure.
- 5.2 Where there has been an investigation, any material obtained should be shared, subject to any legal restrictions, between PSNI, PONI, HSENI, the district council or other relevant authority as appropriate. Special handling procedures may be necessary in certain cases. The organisation responsible for retaining the exhibits, documents and other relevant material should also be agreed upon.

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<sup>3</sup> The PSNI / PONI should officially inform HSENI or the relevant District Council in writing of such a decision.

<sup>4</sup> As above



## **6. SPECIAL INQUIRIES**

- 6.1 In the case of some incidents, particularly those involving multiple fatalities, the Government Department concerned or HSENI may undertake a public inquiry. Alternatively, the Government Department concerned or HSENI may authorise any other person to investigate and produce a special report.
- 6.2 In such circumstances, PSNI or PONI will provide any necessary support and evidence to the person appointed to conduct the public inquiry, or to the special investigation, subject to the relevant regulations and legal constraints.
- 6.3 Complex legal issues may arise when there are parallel public inquiries and criminal investigations or prosecutions. The signatories will aim to keep inquiry chairs informed of the progress of the investigation so far as is possible.
- 6.4 Sometimes the report of a public inquiry may be delayed to await the conclusion of criminal proceedings, and on other occasions, there may be no such delay because of strong public interest in publishing the report and the recommendations of a public inquiry quickly. In either event, the signatories to the agreement will liaise together to ensure that any recommendation regarding prosecution is made as expeditiously as possible.
- 6.5 Consideration will be given to legislation covering inquiries including the Inquiries Act (2005).

## **7. REVIEW OF AGREEMENT**

- 7.1 The Signatory Organisations will review the operation of the agreement as appropriate and consider the need for changes to the arrangements.



## **ANNEX A**

### **ENFORCING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1978 (HSWO) AND RELATED LEGISLATION**

Enforcement of the HSWO and the related legislation is generally shared between HSENI and district councils. A general guide to the allocation of the main activity is detailed below. In circumstances where it is unclear as to who the enforcing authority is, advice can be sought from HSENI (see below for contact details).

#### *Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)*

HSENI enforces health and safety at work legislation in:

- factories
- building sites
- farms
- motor vehicle repairs
- quarries
- chemical plants
- schools and universities
- leisure and entertainment facilities
- fairgrounds
- hospitals and nursing homes
- district council
- fire and police
- government departments
- domestic gas installation, maintenance or repair
- any other workplace not listed under District Councils below



### *Contacting HSENI*

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland  
83 Ladas Drive  
Belfast  
BT6 9FR

Tel: 028 9024 3249

Web: [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk)

HSENI operates an out of hours contact system to respond to major incidents. Outside normal working hours, calls are redirected via the 028 90 243249 number who will pass on your call to the HSENI Out of Hours Inspector to respond.

This should only be used for emergency situations within HSENI's enforcement remit, where an incident is related to a work activity and involves:

- a fatality;
- an injury which is so severe that it may result in a fatality; or
- a matter of public safety related to a work activity.

The Out of Hours System does not respond to routine notifications of minor incidents.



### *District Councils*

District Councils enforce health and safety at work legislation in:

- offices
- retail and wholesale shops
- tyre and exhaust fitters
- restaurants, take away food shops, mobile snack bars and catering services
- hotels, guest houses, residential homes, etc.
- wholesale and retail warehouses
- leisure and entertainment facilities (privately owned)
- exhibitions
- religious activities
- undertakers
- therapeutic and beauty services
- animal care

### *Contacting district councils out of hours*

There will be local arrangements in place for contacting the authorised health and safety inspectors within district councils. Contact can usually be made through the local town hall or council offices during office hours and on an emergency number out of office hours.







<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group Request
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7th December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mark Edgar, Biodiversity Officer Anne Reid, Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To bring to Members attention a request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group and to seek Member's opinion as to whether to grant permissions for FSNI and Woodland Trust to enter into licence agreements with Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group for the management of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels within Derrynoyd, Moydamlaght, Iniscarn, Davagh, Knockmany, Brantry, Glenone, Pomeroy, Drumcairne and Cabin Wood.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	There are currently fourteen active Red Squirrel Groups within NI all working to seek to protect red squirrels through supplementary feeding, raising awareness of their plight, and removing invasive non-native grey squirrels.
	Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group is an independent group formed in December 2021. The group was formed with the aim to bring together people to help raise awareness and education in support of the red squirrel population of NI.
2.2	Initially the group seeks to focus on providing direct support to native red squirrels via adult volunteering opportunities, However it further aims to establish an educational focus, either via on-site 'safaris' or via printed and online learning materials / guides that augment
2.3	roadshow visits to schools, and community groups.
	Charity status for the Mid-Ulster Red Squirrel group was awarded in June 2022.
2.4	The Mid Ulster Red Squirrel group are currently working with DAERA, Ulster Wildlife, Northern Ireland Red Squirrel Forum, National Trust, Woodland Trust, Forest Service NI and Causeway Coast and Glens Council.
2.5	Three Group members holds the LANTRA official grey squirrel removal accreditation. This qualification is proof of ability in the humane dispatch of invasive grey squirrels, as set out by local and national regulatory bodies.
2.6	Council currently has a Forest Service NI licence for the management of trails and associated recreation facilities within the following sites:
2.7	Derrynoyd, Moydamlaght, Iniscarn, Davagh, Knockmany, Brantry, Glenone, Pomeroy and are currently in discussions regarding a further licence agreement at Drumcairne following council approval in May 2022 (Minute Reference: D082/22).



<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Council as a landowner has a responsibility under The Invasive Alien Species (Enhancement &amp; Permitting) Order (NI) 2019. The main thrust of this legislation puts a requirement on a landowner to carry out the following measures with regards to present and future listed species:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention</li> <li>2. Early detection and rapid eradication of new invasions</li> <li>3. Management of invasions that are already widely spread</li> </ol>
3.2	<p>The Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group has approached Council officers and have submitted a proposal with a plan to carry out the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where red squirrels are present:</li> <li>• Identify areas with recent or past records of red squirrels (CEDaR records, local knowledge, etc.)</li> <li>• Select a number of suitable sites to undertake standard red squirrel surveys</li> <li>• Develop appropriate areas to ensure red squirrels remain</li> <li>• Introduce supplementary feeding (can be vital to squirrel survival when natural food sources are limited).</li> <li>• Control of grey squirrels (to both protect food sources for reds, and to prevent spread of squirrel pox virus)</li> </ul> <p>Grey squirrels are opportunistic feeders, and although their diet consists of mostly nuts and seeds, they will eat fruits, berries, flower buds, bulbs and corms, fungi, birds eggs and invertebrates. Grey squirrels can eat seeds and nuts that are not ripe enough for red squirrels to digest so in areas where both species are present, the greys get the food first.</p> <p>Grey squirrels carry a disease called the squirrel pox virus. While greys are immune to the disease, they transmit it to reds, for whom it is fatal. It presents in red squirrels with a mange, scab or myxomatosis - like symptoms, leading to rapid loss of body condition and subsequently death. In circumstances where the presence of squirrel pox is confirmed, the extinction rate of red squirrels can be 20 to 25 times faster than that in pox free areas.</p> <p>Also the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group has proposed to enhance appropriate areas and/or expand suitable habitat to encourage increase in red squirrel population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue with supplementary feeding in areas where it is still deemed as beneficial.</li> <li>○ Continue with grey squirrel control with ultimate aim of grey squirrels eradicated from the area, and 'grey free' buffer zone maintained around the site.</li> <li>○ Investigate potential and develop wildlife corridors linking areas of suitable habitat to enable red squirrels to move naturally across the landscape.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>The provision of the license to manage red squirrels and control grey squirrels rests within DAERA Forests rests with FSNI. However, as Council have a recreational license on the sites (listed in section 2.7 above) Council are seen as a consultee to this agreement being granted.</p>
3.4	<p>Additionally, the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group have requested to manage red squirrels and control grey squirrels within Cabin Wood. This site is currently under lease agreement to Woodland Trust and they hold the right:</p> <p><i>To use the lands only for amenity woodland forestry and or open space for the benefit of wildlife and the general public</i></p>



3.5	Council Officers have consulted with both FSNI and Woodland Trust. Council opinion is sought as to whether to grant permissions for FSNI and Woodland Trust to enter into licence agreements with Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group for the management of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels within the aforementioned sites.
	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: There are no financial costs required from Mid Ulster District Council towards the delivery of this request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group.
	Human: There are no Council human resources implications or requirement from Mid Ulster District Council towards the delivery of this request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.
4.2	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the request from the Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group and to grant permissions for FSNI and Woodland Trust to enter into licence agreements with Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group for the management of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels within Derrynoyd, Moydamlaght, Iniscarn, Davagh, Knockmany, Brantry, Glenone, Pomeroy, Drumcairne and Cabin Wood.
6.0	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A – NIEA Letter, The Invasive Species (Enforcement & Permitting) Order (NI) 2019, Invasive Alien Species: Frequently Asked Questions,
6.2	Appendix B: Management Measures for Widely Spread Species (WSS) in NI: Grey Squirrel.









Asian  
hornet



Red-eared  
terrapin



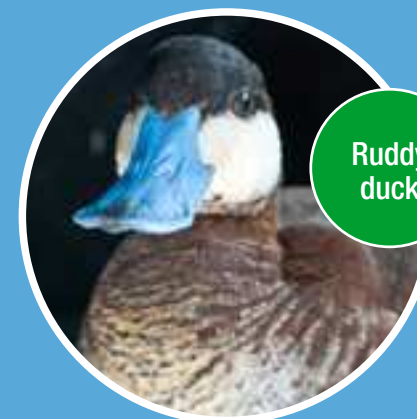
Giant  
hogweed



Raccoon



American  
skunk  
cabbage



Ruddy  
duck



Signal  
crayfish

# Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



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## Background

The [EU Invasive Alien Species \(IAS\) Regulation \(1143/2014\)](#) came into force on 1 January 2015. The Regulation imposes strict restrictions on a list of species known as “species of Union concern”. These are species whose potential adverse impacts across the European Union are such that concerted action across Europe is required.

On 14 July 2016 the European Commission published Commission [Implementing Regulation 2016/1141](#) which sets out an initial list of 37 species to which EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 will apply. There were further updates in 2017 and 2019, and the current list now contains 66 Species of Union Concern, 36 plant species and 30 animals. The corresponding Northern Ireland Legislation, [The Invasive Alien Species \(Enforcement and Permitting\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#) came into force on 1st December 2019.

FAQ for the sectors that will be most affected by the new legislation are outlined below.

**N.B: In Northern Ireland the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) are the ‘Competent Authority’ to enforce this legislation.**

The main thrust of this legislation puts a requirement on Northern Ireland to carry out the following measures with regards to present and future listed species;

1. Prevention
2. Early detection and rapid eradication of new invasions
3. Management of invasions that are already widely spread

### Prevention

- A number of robust measures are foreseen to prevent new Invasive Alien Species from entering the EU in the first place, either intentionally or unintentionally.
- Prevention is always better and more cost effective than having to deal with the IAS after they have arrived.
- Pathway Action Plans (PAP) aim to identify pathways that require priority action and prevent unintentional introduction of IAS. These PAP’s are designed to address their routes of access, for example, Recreational Boating and Angling are currently in draft format for stakeholder consultation and can be found at [GBNNS](#). The Horticulture PAP is currently being produced and the NI Zoos PAP requires updating prior to final publication.
- ‘[Be Plant Wise](#)’ ‘[Be Pet Wise](#)’ and ‘[Check Clean Dry](#)’ are public prevention awareness campaigns which have been adopted throughout the UK, Ireland and all of the British Irish Council (BIC) administrations.



## Early detection and rapid eradication

- A requirement of the Regulation was to nominate a specific surveillance system to detect the presence of IAS of Union concern as early as possible and take rapid eradication measures to prevent them from establishing. Northern Ireland uses [CEDaR](#) which is affiliated to the main UK system, [iRecord](#). Records can be entered to either system via the [iRecord app](#).
- If an IAS arrives a Rapid Response Contingency Plan (RCP) is put into place to remove that species before it establishes. For example [The Northern Ireland Asian Hornet Rapid Response Contingency Plan](#).
- If an IAS has established, but its distribution is minimal, early eradication will be attempted before it has a chance to widen its area of distribution.

## Management for already Widely Spread Species

- Some IAS of Union concern are already established in Northern Ireland.
- In Northern Ireland 11 species have been designated as [WSS](#), 3 animal and 8 plant species.
- [Article 19](#) of EU Regulation (1143/2014) requires Member States to produce effective management measures for each of the selected Widely Spread Species. These measures will endeavour to minimise the potential negative impact upon biodiversity, related ecosystem services, human health and the economy that these species will have.
- The management measures shall consist of lethal or non-lethal physical, chemical or biological actions aimed at the eradication, population control or containment of a population of an IAS.
- The management measures where possibly must include actions to the receiving ecosystem to increase its resilience to current and future invasions, for example planting native plants where IAS have been removed. Under strict justification and a permit, already established IAS may be temporarily allowed as part of the management measures aimed at their eradication, population control or containment provided that all appropriate controls are in place to avoid any further spread.
- Management measures and their methods must take human health and the environment into consideration, especially non-targeted species and their habitats.
- When any WSS animal is targeted it ensure that they are they are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering, without compromising the effectiveness of the management measures.



- [Article 14](#) of EU Regulation (1143/2014) states the surveillance system provided shall be designed and used to monitor the management measures that are put in place to carry out effective eradication or control of these WSS to minimise their impact on biodiversity, the ecosystem and human health or the economy. The monitoring shall also assess the impact on non-targeted species, as appropriate.

**Disclaimer:** These FAQs do not represent a legal interpretation of Northern Ireland Legislation. They indicate our current understanding of the EU IAS Regulations and their implications, and may be subject to change if our understanding alters. If you wish to have a legal interpretation, you should seek your own legal advice.

## General

### What animals and plants are affected by the Regulation?

There are 30 animals and 36 plants on the list of Union concern. With 8 plant species and 3 animal species having been designated by DAERA as being Widely Spread Species (WSS) in Northern Ireland.

You can find the listed species [here](#).

### What effect has Brexit had on this Regulation?

From 1 January 2021, the same rules will still apply. The Northern Ireland Protocol, agreed as part of the UK's EU exit deal, lists certain EU legislation that is still applicable in Northern Ireland. This includes the [Invasive Alien Species \(EU\) Regulation 1143/2014](#), therefore there is no change to the Regulation and enforcement of species included on the '[Species of Union Concern list](#)'.

### What does listing of these species mean?

Strict restrictions will apply to these species (subject to exemptions detailed elsewhere in these FAQs) so they cannot be imported, kept, bred, transported, sold, used or exchanged, allowed to reproduce, grown or cultivated, or released into the environment.

### What might these exemptions include?

Some examples are listed below:

- Pets may be kept for the remainder of their natural lives without a permit provided they were owned before the species in question was listed - these are referred to as companion animals. You can find out when each species was listed [here](#).



- If you have a listed plant in your garden, you can continue to keep it, provided you keep the plant under control and do not allow it to spread beyond the boundaries of your garden.
- Traders are able to continue to sell existing stocks for 12 months from when an animal or plant has been listed. This applies only to any future species that may be listed as the 12 month period has passed for those currently on the list.
- Additionally, some establishments may apply for permits to allow them to keep listed species, but only for the purposes of research on the eradication of that species, e.g. birth control in grey squirrels or scientific production of medicinal products.

## How do establishments get a permit to keep species?

Permits can be applied for directly from [APHA](#) as they are issued on a UK wide basis.

If you have any questions or problems with this process contact the NIEA INNS Team:

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

In Northern Ireland a permit can be issued to an establishment/owner for the purposes of:

- Research that improves long term reduction/eradication of a particular invasive alien species e.g. birth control in grey squirrels;
- Scientific production, and subsequent medicinal use, where the use of products derived from an invasive alien species is necessary for the advancement of human health; or
- In exceptional circumstances (in accordance with [Article 9](#) of the Principal Regulation).

## Who will be inspecting to ensure permits are being complied with?

In Northern Ireland, DAERA officers will carry out inspections when necessary to ensure that any conditions attached to permits are complied with. This legislation means that DAERA inspectors can do so without giving prior notice to owners.

## What conditions do those with a permit have to follow when carrying out authorised activities?

Any authorised activity carried out under a permit must be done so in accordance with conditions laid out in [Article 8](#) of the [Invasive Alien Species EU Regulation No 1143/2014](#).



For listed **animals** conditions include:

- The listed animal is kept in a contained holding (including during any transport);
- The permitted activity is carried out by an appropriately qualified person;
- The animal is identifiable by markings, ringing etc.;
- The establishment of a continuous surveillance system;
- Having an approved contingency plan in place for any escaped animals; and
- Transport to and from holding must be done to avoid escape.

For listed **plants** conditions include:

- The listed plant is kept in a contained holding (including during any transport);
- The permitted activity is carried out by an appropriately qualified person;
- The establishment of a continuous surveillance system; and
- Having an approved contingency plan in place for any spread of the listed plant.

**N.B:** Some non-native species, for example *Stenopelmus rufinasus* weevil for control of *Azolla* sp. can be used to carry out biological control but to release them requires a Wildlife License from the NIEA Wildlife Team.

To apply for a licence and get more guidance visit [NIEA's wildlife licensing](#) page.

### **Does having a permit allow me to sell or release listed animals and plants?**

**No:** A permit issued for research will not authorise the selling or the releasing of a listed animal or plant. A permit may be revoked if the listed animal escapes from contained holding, if the listed plant spreads beyond the contained holding or any failure to comply with a condition of the permit.

### **Do I need a licence to carry out management measures on any listed species?**

**No:** Unless the location is within or adjacent to a designated site, in which case you will require consent from the [Conservation Designation and Protection team at NIEA](#).

### **When can a licence be issued?**

A licence may be issued to allow a prohibited activity in relation to an Invasive Alien Species where the main purpose is implementing eradication and/or management measures for that species.



## **What activities may a licence be issued for when setting out to control some listed species?**

A licence may be issued for activities including:

- To implement a rapid eradication at an early stage of invasion - dependant on the species i.e. culling outside recognised shooting seasons for wildfowl.
- The temporarily commercial use of WSS as part of their management measures - e.g. non-native weevils to biologically control aquatic weeds.
- If a non-commercial owner cannot ensure that a companion animal (an animal which was owned prior to the date it was listed) is kept in conditions where it cannot reproduce or escape, a licence may be granted to a permitted establishment to keep this animal until the end of its natural life.

## **Where do I get a licence to carry out management measures to control some invasive alien species?**

To apply for a licence, contact the NIEA INNS team.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

## **What should I do if I've found a listed animal or plant species in the environment?**

If you find or suspect a listed animal or plant in the environment, we would ask that you report it immediately. You can find details on how to report a sighting [here](#).

Do not attempt to trap or capture any of the listed animal species. Keeping and transporting the animal without the correct permissions, may lead to you being prosecuted.

Any listed plant species found should be left in situ, [reported](#) and this will enable the NIEA INNS team to contact the landowner to instigate management measures.

## **What can I do if I accidentally release a listed animal into the environment?**

If you are unable to successfully/safely re-capture the animal yourself, please contact the NIEA INNS team for assistance.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558



## **Are there different transitional periods for members of the public and establishments?**

**Yes:** The transition period for members of the public is 12 months and after this transitional period ends, retailers will no longer be able to sell listed species and you may be prohibited from introducing a plant on the list into your garden.

**N.B:** However, this only **applies to any future listed** animals, as the transition period for the plant species currently listed has passed and they should not be on sale anywhere.

## **How were these species selected?**

The European Commission reviewed existing risk assessments to propose a list of species which were then considered and voted on by Member States.

A question that is regularly asked is '**why is Japanese knotweed not on the list**'?

'Examples of species with a compliant risk assessment but with insufficient evidence on the compliance of the species with the criteria for listing are Japanese knotweed and the common ragweed. There was insufficient evidence that inclusion on the Union list would effectively prevent, minimise or mitigate their adverse impact.

As a result, the IAS Committee decided that the listing would not be able to make a difference

An explanation on how species were selected for listing can be found at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13\\_07\\_2016\\_QA\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/13_07_2016_QA_en.pdf)

The complete Risk Assessment process for species selection can be found on the [CIRCABC](#) website.

## **Can species be added or removed from the list?**

**Yes:** Species may be added by the Scientific Forum of the European Commission on the basis of a suitable risk assessment. The sectors affected will be informed of any proposed changes to the list of species and information on these pages will be amended as appropriate. Species may also be removed.

The complete Risk Assessment process for species selection can be found on the [CIRCABC](#) website.

## **When will additional species be proposed and listed?**

Both the European Commission and the remaining Member States can propose additional species for inclusion on the Union list, according to Article 4(4) of the Regulation, including a risk assessment.



However, the IE/NI Protocol excludes the possibility for the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland to:

- participate in the decision-making and decision-shaping of the Union;
- initiate objections, safeguard or arbitration procedures to the extent that they concern technical regulations, standards, assessments, registrations, certificates, approvals and authorisations issued or carried out by EU Member States;
- act as leading authority for assessments, examinations and authorisations; and
- invoke mutual recognition in the EU of authorisations issued by authorities of the United Kingdom.

### **Will we still have an input in future lists?**

**No:** More specifically, this means inter alia the following:

- the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland cannot object to any update of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern;
- the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland cannot submit to the Commission requests for the inclusion of invasive alien species on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern as per Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014; and
- a permit under Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 issued by the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland is not recognised in an EU Member State.

### **Where can I find the details of penalties and sanctions for breach of this Legislation?**

Details can be found at [The Invasive Alien Species \(Enforcement and Permitting\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#).



## Companion Animal (Pet) owners

### What pets are covered by the new Regulation?

There are **30** animal species covered by the new Regulation but only **8** of them are regularly kept as pets. These are:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Pallas Squirrel       | <i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i> |
| • Small Indian Mongoose | <i>Herpestes javanicus</i>     |
| • American bullfrog     | <i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i> |
| • Coati                 | <i>Nasua</i>                   |
| • Raccoon               | <i>Procyon lotor</i>           |
| • Fox squirrel          | <i>Sciurus niger</i>           |
| • Siberian chipmunk     | <i>Tamias sibiricus</i>        |

More ID and species details can be found [here](#).

### Will I be expected to have my pet put down?

**Not necessarily:** if you already own a pet that has been listed, you are permitted to keep that pet for the rest of its natural life as a companion animal. However, you will need to provide evidence of when you took ownership.

As a pet owner you must comply with the strict laws put in place ensuring:

- That it is kept in a secure enclosure and not allowed to escape;
- The pet won't be sold or exchanged;
- Transport only takes place for animal welfare purposes e.g. vets or boarding accommodation or moving house; and
- Appropriate measures are in place to prevent breeding.

### Do I need to spay/neuter my pet?

In order to avoid any potential prosecution and animal confiscation, neutering or spaying is the most appropriate measure to prevent breeding. Neutering or spaying can also limit the impact the animal has upon the environment in the event of escape.

Neutering is also preferable on an animal welfare basis, as merely separating males and females may result in increased stress for the animals if they have previously been enclosed together.



## **Do I need to register or have a licence for my pet under the IAS Order?**

**No:** If you have had a listed animal as a pet before the date it was listed, you can keep it for the rest of its natural life without a permit or licence as long as all the following apply:

- You keep it as a pet and not for any business reason;
- You keep it at home in a 'contained holding' that it cannot escape from, for example, a cage or aquarium;
- You must keep it from coming in contact with the public;
- You do not let it breed; and
- You do not sell, exchange or give it away.

However, there is a requirement under the [Dangerous Wild Animals \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2004](#) to hold a licence to keep certain types of animals if they are classified as a Dangerous Wild Animal (DWA).

## **Which of the listed species also fall under the Dangerous Wild Animals (NI) order 2004?**

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and Coati (*Nasua*) are classified as DWA through [The Dangerous Wild Animals \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2004](#), and it aims to ensure that the animals are kept in a manner which protects public safety and safeguards the welfare of the animals.

## **Do I need a licence for a pet that is classified as a Dangerous Wild Animal (DWA) that I owned before the list came into effect?**

If you already owned an animal with a DWA license before it appeared on the Union list you are still required to have a DWA licence and adhere to its conditions. As per EU IAS Regulation, you will also have to either separate males or females, or have them neutered. The Regulation forbids these species to breed. Further information on DWAs can be found on the [DAERA website](#).

## **Can I take my companion animal (pet) to the vet?**

**Yes:** The conditions of owning a companion animal owned prior to the listing it must be kept in a contained holding to ensure it doesn't escape during transportation.

## **Can I take my companion animal (pet) for a walk outside?**

**No:** You can exercise your pet within a secure enclosure. However, taking it for a walk outside, even on a lead, is not permitted as it increases the risk of your pet escaping into the environment. It must not come in contact with the public.



### **Should I microchip my companion animal (pet)?**

**Yes:** You should microchip your pet. A microchip can provide evidence of how long you have owned your pet and in the event of an escape, it will help find your pet. If you cannot microchip your pet, consider marking it with identification in some other way, e.g. ringing or shell marking.

### **I no longer want to keep my companion animal (pet). What should I do with it?**

You cannot release it into the environment as that is an offence and also cruel to the animal. At present there are no licensed premises in Northern Ireland available for rehoming listed species. Contact the NIEA INNS Team and they will be able to assist you with other options.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

### **Can I give my companion animal (pet) to another private owner if I no longer want to keep it?**

**No:** In Northern Ireland a listed animal cannot be rehomed. The Regulation only allows people to keep listed animals if they already owned one before the list came into effect and does not allow you to give it to someone else. (See previous question for more details)

### **Are animal rescue centres able to rehome a listed species?**

**No:** In Northern Ireland a listed animal cannot be rehomed. The Regulation only allows people to keep listed animals if they already owned them before the list came into effect. It also does not allow you to give them to someone else or to an animal rescue centre.

### **What if my companion animal (pets) accidentally breed after the Legislation came into force?**

If this has happened you will have committed an offence under the Order. This may result in an enforcement action and confiscation and the euthanasia of the offspring. You must ensure that your companion animals are not able to breed! We would recommend neutering of animals, as merely separating males from females may only result in increased stress and become a welfare issue.

### **Will you be carrying out inspections of companion animal (pet) owners?**

**Not likely, but we do have the powers to do so:** if the listed pet was a companion before the list came into effect then pet owners will be unlikely to have inspections carried out, unless the Department suspects the owner has breached the legislation.

**Yes:** there may be inspections carried out on establishments to ensure they are using the listed animal for the correct research as detailed on their permit, e.g. birth control in grey squirrels.



## Pet shops

### **Will I be able to sell to the public, or purchase stock from a wholesaler, any of the species on the EU list?**

**No:** Only animals listed in future updates will have a transitional period to be sold or purchased. Those animals currently on the list have passed this transitional period deadline and should not be on sale or purchased.

Future listings must be sold within;

- 12 months of the date of listing, if selling to the public;
- 24 months of the date of listing, if selling to an establishment that holds a valid permit.

If you see any of the listed species for sale in a pet shop/garden centre etc. please report this directly to the NIEA INNS team.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

## Encounter animal businesses/ Education

### **Can I continue to use species as encounter animals if they are now listed?**

If you currently use a species that has been listed as an encounter animal, you may continue to do so until the end of its natural life as long as it is kept and transported in a secure holding and shown in a secure environment from which it cannot escape, spread, breed or be removed.

If you no longer wish to use the animal as an encounter animal, you may keep it as a pet until the end of its natural life as long as it is kept securely so that it cannot escape or breed.

You must not use these species in shows or exhibitions that allow the public to interact with these animals.

You cannot keep an encounter animal as a pet if;

- Has been previously kept for commercial reasons,
- It came into your possession after the species was listed

You can contact the NIEA INNS team for guidance/assistance on what to do if you still own animals that you can no longer use as part of your animal encounter business.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558



# Zoos, private collections and wildlife parks

## What zoo animals are on the list?

There are 30 species of animals on the list though not all of them are kept in zoos. Those most commonly kept in zoos are:

• Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
• Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
• Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
• Pallas Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>
• Small Indian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>
• American bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>
• Coati	<i>Nasua</i>
• Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
• Fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>
• Siberian chipmunk	<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>
• Red-eared, yellow-bellied and Cumberland sliders (terrapin)	<i>Trachemys scripta spp</i>
• Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>
• Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>
• Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>

More ID and species details can be found [here](#).

## Can zoos keep existing species on the EU list?

Unless a zoo or an aquarium was in possession of a listed animal **prior** to the date it was listed, they cannot add listed animals to their existing stock in the future unless that species is endangered in its home range, which is very unlikely.

## OR

If they are used for research a permit must be issued by NIEA, in which the research must be for the purpose of ex situ conservation or research into ways to eradicate the species, e.g. birth control in grey squirrels.

## Are zoos permitted to keep or breed new specimens on the EU list?

A zoo may make an application for a permit if they are carrying out;

- Research for ex situ conservation or that improves long term reduction/eradication of a particular invasive alien species e.g. birth control in grey squirrels;



- Scientific production, and subsequent medicinal use, where the use of products derived from an invasive alien species is necessary for the advancement of human health; or
- In exceptional circumstances (in accordance with [Article 9](#) of the [Invasive Alien Species EU Regulation No 1143/2014](#)).

### **Can zoos take their animals to the vet?**

**Yes:** for welfare purposes the listed animals can be transported to the vet as long as they are kept in a contained holder and that measures have been put in place to ensure that they don't escape.

### **Do zoos have to sterilise these animals to prevent breeding?**

**Yes:** Unless they are part of an ex situ conservation objective. The Regulation obligates them to prevent listed animals from breeding therefore males and females must either be kept separately in contained holdings or where possible, a listed animal should be sterilised. This is the most appropriate measure as merely separating two animals that have been companions for quite some time could cause them distress and this would become an animal welfare issue.

### **Should I use a method to identify the animals?**

**Yes:** You must mark or identify a listed animal, microchipping is the most appropriate method. If microchipping is not possible, you must use methods that do not hurt or cause the animal any stress, e.g. ringing or shell marking.

### **Can listed animals be sent to other zoos outside of Northern Ireland?**

If you are sending an animal to a zoo outside Northern Ireland, contact the importing country before you export.

They may have their own permitting rules you'll need to follow. They may also refuse the consignment.

If they do allow you to export to their country, apply for a permit by contacting the NIEA INNS team:

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

### **Do listed plants in zoos, or botanic gardens, have to be removed or managed?**

**Not necessarily:** Establishments must act accordingly to the necessary management measures to ensure that the invasive plants, where present, do not spread any further in that area. Where this cannot be guaranteed, we would encourage establishments to consider safely removing and disposing of any listed plant.



For more information on management of these invasive plants, contact the NIEA INNS team or check out our campaign [Be Plant Wise](#).

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

## Horticulture trade

### **Will businesses be allowed to sell any of the listed plant species?**

**No:** The plant species that are currently on the list should no longer be on sale as their transition period has passed.

Future listings must be sold within:

- 12 months of the date of listing, if selling to the public;
- 24 months of the date of listing, if selling to an establishment that holds a valid permit.

For the purposes of exhausting stock, businesses can transfer listed species for destruction within 24 months of the date of listing without a permit.

### **Do the transitional arrangements apply to wholesalers?**

**Yes:** The same rules apply to wholesalers. Where contracts are in place, they should supply their existing stock to retailers or dispose of it within the given 12 months; or they can sell stock to an establishment that holds a permit allowing them to use the listed species within the 24 month period.

**N.B:** However at this only **applies to any future listed** plants as the transition period for the plant species currently listed has passed and should not be on sale anywhere.

## Gardeners

### **I have a plant on the list in my garden - is it prohibited to keep it?**

**No:** it is not prohibited if it is already in your garden. However, you must act responsibly and not allow or encourage it to grow or spread outside your garden, which could be an offence.

However it may be an offence if you were now to plant a listed plant on your land, or intentionally allowed an existing listed plant to grow or spread outside your land.



### **Can I purchase a plant on the list?**

**No:** Currently all the plants species have passed the transitional phase for selling or purchasing but any future new listing will fall into these arrangements;

Future listings must be sold within:

- 12 months of the date of listing, if selling to the public;
- 24 months of the date of listing, if selling to an establishment that holds a valid permit.

### **I want to display my private collection of plants that have been listed, is this allowed?**

**Yes:** But if you have listed plants in private collections on display to visitors you must have signs explaining:

- The risk of the species to native plants and animals;
- That it is an invasive alien species and what this means in law; and
- How the species can be managed and contained.

You must make sure visitors do not take cuttings or seeds. You must not sell, use or exchange any listed species.

## Private Landowners

### **I have a plant on the EU list on my land - do I have to remove it?**

**No:** the Regulation does not impose any obligations to remove any listed plant. However, you must act responsibly and not allow or encourage it to grow or spread outside your land, which may be an offence. Where this cannot be guaranteed, we would encourage you to consider safely removing and disposing of any listed plant.

If it is an aquatic listed plant follow '[Be Plant Wise](#)' guidance when [removing and disposing](#) them.

### **I have an animal on the EU list on my land - do I have to eradicate it?**

**No:** the Regulation does not impose any obligations to eradicate a listed animal. You should however contact NIEA as soon as possible who will advise on the best course of action.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558



### **Can I transport any live listed plants from my land to another location?**

**No:** You can only transport a live listed plant or anything from which it can reproduce outside your land if you're taking it to a facility for destruction or have a licence or permit issued by NIEA.

### **I find a listed aquatic plant that has already been growing in a water body on my land, am I in breach of the legislation?**

**No:** The Regulation does not impose any obligations to remove any listed plant. If a listed aquatic plant is already growing in ponds, lakes or waterways on your land, either private or open to the public, it is not necessarily an offence.

It may be an offence if you intentionally introduce a listed aquatic plant, or allow it to grow or spread outside your land into the environment. Invasive aquatic plants can damage ponds, waterways and the environment. Even tiny plant fragments can result in a species becoming established in the environment. Ensure upmost care when maintaining your pond and disposing of waste water. You should follow '[Be Plant Wise](#)' for guidance to remove and dispose of any listed aquatic plant safely.

### **If I am a trained individual working with wildlife management and trap a listed animal, what should be done?**

If you are controlling a wildlife population using humane measures, and have a license to do so, such as setting traps, then you must be trained and equipped to set traps correctly. You must take reasonable steps to avoid capturing non-targeted animals.

If a listed animal is unintentionally captured **it is an offence** to release the animal back into the environment.

If you have the correct training and equipment, you should dispatch the animal. The animal can also be dispatched by arrangement (i.e. vet or appropriately trained individual). Do not release the animal back into the environment.

You should not take a listed animal out of the environment and into your own possession, in addition to the dangers of handling a wild animal, it is also an offence to do so.

If you have already taken an animal out of the environment, for example, to a vet or to keep it yourself, you must contact the NIEA INNS team immediately as you could be committing several offences.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

Do not release it back into the environment, this would be an offence.



## Are members of the public that purchase existing stock within the transitional 12 month period required to get a permit to keep them?

**No:** If you have had a listed animal as a pet before the date it was listed, you can keep it for the rest of its natural life without a permit or licence as long as all the following apply:

- You keep it as a pet and not for any business reason;
- You keep it at home in a 'contained holding' that it cannot escape from, for example, a cage or aquarium;
- You must keep it from coming in contact with the public;
- You do not let it breed; and
- You do not sell, exchange or give it away.

## Widely Spread Species

### How many of the 66 listed species were designated as Widely Spread (WSS) within Northern Ireland and what are they?

There are **8 plant species** being categorised as Widely Spread within Northern Ireland.

- American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*);
- Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*);
- Curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*);
- Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*);
- Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*);
- Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*);
- Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*); and
- Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

There are **3 animal species** being categorised as Widely Spread within Northern Ireland

- Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*);
- New Zealand flatworm (*Arthurdendyus triangulatus*); and
- Yellow-bellied/Red-eared/Cumberland slider (*Trachemys scripta-scripta/elegans/troostii*).

More ID and species details can be found [here](#).



## **What is Northern Ireland obliged to do with WSS? In other words do we have to eradicate them completely?**

Northern Ireland does not have an obligation to completely eradicate IAS of Union concern that are already widely spread but we have agreed to reduce their coverage by 50% by 2030:

- As provided under Article 19(2) of the IAS Regulation, management measures can aim at the eradication, population control or containment of an IAS;
- It is up to the landowner to select the measures, with DAERA approval, ([see WSS Questionnaires](#)) appropriate to the local conditions; and
- Article 19(1) specifies that those measures shall be proportionate to the impact on the environment and appropriate to the specific circumstances of the Northern Ireland economy and be based on an analysis of costs and benefits. The risk management decisions in relation to IAS that are widely spread thus lie with the competent authority. Therefore, we must manage grey squirrels but are not obliged to eradicate them.

## **I have found a Widely Spread plant species present on my land, what steps should I take next?**

If you have a widely spread species (WSS) present on your land as part of a private collection, you must inform the NIEA INNS team of the management measures you have in place. You should endeavour to eradicate, unless there are mitigating circumstances, WSS plants where possible.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

Management measures for listed plants in private collections must aim for eradication where:

- Prioritised or designated sites (e.g. Area of Special Scientific Interest) are impacted or likely to be impacted;
- There is a high likelihood of spread, e.g. the WSS plant is located along a river or stream or adjacent to any waterbody or area of high public footfall.

## **I have found a listed aquatic plant that is a Widely Spread Species present on my land, who should I contact?**

If you have a Widely Spread Species (WWS) present on your land, you must inform the NIEA INNS team of the management measures you have in place to prevent its spread.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

You can also check our '[Be Plant Wise](#)' campaign.



## **Am I allowed to display plants that are classified as Widely Spread Species?**

**No:** If you want to use specimens of WSS plant species to educate people about managing or eradicating the species, you must apply for a licence by contacting the NIEA INNS team.

**Email:** [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 028 9056 9558

## **Do I need a licence to carry out management measures on Widely Spread Species (WSS)?**

**No:** But if your site is on or adjacent to a designated site you will require 'assent' from the [Conservation Designation & Protection team at NIEA](#).

## **What should I do if I see a listed widely spread species out in the environment?**

If a widely spread species (WSS) is growing in the environment, the landowner must inform NIEA of the management measures they have put in place. Management measure must prevent the spread of widely spread species, with the aim of eradication. Landowners must not intentionally grow, cultivate or allow to reproduce WSS plants.

Landowners should aim to remove and safely dispose of any WSS plant, more information on management measures and species details can be found [here](#).

Follow '[Be Plant Wise](#)' guidance when [removing and disposing](#) any WSS plant.

You should report any WSS plants to [CEDaR](#) online reporting or through the [iRecord app](#).









# Management Measures for Widely Spread Species (WSS) in Northern Ireland Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

As per Article 19 requirement of EU Regulation 1143/2014  
*on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of  
invasive alien species*



*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



Grey squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		
Description	Medium-sized tree squirrel (20-25cm long), bushy tail (15-20cm). Upper fur mainly grey with gingery-brown along the back, flanks, tail, limbs and feet; undersides white. Melanic forms occur. Also, erythristic forms with red-brown backs that can lead to confusion and misidentification with red squirrels (image right).	
NI Status	Abundant throughout Northern Ireland and is still expanding its range. Ongoing efforts, concentrated in red squirrel hotspots to limit its distribution and spread. Present in largely broad-leaved forest or parkland. Can use mature hedgerows and gardens. Known to be scarce in Co. Fermanagh, reason unknown, not caused by human intervention. For current distribution visit <a href="#">NBN Atlas Northern Ireland</a> .	
Pathways	Introduced from USA to approximately 30 sites in England and Wales between 1876- and 1929, from Canada to 3 sites in Scotland between 1892 and 1920, and from England to 1 site in Ireland in 1911 and from there progressed throughout the island to its current range in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.	
Aim	Control the current wild population, minimise expansion of the species range in N.I. and to eradicate in the wild where possible. Prevent establishment in new areas, especially areas that are the preserve of red squirrel populations.	
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Contain and locally reduce the abundance of grey squirrels with control being carried out in high priority areas around red squirrel strongholds and their buffer zones.</li><li>2. Reduce the impacts on red squirrel populations and on sensitive woodland habitat and forestry services.</li><li>3. Focus control in selected areas to maintain priority red squirrel populations and prevent further population expansion.</li><li>4. Reduce distribution across N.I. by 50% by 2030.</li><li>5. Widespread restoration of native red squirrel populations.</li></ol>	
Prevention		
Border and pathway actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 it is an offence to release or allow this species to escape into the environment. This includes the release of animals taken into captivity for welfare reasons.</li></ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation it is also an offence to import into the EU, keep, breed, transport (to, from or within the EU; except to facilitate eradication), place on the market, use or exchange this species - <b>unless there are specific exemptions or permits.</b></li> <li>- Liaison with Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAWNI) to ensure species is not being traded.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raise awareness of the legal requirements above, impacts, management and risk of further spread amongst land managers, landowners, the general public and other stakeholders, including information sheets, posters, bin stickers etc. (issued by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) and encourage reporting of sightings in new areas.</li> <li>- Encourage stakeholders involved in grey squirrel control to establish and maintain coordinated management partnerships at the landscape-scale.</li> <li>- Raise awareness of grant support schemes for targeted control of grey squirrels in areas where they are a threat to red squirrel populations (e.g. Environmental Challenge Competition and Environmental Farming Schemes).</li> <li>- Promote best practice in grey squirrel control.</li> <li>- Advice will be provided to wildlife animal sanctuaries/rescue centres that grey squirrels cannot be re-released.</li> <li>- Establishments holding zoological collections, including mobile zoos and animal encounter operators can keep and exhibit existing animals until the end of their natural lives, as long as they are kept securely and appropriate measures to prevent them from breeding are taken.</li> <li>- Euthanasia must be undertaken in an appropriate and humane manner according to the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/16/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/16/contents</a></li> </ul>
<b>Early detection and rapid response</b>	
<b>Surveillance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new, dedicated surveillance mechanism is not necessary as a number of existing recording schemes allow reporting of this species:</li> <li>- In Northern Ireland species records are entered to CEDaR online recording via <a href="http://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI">www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI</a> or via the Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <a href="http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting/">http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting/</a>. Entering a record generates an email to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Team.</li> <li>- The Botanical Society of the British Isles Map Scheme compiles comprehensive distribution maps for plants across the UK.</li> <li>- The Biological Records Centre (<a href="http://www.brc.ac.uk">www.brc.ac.uk</a>) collects presence records of all wildlife species in the UK through a network of voluntary recorders on <a href="#">iRecord</a> online or by the <a href="#">iRecord app</a>. The BRC provides the opportunity to download</li> </ul>



	<p>distribution data and visualise it as customisable maps, via the National Biodiversity Network Atlas Northern Ireland (<a href="https://northernireland.nbnatlas.org/">https://northernireland.nbnatlas.org/</a>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing surveillance is undertaken to a varying extent by numerous statutory, non-statutory and voluntary organisations involved in red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> conservation, which includes the control of grey squirrels.</li> <li>- The overarching group is the UK Red Squirrel Steering Group (UKRSG). In addition, the UK Squirrel Accord is an organisation that consists of 32 leading woodland, timber industry and conservation organisations in the UK committed to the effective and targeted control of grey squirrels.</li> <li>- The Northern Ireland Squirrel Forum and other squirrel fora hold representatives from a wide range of stakeholders, including government, public bodies, wildlife trusts, conservation organisations, local voluntary squirrel groups, woodland managers, charities, private companies and private landowners.</li> <li>- Relevant Government agencies such as DfI Roads/Rivers, AFBI, Forest Service and Northern Ireland Environment Agency record the presence of invasive non-native species as a part of their work and will then initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> <li>- Non-Governmental Organisations (e.g. Wildlife Trusts) undertake surveys and report incidental sightings of invasive non-native species and will then initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> <li>- All N.I. Councils to also record and report presence of invasive non-native species on their estates and initiate management measures for WSS on their own sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Response to sightings of grey squirrels in new areas, or re-emergence in previously occupied areas is dependent on the action of local organisations involved in grey squirrel control, e.g. local squirrel groups.</li> <li>- Although The LIFE funded Red Squirrels United project officially ended in October 2019, the legacy of the project has established an early warning system for Northern Ireland by the creation of many new volunteer groups across the country. As yet, there is no project lined up to follow on, but the new volunteer groups currently undertake the majority of the surveillance, rapid response and control work.</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grey squirrels are controlled to protect red squirrels and forestry</li> <li>- Support national squirrel fora and the UKRSG to promote the management of grey squirrels in existing and new ranges through encouragement of local and regional coordinated management at the landscape-scale to conserve red squirrels and to reduce damage to woodland.</li> <li>- Support the UKRSG which builds on national efforts by working across borders to provide a shared focus at N.I., G.B. and Ireland level.</li> </ul>	



- Support the UK Squirrel Accord, in their efforts towards control of grey squirrels.
- Numerous organisations have been involved in grey squirrel control including Wildlife Trusts, Country Parks, Forest Service, conservation organisations, private companies and private landowners and estates – encourage their continued involvement.
- A number of techniques are available for the removal of grey squirrels: cage-trapping and despatch (via cranial concussion, shooting, or lethal injection); spring traps; shooting (free ranging animals, drey poking and shooting, or shooting at bait stations). All methods are very labour-intensive and requires regular effort to keep a population in check. The use of Warfarin is no longer legal for squirrel control.
- Much grey squirrel control has been focussed on areas where it will directly benefit red squirrels, e.g. red squirrel reserves and buffer zones in Northern Ireland. Long-term management will continue to be undertaken, where funding allows, largely by volunteers and land managers, with support and coordination from the organisations involved.
- Guidance on the management of the grey squirrel is available on the Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/species-accounts/established/terrestrial/grey-squirrel>

### **Research**

- Effective methods for the removal of grey squirrels are available.
- Current control practices may benefit from the development of a more coordinated and collaborative strategic approach at the landscape-scale and measurement of the impacts of intervention. This approach is planned by the NI Squirrel Forum – evaluation of impacts is ongoing, although the focus is on benefits to red squirrel conservation not solely grey squirrel control.
- Currently funded research (2017) into the development and delivery of oral contraceptive for grey squirrels might result in a complementary tool to culling.
- Further improvements to techniques for grey squirrel control in areas where red squirrels are present, to prevent any impacts on non-target species.
- More research/advice would be beneficial on use of automated despatch techniques that would facilitate potential control outside red squirrel and pine marten areas.

Photos: © Dr. Jon Lees Northern Ireland Environment Agency and © GB Non-Native Species Secretariat 2018



For further information:

Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Biodiversity and Conservation Science Unit  
Klondyke Building  
Cromac Avenue  
Gasworks Business Park  
Belfast  
BT7 2JA

Tel: 028 9056 9558

Email: [invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:invasivespecies@daera-ni.gov.uk)

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)









<b>Report on</b>	Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7th December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Members about the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model and to seek any comments/amendments from Members on the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council draft response.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In Northern Ireland, district councils (DCs) are Competent Authorities responsible for verifying compliance with food law in the majority of food businesses. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for providing advice and guidance on the approach that DCs should take, and this is set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code). DCs have a duty to have regard to the provisions in the Code in relation to the delivery of Official Controls.
2.2	The Code requires regular review and revision to ensure that it reflects current priorities, policy, and legislative requirements so that DCs delivery of food control activities remain effective, consistent, and proportionate.
2.3	The FSA is required to consult on amendments to the Code before implementation. The purpose of this consultation is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the FSA's current proposals for amending the Code for Northern Ireland.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The main proposals outlined in this FSA consultation involve fundamental changes to the current Food Standards Delivery Model within the Food Law Code of Practice, and associated content. The proposals include the introduction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Food Standards Intervention Rating Scheme that officers will use to evaluate the risk posed by a food business; and</li> <li>• A new Decision Matrix to determine the frequency at which food standards official controls should be delivered in line with the outcome of the risk assessment.</li> </ul>
3.2	



	Northern Ireland Food Managers Group, which sits under Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI), has prepared a response to the FSA's consultation on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model. The regional response has been reviewed by the Environmental Health department and a Mid Ulster District Council response drafted for consideration/comments by Members.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A during this current consultation phase.
	Human: Officer time to prepare and submit a consultation response.
	Risk Management: N/A during this current consultation phase.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To give approval for the enclosed draft consultation response on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model, and to send the consultation response to the Food Standards Agency before the deadline of 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Mid Ulster District Council's proposed response to the FSA's Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model.
6.2	The full consultation packaging can be viewed at the following link:  <a href="https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/Consultation%20pack%20-%20Food%20Law%20Code%20of%20Practice%20Review%20for%20Food%20Standards%20Delivery%20Model%20%28NI%29.pdf">https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/Consultation%20pack%20-%20Food%20Law%20Code%20of%20Practice%20Review%20for%20Food%20Standards%20Delivery%20Model%20%28NI%29.pdf</a>



# Consultation response template



**Name:** Monica McDonnell

**Organisation:** Mid Ulster District Council

**Email:** Monica.McDonnell@midulstercouncil.org

**Question 1. Does the layout / presentation of the proposed revisions to the Code facilitate consistent interpretation? If not, how could they be improved?**

Mid Ulster District Council agrees that the presentation and layout of the revisions of the Code facilitate consistent interpretation.

**Question 2. Do you agree that the proposed changes to the food standards intervention rating scheme provide DCs with the ability to deploy current resources more effectively by improving the way in which the levels of risk and compliance associated with a business are assessed? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the new model which require further consideration, and why).**

Mid Ulster District Council agrees that the proposed changes to the food standards intervention rating scheme does provide District Councils with the ability to deploy current resources more effectively as the proposed matrix will enable focus on non-compliant businesses. The proposed scheme provides for a more realistic assessment of risk by assessing inherent risk and business compliance separately which provides for a more proportionate and targeted enforcement regime.

**Question 3. Do you agree that the proposed frequencies for official controls, specified in the decision matrix, within the new food standards intervention rating scheme are appropriate based on the levels of risk and compliance associated with the business? If not, please identify any concerns you have with the proposed frequencies.**

Mid Ulster District Council is of the opinion that the proposed frequency of 6 & 10 years is too long a period to leave a business uninspected as business activities could significantly change in this time. Mid Ulster District Council also believes that the priority intervention frequencies of 1 month will be onerous especially as these require an inspection, partial inspection or audit. The FLCOP should be clear if a re-score can be undertaken after assessment of the non-compliance identified in the priority intervention rather than completing a full inspection, partial inspection or audit provided other areas of the businesses activities have remained the same.

**Question 4. Do you foresee any problems with the proposals under consultation? If yes, please outline what these problems are and what, if any, solutions we should consider?**



Mid Ulster District Council foresees problems in the mapping of data for the new Food Standards model and subsequent implementation. Mid Ulster District Council is concerned regarding the mapping of data from the current scheme as some of the required fields in the risk assessment have not been scored previously in this format. Management information systems will require significant revisions; such revisions will take considerable time and verification to ensure the data has mapped correctly. Mid Ulster District Council also anticipates a large volume of premises will require an inspection in the initial period of operating the new model, which will put additional resource pressures on the Environmental Health department. Mid Ulster District Council is aware that a number of proposals such as the Scenario rule (page 91) and the additional compliance risk factor for allergen information (page 90) were not included in the pilot and therefore the impact on workload has not been assessed. Mid Ulster District Council would anticipate a significant increase in priority interventions resulting from these changes and would request that the impact of these changes is evaluated. Mid Ulster District Council also anticipates difficulties with food service planning due to the reactive nature of the new model. It will be difficult to estimate the numbers of planned interventions as a premises requiring a priority intervention may require multiple interventions in year. In addition, this will be further complicated due to the intelligence element of the model.

**Question 5. Do you agree with our assessment of the impacts on DCs and our assumptions on familiarisation resulting from the proposed changes to the Code? If not, why not?**

Mid Ulster District Council does not agree that the assessment on impacts accurately reflects the true costs of implementation of the proposed scheme. The assessment specifies FTE of 31 officers. This is a significant underestimation of officers due to the fact that officers in Northern Ireland undertake combined food hygiene and food standards work so the true number should be a combination of Food Hygiene and Food Standards FTE figures. Mid Ulster District Council does not believe that 1.7 hours per officer will be sufficient for familiarisation. The FSA should include ongoing consistency exercises during the initial role out and implementation of the revised scheme to ensure consistency in application across Northern Ireland. There is an unknown cost specified for updating of MIS and mapping data to the new model. Mid Ulster District Council anticipates that this will be a significant cost, both in terms of officer time and IT resource, and would appreciate clarification on financial support available for this.

**Question 6. Do you foresee any other impacts from the implementation of the main proposals detailed beyond those we have identified? Where possible, please explain your views and provide quantifiable evidence (for example, costs associated with updating existing procedures, the benefits of greater flexibility to allocate staff to activities).**

Mid Ulster District Council does not foresee additional impacts other than those noted in the previous question.



<b>Report on</b>	Sports Representative Grants
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Margaret McCammon Community Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present to Members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Representative Grant – Individuals (November 2022)</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.
2.2	Previously in November 2022, Members approved the recommendation for the period up to October 2022.
2.3	Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached with Appendix A for information.
3.2	Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Individual application was received during this period</li> <li>Proposal to award a total of £500 in respect of the above 2 eligible applications.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial:  The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with an annual allocation for 2022/2023 of £15,000. £1,350 was approved in May 2022, £450 in June 2022, £7,250 in September 2022, £1,775 in October leaving a balance of £4,175.



	Should the grant recommendations contained within this report be approved, £3,675 remains available to be allocated for the remainder of this financial year until March 2023.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the sports grant allocations as recommended within this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Grant recipients and amount of grant award.



**Appendix A: Grant recipients and amount of grant award.**

**Sportsperson Representative on eligible cost to a max of £250**

Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Jack	Haycock	European Indoor Senior Mens Championships	£250	1	£250
Cara	McLaughlin	European Kickboxing (WAKO) Championships	£250	1	£250
Total					<b>£500</b>

Band	Amount
1	<b>£250.00</b>
2	<b>£225.00</b>
3	<b>£200.00</b>
4	<b>£175.00</b>
5	<b>£150.00</b>







<b>Report on</b>	1. Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt 2. Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023 3. Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> The Courtyard is a large hall within the Bridewell, Magherafelt which can accommodate up to 150 seated and is hired out to the public to generate revenue income to offset running costs.
2.2	<b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023</b> The NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry has a business network with a membership circ. 1,200 businesses representing over 100,000 employees. Mid Ulster District Council has been a member for the last six years.
2.3	<b>Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23</b> Tourism NI opened for applications for their Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23 on Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November. The minimum level of support for each Council is £30K and the maximum is £80K.  The programme will be managed and coordinated by the council through an SLA with Tourism NI.



3.0

Main Report

3.1

Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt

Approval is sought to review and update room hire charges in the Courtyard Room in the Bridewell, Magherafelt to better align with other Council facilities. A proposed new room hire pricing structure is set out below for Members consideration in Table 2, which we believe remains commercially attractive to user groups.

Table 1 - Existing Room Hire Charges : Courtyard Room, Bridewell

	Hourly Charge	Half Day Charge 3.5 Hours	Full Day Charge 7 hours
Corporate Rate	£30	N/A	N/A
Community/Charity Rate	£15	N/A	N/A

Table 2 - \* Proposed New Room Hire Charges : Courtyard Room, Bridewell

	Hourly Charge	Half Day Charge 3.5 hours	Full Day Charge 7 hours	Outside Normal Opening Hours Hourly Charge
Corporate Rate	£30	£75	£150	£60
Community/Charity Rate	£15	£50	£100	£30

\*Room hire availability is during opening hours, Monday – Saturday - 10am – 5pm, closed Sundays. An option is available to book the room outside normal opening hours, as indicated above.

3.2

Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023

Membership renewal to the NI Chamber of Commerce is now due for the period January 2023 – December 2023 at a cost of £3,000 (plus vat). The benefits to Council of membership are:

- Being part of a global network, links to UK chamber and its business membership of circa 1,200 members.
- Actively represents members interests at the highest political levels
- Provides a quarterly magazine of current affairs
- Monthly newsletter update on what is happening in business in NI.
- Organises monthly business events throughout NI.

3.3

Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23

Tourism Northern Ireland’s (TNI’s) Market Led Product Development Programme launched on 11th November 2022 with a call for programme submissions sent to all Councils.



Councils that wished to make an application to the Programme were required to return their bid via the Tourism NI portal by 23 November 2022. Councils successful in being awarded funding will be notified imminently by TNI and be issued with an SLA to sign and return by the deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

TNI's overall Programme budget is circa £350K; the minimum application value per Council is £30K and maximum level is £80K. This programme is 100% funded. Expenditure paid out under the programme will be based on confirmation of programme delivery, the amount awarded in the SLA and confirmed expenditure incurred by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Payment will be in arrears for Programme activity undertaken.

The programme will not fund market collateral, events which have received or have applied for funding from TNI, business as usual activity, feasibility studies or capital projects.

Due to the extremely tight timeframes to make an application there was no time to take a paper to Committee, as the Tourism team had to act quickly in response to this unforeseen funding opportunity. As a result, Officers submitted an application to TNI on behalf of Council for the following projects.

A key factor taken into consideration when selecting projects is the fact that all expenditure is required to be incurred by 31 March 2023, therefore, officers chose projects which for the most part are Council owned facilities, to ensure delivery could be achieved within a very short window, if Council were to be successful in obtaining the funding.

Mid Ulster Council's funding bid to TNI totalled £80K, which is the maximum budget which could be applied for. This included the following projects;

- Seamus Heaney HomePlace to enhance the visitor experience following feedback from Tourism NI, to erect a moss wall with animation with new headsets. £20K
- Living History Banquet at Hill of the O'Neill inviting tour operators and visitors, showcasing the O'Neill story. To include the purchase of props and accessories to enhance the experience. £25K
- Develop video productions for OM (heritage and winter version) £10K and the purchase of new telescopes to support the new outdoor experience. £5k
- Purchase of headsets for outdoor use at experiences within the district. £10K
- Business Support to develop industry experiences. £10K



	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> Increased revenue for The Bridewell.</p> <p><b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023</b> Commit £3,000 (plus Vat) from Council's economic development budget towards Membership of NI Chamber of Commerce for 2023.</p> <p><b>Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23</b> 100% funded, no cost to Council.</p> <p>Human:</p> <p><b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> Room hire during the working day does not require additional staff, however, a member of staff will be required for evening hire.</p> <p><b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023</b> Officer Time</p> <p><b>Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23</b> Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p><b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> Council policies and procedures are adhered to in the hiring out of the Courtyard at the Bridewell</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p><b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> Providing service for local community groups and businesses in Magherafelt and the wider Mid Ulster area.</p>



<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members:-
5.1	<b>Room Hire Charges at Bridewell, Magherafelt</b> <b>Approve</b> and implement the revised room hire charges at The Courtyard in the Bridewell, Magherafelt.
5.2	<b>Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce 2023</b> Approve Corporate Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce costing £3,000+Vat for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.
5.3	<b>Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Retrospectively approve</b> Council's funding bid to Tourism NI for the 5 tourism projects listed in section 3.3.</li> <li>b. <b>Approve</b> delegated authority be granted to Council's Chief Executive, to sign and return the Service Level Agreement to Tourism NI by 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in the event that Council is successful in its funding bid.</li> </ol>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix 1 – The Bridewell - Terms and Conditions of Hire







## Appendix 1

### The Bridewell: Terms and Conditions of Hire

#### Rooms Available for Hire:

	<b>Courtyard Room (Main Hall)</b>				
<b>Maximum Capacity:</b>	150 seated				
<b>Room Hire Charge Rates:</b>	<b>* Room Hire Charges : Courtyard Room, Bridewell</b>				
		Hourly Charge	Half Day Charge 3.5 hours	Full Day Charge 7 hours	Outside Normal Opening Hours Hourly Charge
	Corporate Rate	£30	£75	£150	£60
	Community/Charity Rate	£15	£50	£100	£30
	<b>* Room hire availability is during opening hours, Monday – Saturday - 10am – 5pm, closed Sundays. An option is available to book the room outside normal opening hours, as indicated above.</b>				
<b>Facilities Available</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Round or Rectangular tables</li><li>• Chairs</li><li>• Flip chart</li><li>• 4 wall mounted multimedia TV Screens</li><li>• Projector and neutral wall suitable for data projection</li><li>• PA System</li><li>• Loop System</li></ul>				

#### 1. Applications for Hire

- All applications for the hire of rooms must be submitted in the format of a completed Hire Application Form, obtainable from the Bridewell, clearly stating the date of the event and the purpose for which the venue is required.
- On occasions where the event or performance may be deemed to be offensive in nature or deemed to be of a sensitive nature, a written request must be submitted to the [bridewell.reception@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:bridewell.reception@midulstercouncil.org) for Council approval, clearly detailing the nature of the event. Confirmation of hire will only be sent on receipt of Council approval.
- For general enquiries regarding room bookings, please contact the Bridewell; Tel: 028 7963 1510 or email [bridewell.reception@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:bridewell.reception@midulstercouncil.org)
- The Person by whom the form is signed must be over 18 years of age and shall be deemed to be the hirer ("The Hirer").

The Bridewell  
6 Church Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6AN



- A booking will only be confirmed upon receipt of a completed Hire Application Form, unless a request has been submitted to Council.
- A copy of Indemnity Insurance for cover between £5 million and £10 million depending on the activity must be provided along with the completed Application for Hire.

## **2. Cancellation of Hire By Hirer**

- Any cancellation of hire must be submitted in writing to the Bridewell as soon as possible and no later than 72 hours prior to the date and time of hire.
- Failure to give the required notice or failure to show will render the Hirer liable to full payment of the period of hire.

## **3. Cancellation of Hire by the Council**

- The Council reserves the right to cancel any room hire at any time should they require to use the premises in an emergency and without being liable to pay any form of compensation.

## **4. Damage to Premises**

- The Hirer shall not remove any of the furniture in the premises and shall not use nails, screws or other fastenings to secure items to walls, floors, ceilings, furniture.  
The hirer shall be responsible for all and any damage caused by its invitees, employees and agents to the building, furniture, fittings & apparatus of The Bridewell during period of hire.  
The amount required to make good the damage shall be at the Managers discretion. The Hirer shall be liable to pay the replacement cost of any items, which are the property of the Council, which are placed at the Bridewell, which are lost or go missing during the period of hire.
- The requested layout of the **Courtyard Room** is required by a diagram, which will be approved by the Bridewell Staff and signed by both The Bridewell Staff and the Hirer. Due to Health and Safety, the moving of large items and heavy furniture such as tables, stacks of chairs etc are prohibited.

## **5. Catering Facilities**

- No kitchen facilities are available in The Bridewell. Outside caterers can be arranged by the Hirer should tea/coffee or food be required. A list of outside caterers is available by contacting The Bridewell.

## **6. Smoking**

- The Bridewell is a No Smoking facility. All Hirers and invitees of Hirers are asked to comply with these procedures and refrain from smoking while on the premises.

**Failure to comply with the above terms and conditions could render the Hirer liable to pay a penalty. The amount payable shall be at the Manager's discretion.**



**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 10 November 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Corry, Cuddy, Doris\*  
Elattar, Kerr\*, McNamee\*, Martin\*, Milne\*, Molloy\*,  
Monteith\*, Quinn\*, Wilson

**Officers in  
Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place  
Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment  
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and  
Wellbeing  
Ms Linney\*\*, Assistant Director of Development  
Ms McKeown\*\*, Assistant Director of Economic  
Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes  
Mr Kennedy\*\*, ICT Support  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in  
Attendance**

Councillors McKinney\* and S McGuigan\*

**Deputation:**

Mr Gerry Darby, Lough Neagh Partnership

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Clarke in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D166/22 Notice of Recording**

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

**D167/22 Apologies**

None.

**D168/22 Declarations of Interest**



The Chair, Councillor Clarke reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest drawing attention in particular to agenda item on grants. He stated that if Members had already declared the interest it did not need reiterated.

*Councillor Kerr declared an interest Coalisland Community Foodbank.*

## **D169/22      Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that he had a few requests from members to raise issues under Chair's Business and invited Councillor Elattar to address the committee.

Councillor Elattar referred to the work carried out at the Plantin and Fair Hill Amenity Space in Draperstown and advised that there was still a lot more to do and when the process was started a long time ago and planning for that there was always going to be a second phase. She said that she was aware of no money being available this financial year, but more about getting a process of drawing up a design plan and having it in place to have something there if any funding become available at any time, just so it's ready to go. She said that there was still a lot to do around the paths regarding lighting, not so much around Fair Hill itself, but as part of the work has been done, it would be nice to have the rest of it completed.

Councillor Corry seconded the proposal as there were paths which were quite dangerous and falling into the river. In referring to Fair Hill advised that there was great potential at the Events Space and would agree that it wasn't too bad and more work was needed in the Plantin but would be beneficial to get a plan in place for that.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to look at drawing up a design and having it in place for the Plantin and Fair Hill, Draperstown in the event of funding becoming available at short notice.

The SD: Communities and Place said that he was aware of a recent site visit made by the Chief Executive and AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing and that this could certainly be added onto the list, but advised members the list is very long at the minute and there was a need to look at this in the context of capacity to take it forward and the resources. He said that Officers at this stage could only commit to adding it onto the list, but could not commit to a timescale in relation to when that work would commence.

Councillor Elattar said that she understood where the SD: Communities and Place was coming from and would be happy to have it on a list somewhere as it has been nearly 8 – 10 years from this was started and just wanted to make sure that the second part of this wasn't lost.

Councillor Elattar referred to the lights at Fair Hill, Draperstown and advised that they were not operational this past few weeks and was aware of work ongoing at the Plantin which possibly is the same connection, but would like to see the lights fixed again in the event of anti-social behaviour and public safety.



The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that he echoed Councillor Elattar's comments and that officers had been linking in with colleagues in Property Services team over the last few weeks. The lights at the Fair Hill are indeed on the same link as the lights around the walkway at the Plantin and advised that there was work ongoing at the moment to try and isolate the supplies and hopefully get the lights operational again at Fair Hill whilst a longer term solution is being investigated for the lights around the walkway.

Councillor Kerr raised the issue regarding flooding which has happened along Kings Row/Ardnaskea in Coalisland this last few weeks with the heavy rainfall. He raised his concern regarding this being previously promised to be resolved with the recent Public Realm Scheme and input from the Roads Service, Water Service and all the Statutory bodies. He said that unfortunately this problem still lingers and that he along with residents were frustrated that after millions of pounds was spent in Coalisland that flooding is still very problematic to the residents living on this road.

Councillor Kerr proposed to invite all the statutory bodies around the table to try and get a long term solution for the residents of Kings Row and Ardnaskea.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Doris

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that invitation be issued to all the statutory bodies asking them to come together to try and establish a long term solution for the residents of Kings Row and Ardnaskea.

Councillor Doris advised that she had received a number of complaints from parents regarding the online booking system for swimming lessons at our Leisure Centres particularly Dungannon. She said that she really did not know a huge deal about it but there was a certain time in the morning where lessons had to be booked online which caused great disappointment to parents and children. She said that pre-Covid parents queued up at Leisure Centres to make their bookings, but since then parents are complaining that this new system was not working and said that it would be important for Officers to investigate this.

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that he would be happy to provide an update to members relating to this. He said that this was reflective across the three wet sites where a significant amount of demand for swimming lessons were far in excess in what we could provide, particularly at the lower levels and entry levels. He felt that this could be a build-up of things especially due to leisure closures last year and children which would ordinarily joined the scheme at that time would probably would have exited by now, so causing the build-up. Officers are looking at ways in which this can be more efficient, as the days of people queuing up are well gone along with different methods which have been tried and tested over many years in leisure. He assured members with the online element it is on a 'first come, first served' basis and whilst there is a time that lessons get released at, it does recognise the time that people have joined the queue at. The challenge within Dungannon specifically is that this month there was only approximately 50 available spaces at the beginner level and those spaces were snapped up in a matter of minutes once they went live. The AD: Health, Leisure &



Wellbeing advised that it was something that Officers were continuously looking at and were aware of the issues and would be looking at possible solutions for future use.

## **D170/22      Deputation: Lough Neagh Partnership**

The Chair welcomed to the committee Mr Darby from Lough Neagh Partnership and invited them to address the committee. (Appendix 1)

Mr Darby outlined the basic needs of Lough Neagh:

- Major loss of habitats and species
- No navigation authority or dredger
- No links with Waterways Ireland and Cross Border Councils to access SEUPB and Shared Island Funding for Blackwater River
- Future Net Carbon Zero and Climate Needs – needs addressed
- No Interdepartmental body to manage Lough

How much additional money and assistance can the Lough Neagh Partnership bring into Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster District Council over the next 5 years (2023-2028):

- Estimated to attract new £17,380,575 of investment in Lough
- Help provide new market system and put dredger on Lough Neagh
- Lobby and co-ordinate for purchase of bed and soil of Lough Neagh
- Support new farming sector to adapt to new farm reforms and net carbon zero requirements
- Protect Lough and redress Habitat and Species loss via new SEUPB funds
- Help create new green economy business opportunities through new Shared Prosperity Fund
- Help develop Navigable rivers such as Blackwater through DFI, SEUPB and RDP
- Promote food development and food experience branding through artisans group
- Help draw up new climate change, biodiversity and carbon capture plans

The way forward: Additional Specific MUDC Services -

- Directly assist with development of MUDC Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Zero Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and Farm Economic Strategic
- Help MUDC with running events and promoting artisan food and developing tourism experiences
- LNP Identify carbon reserves in MUDC and examine carbon trading opportunities
- Examine opportunities to develop other MUDC Heritage projects at Beaghmore Tentative List and NLHF proposal, place new employees in LNP Offices.

In conclusion, Mr Darby asked members to look at the strategy and was not asking for anything to be approved tonight, but advised that the strategy was written with a bit of thought for the Council to bring value to them whilst also addressing real needs and real future needs. He hoped that within the next five years those needs will hopefully be addressed and value brought to Mid Ulster District Council and more importantly the ratepayers of this Council.



The Chair thanked Mr Darby for his impressive presentation which was very well covered and delivered and asked for members comments.

Councillor Molloy thanked Mr Darby for his presentation and advised that that he had a quick read through the documents which were issued to members yesterday. He referred to the points we all know that the Lough is multifaceted and we can no longer look at in isolation as a body of water when we take into consideration the industry around it i.e. fishing, sand extraction, water extraction, aquaculture and agriculture. There is a need to look at tourism, leisure and how we harness the attraction of the Lough for bedstays in Mid Ulster and how that feeds into our wider tourism and industry offering when people come and use the Lough and go and stay in Beaghmore, Dark Skies and other attractions within our area. He felt that it was important to develop this as it would be paramount criminal not to invest to see the payback. He said that he was aware of interest rates increasing, but when you talk about £29 for every £1 invested, it is a sign of what work has been done by the Partnership. He was aware from different aspects that Councils were always criticised due to the bureaucracy around doing things as it can be seen to be slow and going through the processes and using somebody like the Partnership to deliver on some projects and events i.e. food which was an excellent vehicle to do that and felt that there was more to be done. There is a need to work in partnership with our bordering Councils also as he heard about the Blackwater Dredging and was already aware of our own Council saying that this is not in our area or may not be, he felt that there was an onus to look past this because this unlocks massive potential up and down the Blackwater, in and out of the Lough and what this brings up in terms of river usage also. He commended the work that LNP were doing and continue to do and felt that it was important to continue to work in partnership.

Councillor Doris thanked Mr Darby for this presentation and advised that she hadn't the opportunity to go through the document in detail, but had a quick scan through it today. She referred to the issues around the Peatlands and the restoration of that lands which has been severely damaged over the years and was great to see that it was included in the document and was also absolutely brilliant to see that the school lands were being transferred to LNP. She referred to the milling which was fine, but the devastation that it has caused for the local area and the natural habitat has just been terrible over the last 10 years or so. She referred to the ownership of those lands by the Royal School and felt that this was the biggest issue as it was hard to deal with another person's land that we don't own. She said that it was great to see that the conversation has advanced in terms of acquiring the land from Shaftesbury's Estate and also great to see applications submitted for funding to do that which was very heartening. She concurred with Councillor Molloy in terms of Councils and although she agreed that the bar-mouth of the river may be in Armagh, it was effectively affecting our constituents on that side of the Lough and the potential once that it sorted out would be fantastic. It was heartening to hear that the application was submitted for the dredger and would be great to get that approved as it would make a world of difference and resolve so many issues. She said that great work has been done to places like Ballyronan which was class, also the artisan market and the transfer of school lands too. She felt the only thing which may be missing at the minute and previously there was good momentum through Stormont a little while back with John O'Dowd the last DfI Minister, which is not the case with the new Minister, but there was previously a start of movement in terms of Mr O'Dowd writing to other Ministers to try and get these interdepartmental bodies set



up in terms of the Lough. She felt that in absence of Stormont the only thing that this Council could do at the minute would be to action that the Chief Executives of the Councils surrounding Lough Neagh are contacted to arrange a conference or meet up. She said that there have been many meetings but felt that there would be merit in approaching the Chief Executives and also include any Politicians and Councillors who may want to be involved, but definitely important that Chief Executives around the Lough and representatives of Lough Neagh Partnership due to motions being good and reenergised our efforts but asked if these have been reenergised strategically and felt that this may be the thing that was missing.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that all the Chief Executives surrounding Lough Neagh and Lough Neagh Partnership arrange a meet-up to try and progress a way forward.

Councillor Kerr agreed that it was a good presentation and would fully be supportive of the efforts in which the Partnership were trying to achieve as it as the largest Lough in Ireland. He said that there was great work carried out around the Washingbay Walkway and also great work carried out around the area. In regard to dredging, he advised that a report was brought back to Council a few weeks back and now it has been decided to opt out and asked if he could elaborate why this decision was made from Maghery cut over to the Blackwater mouth for dredging and enquired if there was an options appraisal study carried out to compare both. He asked if it would be possible for Councillors who sit on the Development committee or any member interest to receive a copy of the study. From talking to local fishermen and leisure users they indicated that the Blackwater mouth needs investigated as an option and enquired who decided not to do this. He felt that every area needs to be considered regarding the dredging of the Lough due to a point he raised on a regular basis regarding Lough Neagh Rescue and the debris on the Lough preventing volunteers going as fast to the scene and a few minutes could be life changing, very damaging to health or could even lead to fatalities. He wished to reiterate the fact that dredging of the Lough was hugely important to Mid Ulster and as a strategic point to try and get to the bottom of. He said that it would be appreciated if Mr Darby or Council officials could come back to answer these queries that it would be appreciated.

Mr Darby said that to be fair Council Officials organised the meeting with representatives of ABC Council, which was held in June and was agreed to look at coming back after the summer doing those very first studies. Before anything can be done, two things needs to be looked at: No. 1 – how much sand is actually at the cut of the mouth and also at the river and there is a need to investigate both of them by an engineer to get a topographical analysis. No. 2 - to investigate the chemical analysis. Once these two bits of information is sourced then can look together at putting together a spec for the actual dredging, but unless you know how much sand you have and what is in the sand you are stumped in terms of going forward. In terms of what is on each side of the Council, all he could emphasis is that if the conclusion was to do it at the cut, then that is in ABC Council, but there was a requirement to look at the thing as a whole of the Blackwater Strategy and if anyone asked him where there would be the biggest economic beneficiary of opening up the river, he would feel that this would be Moy village as they have berthing facilities which could be expanded which could be a real tourism economic hub as we would get all the boats on Lough Neagh and River Bann to go up the river and approximately 90% sailing boats going up that river. He felt there



was need to work together and possibly look at the bigger picture and advised that he had a meeting last week with Jonathan Hayes from ABC Council and felt that once legal issues are addressed, there is real opportunities to take this forward.

Councillor Kerr enquired if the study has been carried out yet and whether no decision has been made yet about cutting open the Blackwater mouth.

Mr Darby advised that no study has been carried out yet, but it was previously agreed that a proposal be looked at sharing funding between the two Councils for these studies which didn't involve a lot of money approximately £4,000 - £5,000 at the most compared to economic opportunities it would bring.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was great to see the progress and not a lot of money involved compared to other proposals like the Ulster Canal which could be twenty times the cost. He referred to the overhead map of Lough Neagh and enquired if the blue at the bottom related to the floodplains.

Mr Darby said that these were defined by NIEA as wetlands and that the yellow part represented Peatlands Park, Derrytresk and Derrylaughan with ABC being on the opposite side. He advised that NIEA had allocated a lot of funding towards carrying out a full carbon analysis of the area which was important for the carbon future.

Councillor Clarke agreed that it as a fantastic presentation with a lot of questions being asked. He said that Lough Neagh was a pure gem with a lot of work being carried out but there was still a lot of work to be done, but there was a need to start somewhere and keep it going for years to come as the benefits of this works will show at the returns which will be got from it.

The SD: Communities and Place thanked Mr Darby for his presentation and said that it was clear that Lough Neagh was a strategic asset for Northern Ireland and indeed Mid Ulster District Council in the work we do with Lough Neagh Partnership. He referred to the final slide and stated that there was a recommendation in terms of the committee considering an uplift in the funding which was available from the Council to Lough Neagh Partnership as well as the consideration around the five year's Service Level Agreement. He advised the committee that any consideration around increase in funding was outside the financial envelope, currently available to this committee, and indicated that if members were minded, his advice would be that the additional uplift is noted and then that this is considered as part of the ongoing estimates in rates discussions for 2023/24.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and also any additional uplift to be considered as part of the ongoing rate estimates discussions for 2023/24.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D171/22 Sports Representative Grants**



The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval for sports grant allocations.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the sports grants allocations as listed in appendix A of the report.

#### **D172/22 Walk NI Consortium Proposal 2022-23**

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaign for 2022-23.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve that Mid Ulster District Council participate as a Regional Partner with the Walking NI Marketing Consortium with a contribution of £3,617.00 towards the 2022-23 campaign.

#### **D173/22 Mountain Bike NI Consortium Proposal 2022-23**

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing presented previously circulated report and sought approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2022-23.

Councillor McNamee referred to Davagh Mountain Bike Trail and said that he recalled a contractor having issues and left the contract. He enquired whether the contract was completed yet or was it still left the same way from when contractor left the site.

The AD: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing said that as this project as reported through the Environment Committee, he was aware that a paper was due to go to that committee. He said that he was unsure if a paper has been brought to Environment Committee yet but would link in with the Capital team to get an update and come back to the member.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve that Mid Ulster District Council participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £10,500 to 2022-23 campaign.

#### **D174/22 Social Inclusion – Community Wealth Building**

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report to:

- Provide an update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework for Mid Ulster District Council.



- Commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan.
- Consider and agree the proposed governance approach.
- Approve Council Officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham.

Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to propose the recommendation and was aware of this issue being talked about numerous times down the years since the Council had been established in RPA. Our social responsibilities in terms of employment and all that goes along with it, contracts and sub-contracts that we engage in, we do have to have responsibility for how we manage Council projects. He felt that it as a good start but there was still work needed to be done to broaden it out but was a good beginning.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to second the proposal and said that she agreed with Councillor Molloy and the AD: Development and her team that this was a great start to this when you look at appendix 1 with the opportunities which this presents to our communities. She referred to the 4,000 people which went into jobs to get a living wage, reduction in unemployment of 6.5%, 10% rise in 16 – 24 year olds gaining NVQ qualifications and lifted 20% out of the most deprived local authority areas and commended officers on a great piece of work.

Councillor Monteith said that it was a good idea and good to see it going forward and would not propose to go against the recommendation, but wished to put on record once again that he finds it highly ironic that an issue about social inclusion is going to be facilitated by a continued use of this organisation by d'hondt process to exclude all political opinion. He reiterated his disappointment that he and other Councillors were being excluded from the process.

Councillor Kerr said that he totally agreed with Councillor Monteith's comments as the idea of a motion was to try and enhance people's lives. He said that it would be fair to say that the two of the biggest issues which he and Councillor Monteith had mentioned over this last terms was trying to combat poverty and enhance people's lives and also found ironic an idea to try and tackle poverty which excludes Councillors which has a mandate.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to:

- 1) Note the update on progress in respect to the development of a Community Wealth Building framework
- 2) Agree to commence the development of a Community Wealth Building Plan, with support as required.
- 3) Agree the proposed governance approach
- 4) Approve Council Officer attendance at the fifth annual Community Wealth Building Summit on Friday 18 November in Birmingham, with no financial cost to Council.

5)  
**D175/22 Social Inclusion – Hardship Support**



The AD: Development presented previously circulated report to confirm the continued commitment of Council to the ongoing support with the cost of living challenges, as well as channeling any potential funding from Department for Communities, and any other sources through our already established support network.

Councillor McNamee said that he was very disappointed not to see Halo Helping Hands being included on the list. This group is based outside Cookstown and do tremendous work throughout Mid Ulster and are a major player when it comes to supporting families in need. Recent figures show that they received over 100 requests from Social Services for Christmas alone. He said that he knew that the group were assessed and was unsure how this process works and was also aware of how disappointed they are not ending up on this list and enquired if there was any way that Halo Helping Hands could be included. He referred to groups having opportunities to access but asked how they can access this.

The AD: Development said that it was about maximising resources and have been working to date with the big foodbanks which can bring in more resources over and above on what Council would be giving and not solely relying on funding. She said that the big foodbanks would support the smaller foodbanks and they would link into them, providing parcels and food support. To bring in more outside of the main towns there may be a need to look at opening up a system that would take in every community group and foodbank that were working across the district, which would be diluting the funding and not maximising it in terms of sharing it out to everyone. She reassured members that the larger foodbanks do provide to the smaller ones and everyone is working to the same ethos and the same aim. The critical thing here is that the larger foodbanks aren't precious about who allocates the parcels and one of the things we are happy to do under the number of referrals is to link them in and make sure that there is adequate provision in place to still provide for the local people to make sure no-one goes without.

Councillor Molloy said that he was aware of this Council running this funding for a few years and asked if it would be possible to get a running total as to the amount in which has been distributed throughout the District and need be brought to confidential business due to confidentiality of the groups. He said that it would be useful to generate a report to see how much has been distributed among each group to get a feel of what this Council is putting out into the community.

He said that he was aware of the larger foodbanks having the buying power, but as a Council we have significant buying power and if we were to look at some of the purchasing for all the foodbanks and distribute that, asked if there would be merit in that kind of model where we can buy and let them distribute.

The AD: Development advised that it would be difficult for Council as it would be very heavily regulated in terms of the process that would be used and we wouldn't have the processes in place where the large foodbanks have. A lot of the larger foodbanks would be working closely with the Trussell Trust who have established procedures which allows some of the bigger supermarkets who give away foods. She said that



although we were a large Council and could be looked at, we definitely wouldn't have the procedures or processes in place at the moment.

Councillor Doris in referring to Halo Helping Hands said that she has works with a lot of charities through her job and they always stood out on the work in which they done in some cases which would bring tears to a stone. She said that Social Workers also refer people to Halo Helping Hands and felt that there were really good organisations which were falling through the cracks and this was going to be a really hard Christmas for some people and the last thing we ever want to do is delay the money going out to people who really need it. She felt that there will be a pretty difficult year next year also and referred to Councillor Molloy's comments in terms of having a look down at what the different groups have got and explore if there was a way to make this process a bit more efficient. With Councillors knowledge of local groups within their areas, there would definitely be merit in Council having a separate conversation or a report being brought back on looking what has been allocated to individual groups. Unfortunately this is going to be a tough Christmas and didn't hold a lot of optimism on what next years was going to be like either.

Councillor Monteith asked where the proposal was he had made on the hardship fund specifically to this Council as this was not the report which members received tonight.

The AD: Development advised that the proposal which was being put forward was in relation to hardship support via existing networks, and was up to members to decide. She said what was being proposed by Derry & Strabane District Council is a fund allocated through their advice services for anyone in need. What we were proposing was that we have an established structure with foodbanks and support which can bring in over and above what we would be giving out -£124k. The officers thinking is if £124K is given out then this can be maximised by partners in terms of fundraising, resources and the purchasing power which they have. She said that this was not just about food, it was food, items of need, support towards oil, fuel. The people in need may be able to get more than one allocation of support and there is no set amount, this is based on what is required. However this is only a proposal for members' consideration and advised that the Derry & Strabane model was still there.

The SD: Communities and Place in response to Councillor Monteith's query and following on from what the AD: Development alluded to advised that the direction which came from the committee last month was for Officers to go away and look at the hardship fund which was being introduced by Derry & Strabane and see what this Council could do to replicate that to deliver something similar within Mid Ulster. He said that Officers had engaged with Derry & Strabane and the difference is that Derry & Strabane have went through a process where they have appointed a preferred partner who will work with them to deliver that hardship fund in terms of individual support going out to individuals within the community. Given that there was also direction from the Council to look at providing support in the here and now and given that we are in the midst of a cost of living crisis, it was felt if this Council was to go through a similar process of Derry & Strabane, then this could delay the ability to get money out onto the ground because there would be a requirement to select a preferred partner. We looked at what Partnerships and mechanisms we currently have in place to be able to distribute this additional money and also keep an eye on the fact we want to deliver the same outcomes i.e. those individuals across our communities who need support this



winter, whether this be fuel support, support around white good or other financial support in relation to utilities, that there would be structures in place within our community to go out and obtain that.

Councillor Monteith enquired if a follow could be done. He said that it was worth pointing out that if the proposal which was put through Council in May had of been followed, we wouldn't be in this predicament and if the hardship fund proposal was put together last May when members were told it couldn't be done, now see that Derry & Strabane did do it. He enquired under this proposal, was it a case that people who seek help will be guaranteed £100 - £120 towards whatever support they need on top of what is already provided through these organisations. He asked if this was guaranteed for every applicant.

The AD: Development said that no it wasn't as this was basically based on needs, i.e. if someone came in and were in crisis with oil then there would be support given for that, something similar would happen for parents in crisis seeking toys for their family, then Council would link in with Save the Children. She said that Save the Children allocations was approximately within the region of £344 as it was for a family with children. If someone just requires food parcels, the standard is usually that a food parcel would be allocated for a number of weeks for whatever crisis they are in and may get food parcels up to a value of £150 – £200, alternatively it may be a person coming in to get a one off food parcel of £50, or oil support at £100 - £150. She advised that there was no exact target set for any one person coming in.

Councillor Monteith wanted to express his disappointment as twice now a proposal has went through this Council to set up a specific hardship fund in relation to the cost of living and twice Officers have brought forward proposals which are not adhering to what Councillors had asked for. He said that he was not going to oppose what was being done as it was now in the public domain and was not trying to undermine the work that any of these organisations we are going to fund were doing as each and every one of them were doing very worthwhile work which we rightly support. However, there was major discrepancies between the value amount and how many times a person can access help from all those various organisations and there are differences even within those organisations as to how often a person can secure support geographically, there are issues in amount of support and the idea of support. He stated that he had no issues with any of those organisations as they were all doing good work, but it wasn't accurate to say that the same provision was available throughout the Council area. He felt that the process was not clear for many people out there, that if they need help with the cost of living in relation to energy bills or fuel, most people or the vast majority of people who find themselves in this situation for possibly the first time or an unexpected time of their life and never in this situation before, they do not understand or do not have any comprehension that funding or help is available through foodbanks or that help is available for fuel or energy bills through those organisations. He said that the Council were working through Charities and some people do not feel comfortable approaching Charities as they feel they are taking money from someone else and this was the whole rationale for setting up a fund from the Council so people would feel a bit more comfortable rather than feeling they were taking money from someone else who they believed were in worse off need. He stated that he had said his piece and tried this twice and obviously Officers were not prepared to go down this road and was



happy to see the work Council were doing, but there were many people out there who were not aware and would not be aware of any specific help the Council were doing.

The AD: Development said that she was aware that she couldn't elevate all the concerns but referred to a few of the issues that possibly could be done in relation to funding. She advised that funding was coming from Council so stipulations can be put on it in relation to flexibility of what it could be used for, what level of support people can get in monetary terms, and then Officers can do PR work to let people know that this support is there. Officers have been working to ensure that all of the support services are centrally located in towns to ensure accessible for people to walk to and open to people without having to make appointments etc. to ensure there is as little stigma as possible for people in crisis who are seeking food etc.

Councillor Kerr said that he welcomed the significant amount of money being spent to try and tackle the cost of living crisis and for residents who find themselves on uncharted waters and for people on lower and social economical areas, but concurred with comments made by Councillor Monteith. He said what was originally suggested back in the summertime and last month was a model and as Derry & Strabane did not have any kind of mechanism, it was a wait and see approach from ourselves in Mid Ulster and then Derry & Strabane put together a scheme for people to apply. He personally felt that the model was probably something that Mid Ulster should have imitated as it provided people with a lot more discretion for applying and he also noted that people who were higher up the income scale could apply and who better to know how to spend a professional grant than the individual themselves. Whilst, he does welcome some of the areas of the report, he was just disappointed that this Council did not follow the Derry & Strabane model and although he was not going to oppose the report, felt that the money needed to get out as soon as possible and that Derry & Strabane model was the better path to follow.

Councillor Burton referred to the 11 crisis strategic support groups, with 5 main and Clogher Valley. She sought clarification regarding Clogher Valley on whether this was one main group as there were a number of groups set up during Covid and said that it would be useful to have this information forwarded to members after tonight's meeting so Councillors of the area know exactly where to refer people to. She felt that it was very important that this support was allocated in an equal playing field and as previously referenced, there were people who will not be aware of it and would be doubly sure that there will be rural people who will have no idea that there is that support for them. She said that it was usually the older people who will wait and think that somebody else is more in need than they are and quite often this isn't the case. She felt that this money at the end of the day basically was for people at crisis point or real need and was aware of times where people have went to foodbanks and almost chose out of the box what they take home with them and didn't think that this was a sensible way for this as it was a crisis trying to support people that need to eat that day. She felt that it was important to know exactly what the criteria is here and who will benefit and that there is no way that this can be exploited as there was an onus on Council to really help people who need it the most. She said that she would like clarification relating to Clogher Valley.

The AD: Development advised that she would follow up with everyone regarding the main foodbank groups. She confirmed that the groups in the Clogher valley as she



referenced early work in partnership and the main group takes the lead. She advised members that she would share all the details with them.

Councillor Burton in following up enquired if there would be criteria or who would benefit from it.

The AD: Development said that one thing that could be done would be having it very flexible to need and given the crisis at the moment, most of the agencies that have been supporting people have uplifted their contribution. In relation to this, one of the things Council could say would be allocations in the region of £100 - £150 to help people in crisis. In the past Council and DFC funding which was crisis support linked to the Trussell Trust which aims for support for a set period of for a period to allow the funding to go as far as possible, however Foodbanks/SVP's use their own funding to support those that may need help over a long period of time and are more reliant. She advised that Officers rely on foodbanks to set the criteria to allow for flexibility for someone in crisis and not to have them fill in too much detail or create a stigma where they feel they have to beg for food and support. One thing about the criteria set by Derry & Strabane is that it is so wide and flexible. If members are hearing any issues of people being turned away or any issues in which people are experiencing, definitely feed them into Council.

Councillor McNamee referred to the issue of Halo Helping Hands and advised that the AD: Development had indicated that if a group was coming under pressure with the number of referrals that the larger groups would step in and help them out and asked if she was confident that this would happen.

The AD: Development advised that Council has a network set up where all the foodbanks help each other so there would be no problem if there was a number of referrals who they wish to do themselves or refer the other person in, you will find that the foodbanks just want that person supported. She said that there were a number of foodbanks set up across the District that link and Council seeks to support this networking and will link with Halo regarding their referrals. She stated it was not just Cookstown support but Magherafelt and Dungannon also, for example The Vineyard in Dungannon issues over 500 food parcels at Christmas but they deliver them through a range of partners and charities, it is found to be very open and inclusive. If members feel that there is something happening to the contrary to let Officers know.

Councillor Wilson said that no matter what was going to be produced, it wasn't going to be perfect and by listening to some comments made tonight, he felt it was a fair and a good attempt to try and get money out to those people most in need and would be happy to support the proposal. He said the only concern he would have would be under the Community Halls funding where it mentions Sports Hall and felt that this was not necessary. He felt that Sports Halls and sports people can apply for grants under the Sports Grant Awards and would like to see the word 'Sports' removed.

The AD: Development said that the only difficulty would be is that Council were going to try and uplift the grant allocation that we allocate next year and it was proposed to do a Venues and Facilities Grant amalgamated so it would be difficult to pull the sports facilities and venues out of this support. All groups would receive support either community, arts, heritage, sporting.



Councillor Wilson said he understood where the AD: Development was coming from but when a hardship funding grant is being proposed and the word 'Sports Hall' is mentioned it didn't look appropriate, Community Hall most certainly as it's utilised by people who need it.

The AD: Development said that this could be aligned to the decision on the grants as it would be hard to have one fund for Venues and Facilities across a range of community needs and then identify one grouping not to receive when they are all facing the same overhead community pressures. She said that she was conscious of selecting one group over another indicating that one group where in need and the other where not; it would be very difficult for officers to separate them.

Councillor Wilson said that he appreciated where the AD: Development was coming from but when you are doing a hardship fund and funding proposed it may not look good to mention a Sports Hall. He felt that the money has to be allocated and was not raising any objections but more about the optics of it, but agreed that it was a great attempt and congratulated everyone involved.

The SD: Communities and Place wished to clarify on concern raised regarding Sports facilities, as previously stated by the AD: Development, Council provide grants to a range of community facilities as well as a range of sporting facilities to support their programmes, but also with costs associated with running the building. In recognising across the District there may be some sports facilities which may be utilised for community activity throughout the winter months to support individuals who may be impacted by the cost of living crisis and this was why sports facilities were included in this stage, it's not an additional cost for their programming, it's an additional support around some of the pressures they are facing around cost of living relating to energy and utilities.

Councillor Ashton said that there was a comment referred to regarding Derry & Strabane option that went through their Council and the line that our Officers had taken. She said that too be fair to the Officers and she referred back to June Development Committee minutes, she felt that what the AD: Development had actually presented here tonight is what the members had requested her to present. At that meeting members noted the very in-depth report which was brought forward regarding Derry & Strabane, we agreed that Council provide ongoing support through already strategic networks which she believed what has been proposed here tonight and that any funding allocation in the Department continues to be channeled through the Strategic Network Partners. She felt that it was important to give Officers their dues what they presented was what Councillors asked them to do.

Councillor Corry said that she was aware of some foodbanks providing vouchers which allowed people to go in and get what they want rather than being handed a food parcel. She referred to some foodbanks who are doing these vouchers and asked what would happen if a partner had an addiction and spending the vouchers on alcohol or whatever it was and leaving a family without food and enquired if there was anything that could be done to investigate that.



The AD: Development said that this was always a difficult one and if people in the foodbanks who may not be aware of the background and so forth, it's like the overall 80/20 rule, where most people have genuine need. She said that this was hard to monitor and if you start to over monitor the process, it could then impact on others, who may then not access support. If having to provide too much specific detail may leave people feeling they have to beg for food or support. It is appreciated that this is a very difficult issue, however the foodbanks/SVP seek to manage as far as possible.

Councillor Corry said that she welcomed this as there could be situations where there is domestic abuse within a household and families left without any food.

Councillor McKinney would like to thank Officers for all their hard work. He said that he had an opportunity to visit a lot of these foodbanks from Clogher to Dungannon, right up to his own area. He referred to Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who were involved with Council and came and done a presentation and asked if there was an opportunity to include a support person within the area for a lot of people in the event of money disappearing resulting in a shortage of food. He said that when speaking to these foodbanks they are indicating that they are under extreme pressure at the minute and wished to thank the AD: Development and her team for their efforts. He enquired if there was anything that members could do to offer support i.e. support worker to help people to try and manage better on perceived circumstances. He referred to the excellent presentation which CAP provided but felt that there was only so many places they could be at the one time whilst facing these difficult times.

The AD: Development advised that Council works closely with CAP and they link to the foodbanks. She concurred with Councillor McKinney's comment regarding the importance of CAP, as some people just need general debt management guidance which is available through the Mid Ulster Advice Service whilst others need the actual debt managed on their behalf which is the CAP programme. She agreed this was something Council needed to promote more along with the advice service debt management, one providing advice and one to manage the debt where required. She stated that the CAP programme whilst they did have a strong backing in relation to the wider CAP UK programme, they did have limited people resources re managing referrals on the ground. She said that Officers would speak to them again to see where support can be offered and to maximise their services as best as possible.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the following allocations for the additional **£157,195** to support individuals and groups with the ongoing cost of living pressures:

- (i) **£7,195** to Save the Children, with match funding from both Health Trusts and Save the Children with a total investment of £28,780, to allow for continued delivery of the 'Families in Crisis' programme until end of March 2023.



- (ii) **£90,000** to Councils current model of crisis intervention, via the 11 strategic crisis support groups of foodbanks and SVP partners operating across 5 main towns and Clogher Valley. Funding will be allocated as per the 3 main towns (Magherafelt, Cookstown & Dungannon) £20,000 each and 2 small towns (Maghera & Coalisland) and Clogher Valley area of £10,000 each.
- (iii) **£60,000** to provide up to a £500 uplift to the Community (and Sports) venues and facilities to help alleviate the unprecedented financial burdens placed on them as a result of the current energy and cost of living crisis

## **D176/22      Development Report**

The AD: Development presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approval on the following:

- **Rolling Community Grants Programme 2022 - 2023**
- **Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 - 2024**
- **Development Department Update**

It was

Proposed by Corry  
Seconded by Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the following:

- **Rolling Community Grants 2022-23**

Councillor Ashton sought clarification point 7 of report regarding the strategic grants 2 year rolling, referred to strategic events and i.e. a person applies this year for next year's event, what happens if the strategic event then comes in year, is this rolling or is only going to be open for 2 years now and can't apply next year or how was it actually going to roll out.

The AD: Development advised that any new events could still apply each year. The strategic events whilst they mostly remain the same each year, still have the opportunity to resubmit an application or new groups can apply. She said that each year if there is pressures in one area of grants and less pressures on another, Officers would propose to Committee to offset this and this is further supported by some being rolling grants. For example if there was a pressure on the strategic events side in year 2, members would have the proviso to offset that with the community festival funding.

Councillor Ashton referred to Grant Allocations particularly the ineligible application enquired what was the reasoning and downfall on this application.

The AD: Development advised that she was unable to provide an explanation as she did not have the exact details in front of her tonight but would provide member with an update.



**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Community Festival & Good Relations grants as outlined in appendix 1 of the Officers report.

- **Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 – 2024**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Community Grants Review and Policy 2023 – 2024.

- **Development Department Update**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note update from the Development Department.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D177/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 October 2022**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 October 2022.

Councillor Kerr referred to D157/22 and enquired if there was any further update on Cappagh Initiative.

The SD: Communities and Place advised that there was no further update from the last meeting i.e. Altmore/Cappagh Project, with Officers working towards the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Councillor Kerr referred Gortgonis Leisure Project and asked if there was any update.

The SD: Communities and Place advised that a report was brought to Policy & Resources Committee meeting last Thursday.

### **D178/22 The Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments in Northern Ireland**

Members noted update to inform of the Health Minister's response to Council's request for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland.

### **D179/22 Leisure Participation**

Members noted update on the progress and the continuation of the Active Recreation Plan which encompasses the Active Leisure Programme and Summer Programmes:

- Active Leisure Programmes September 2022 – March 2023
- Summer Programme July – August 2022

### **D180/22 Economic Development Report – OBFI**



Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the following:

- Christmas 2022 Town Activities
- ICBAN Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April – Sept 2022)
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14 -18 Nov 2022)
- Tourism Autumn Campaign 2022
- Hidden Heritage
- Sperrins Hillwalking Programme
- Outline Business Case: Future Proposals for Council-led Entrepreneurship Support Services

*Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.40 pm.*

*Live broadcast ended at 8.41 pm.*

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D162/22 to D164/22.

### **Matters for Decision**

D181/22 The Registration of a Society Under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

### **Matters for Information**

D182/22 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 October 2022

D183/22 Economic Development Report – November 2022 - CBF

### **D184/22 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.45 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.





LOUGH NEAGH  
PARTNERSHIP

PRESENTATION  
MUDC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

LNP STRATEGIC PLAN  
2023 -2028

10 NOV 2022

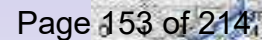
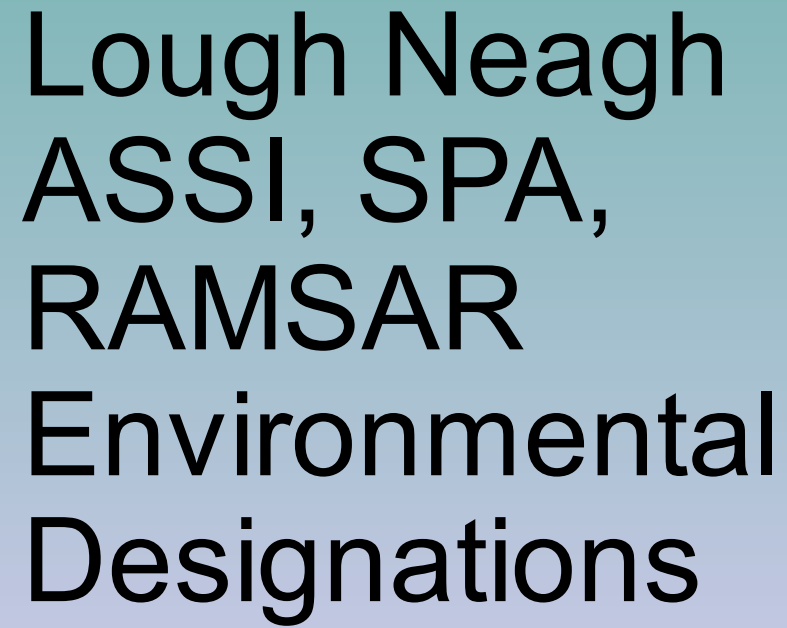


# ○ **Basic Needs of Lough Neagh**

- Major loss of habitats and species
- No Navigation Authority or Dredger
- No links with Waterways Ireland and Cross Border Councils to access SEUPB and Shared Island Funding for Blackwater River
- Future Net Carbon Zero and Climate Needs need addressed
- No Interdepartmental body to manage Lough











So How Much Money has the  
Lough Neagh Partnership  
Brought into Lough Neagh  
and MUDC over last 5 years ?  
(2016 – 2021)






Programmes	Grant Assistance	Total incl Matched Investment	Total incl Matched and Levered Funds
Lough Neagh Environment Protection	£429, 439.	£580,250	£614,750
Lough Neagh Landscape Scheme	£2,494,900	£3,536,556	£4,344,451
Waterpro Water Quality	£179,600	£179,600	£179,600
2 Environmental Farm Schemes	£401,899	£401,899	£4,962,718



Programmes	Grant Assistance	Total incl Matched Investment	Total incl Matched and Levered Funds
Lough Neagh Artisan Food Programme	£29,550	£35,000	£35,000
Coalisland Industrial Heritage Project	£312,151	£344,151	£400,496
Marketing  Grants for 3 festivals 32 Tour promotions )	£30, 234	£41, 654	£78,404
Community Renewal Fund	£210,000	£210,000	£210,000
TOTAL	Every £1 spent in MUDC, approx £28.5 returned <div>Page 156 of 214</div>		£10,825,419.00 in Lough Neagh



- So How Much Additional Money and Assistance can the Lough Neagh Partnership Bring into Lough Neagh and Mid Ulster District Council over the next 5 years (2023 - 2028)

See Lough Neagh Strategic Plan 



○ Estimated to attract new £17,380,575 of investment in Lough

Help provide new marker system and put dredger on Lough neagh

Help set up a new interdepartmental management structure for Lough

Lobby and co ordinate for purchase of bed and soil of Lough Neagh

Support new farming sector to adapt to new farm reforms and net carbon zero requirements





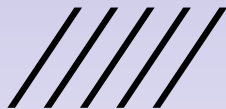
- • Protect Lough and redress Habitat and Species loss via new SEUPB funds
- Help create new green economy business opportunities through new Shared Prosperity Fund
- Help develop Navigable rivers such as Blackwater through DFI SEUPB and RDP
- Promote food development and food experience branding through artisans group
- Help draw up new climate change, biodiversity and carbon capture plans.













# Killycolpy NIEA Reserves

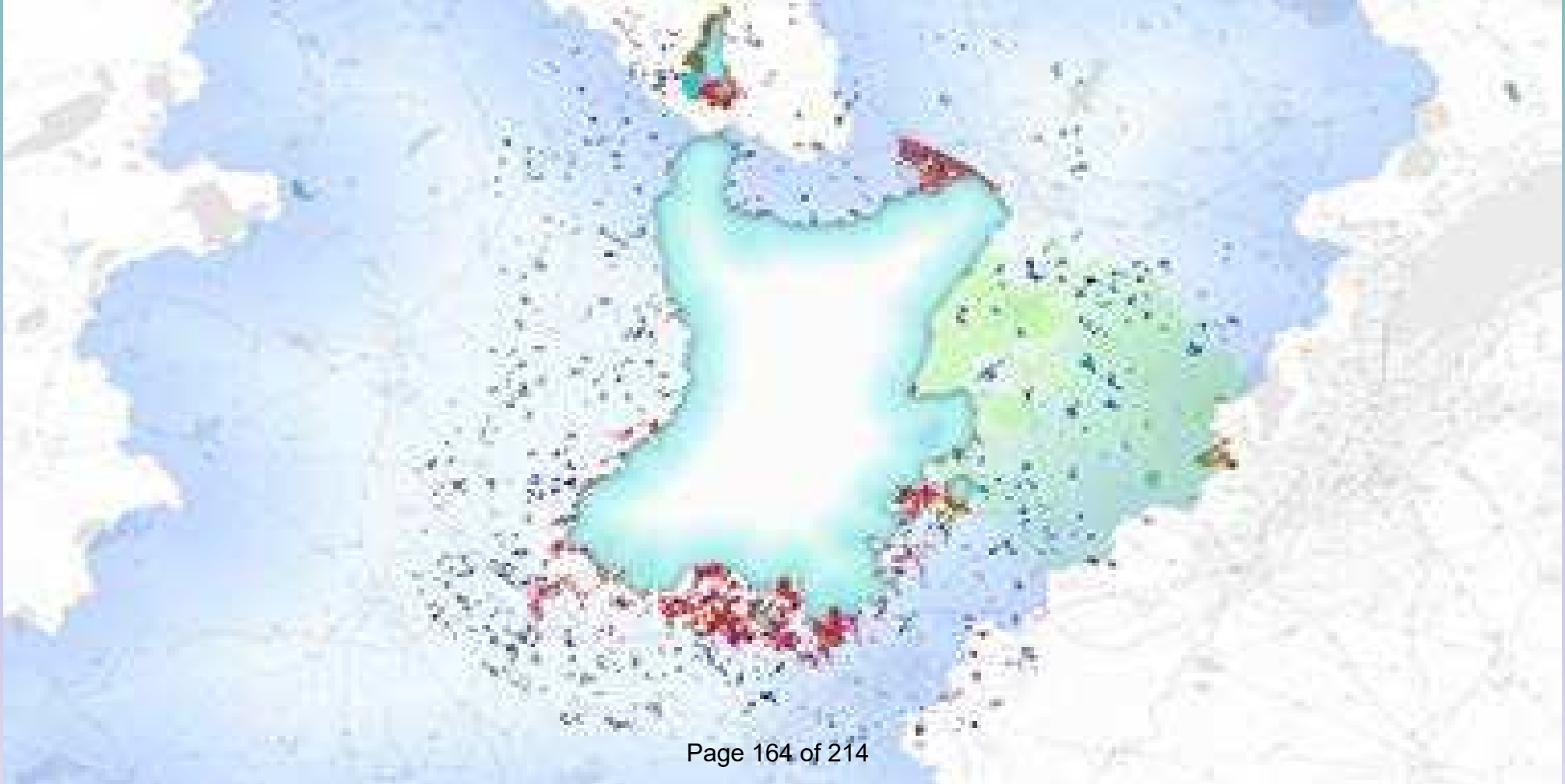








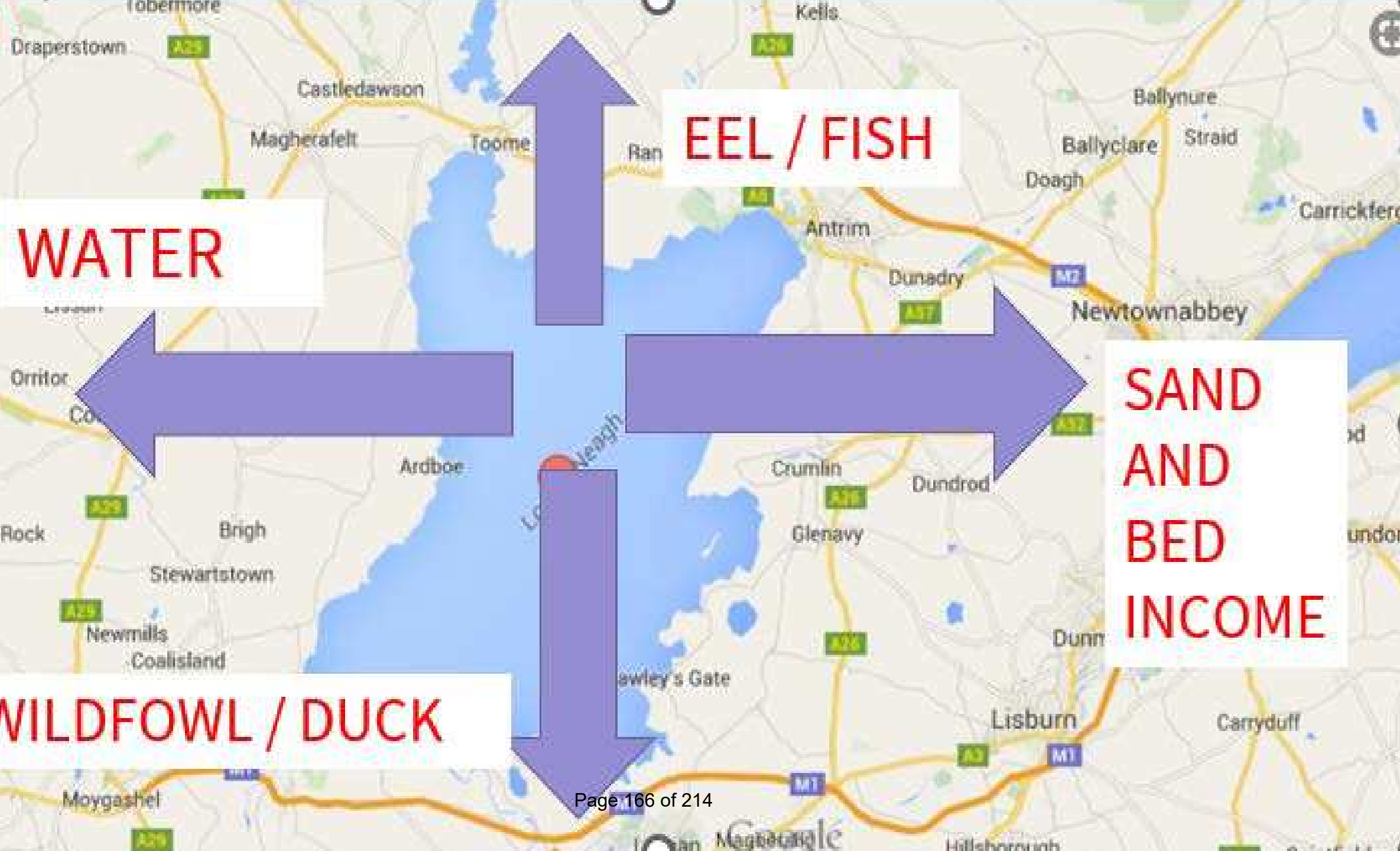
- Map of Farms covered in Environmental Group Farm Scheme around Lough Neagh











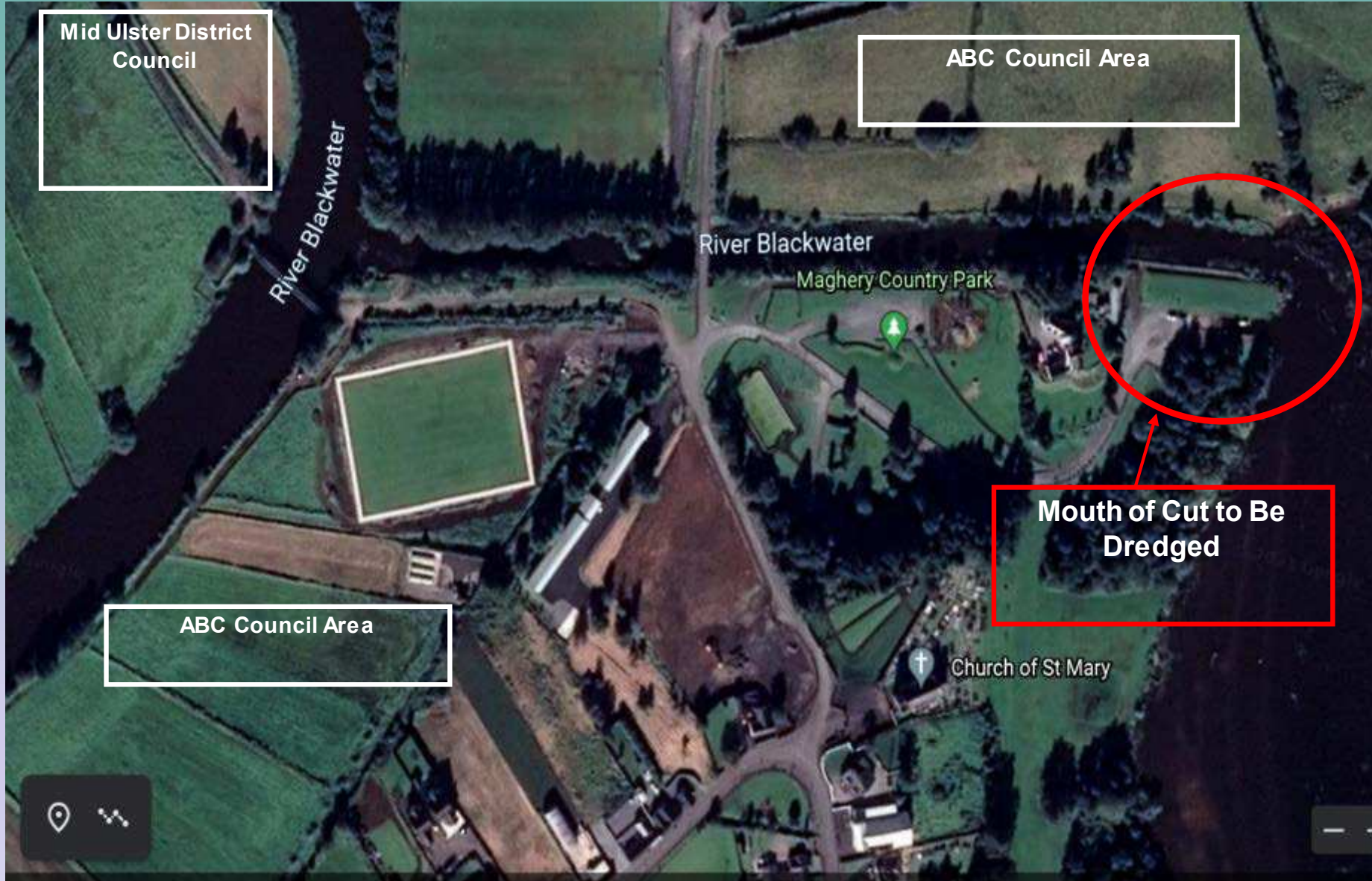
WATER

EEL / FISH

SAND  
AND  
BED  
INCOME

WILDFOWL / DUCK















# ○ Financial Sustainability of Partnership

- LNP Core funding £22,000 from 3 large Councils
- LNP had legacy funds from Heritage Lottery Fund but finishes in Mar 2023
- Benchmark for other Other Councils Funding NGOs

Mournes Heritage Trust by NMDC: £300,000 per annum

Ring of Gullion Heritage Trust by NMDDC: £143,500,  
by ANDBC £24,500 per annum

Belfast Hills Partnership by BCC: £28,000 per annum

LNP request for £49,378 per annum





# ○ Financial way Forward Way forward

- Realise financial pressures on Councils
- Not a begging bowl request or request for assistance for the same old thing
- Rather have 5 year SLA **reviewed** every year with targets for new MUDC service delivery and bringing in additional funding and value to rate payers
- Target and help provide new **Services to MUDC** not just Lough Neagh Core
- New Stronger integrated relationship with **Council using more expertise of Partnership** to develop new opportunities and needs of Council





# The Way Forward : Additional New Specific MUDC Services on Top of Core whole Lough Neagh

- LNP help with making applications and business proposals with MUDC for Lough capital projects
  - Tradd Point, Blackwater River, River Bann access
- Directly manage Derrytresk/DerryLoughan Bog, Killyhoulihan/Killykolpy and examine other sites in MUDC ownership for Biodiversity management and peatland restoration to manage
- Carry out Environmental Impact Assessments for 75 Fishermen Quays and 3 River mouths





# The Way Forward : Additional Specific MUDC Services

- Directly assist with development of MUDC Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Zero Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and Farm Economic. Strategic
- Help MUDC with running events and promoting artisan food and developing tourism experiences
- LNP Identify carbon reserves in MUDC and examine carbon trading opportunities
- Examine opportunities to develop other MUDC Heritage projects eg Beagh more Tentative List and NLHF proposal, place new employees in LNP offices





# ○ Conclusion

- The Lough Neagh Strategic Plan and its recommendations be approved by MUDC Dev Committee and Council and used as a working tool for the next five years for benefit of Lough Neagh, MUDC and ratepayers





Thanks to MUDC  
for all their help  
and support to  
date









<b>Report on</b>	Leisure Disability Provision and Swimming Lesson Pilot
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7th December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Sean Cavlin, Leisure Business Development Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the current provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs and additionally on the progress of establishing a pilot programme offering swimming lessons to those with additional needs and requiring assistance to participate in water-based activities.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in October 2022, Members resolved to approve that a report be brought to a future committee meeting <i>"on what provision can be provided within our swimming pools and leisure centres for disabled persons"</i> and the discussion also focused on issues being raised about swimming lessons for those that need additional assistance.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Appendix A details existing provision within Councils leisure centres for those with additional needs along with programmes that focuses specifically on Inclusive Coordination.
3.2	Officers have also been exploring options for the issues being raised about swimming lessons for those that need additional assistance.
3.3	Teaching swimming to those with additional needs requires specialist skills, therefore Officers have proposed a pilot programme within Dungannon Leisure Centre and depending on the outcome, the intention would be to review the delivery model and where possible seek to also implement within Cookstown Leisure Centre and Greenvale Leisure Centre. Officers made an approach to Special Olympics Dungannon who are a specialist swimming club based in Dungannon Leisure Centre and have both experienced and appropriately qualified swimming instructors.
3.4	Discussions have taken place with representatives of Special Olympics Dungannon and a proposal presented. The proposal is to offer a pilot 12-week swimming programme commencing January 2023 and running until March 23, initially targeting younger children.
3.5	Based in Dungannon Leisure Centre, the pilot programme is not seen as a replacement for Special Olympics activities nor School Swimming programmes but as additional opportunity for those that require additional assistance to take part in water-based activity.
3.6	



3.7	Experienced coaches from Special Olympics Dungannon have agreed to lead the 12-week programme and Special Olympics Dungannon will invoice Council for their services.
3.8	The Participation Unit within the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Department will fund the pilot programme from within existing revenue budgets.
3.9	Consideration will need to be given to budgetary support in sustaining and possibly expanding these activities to facilities in other District locations. A year long programme at a single centre organised in a similar fashion to centre bases swimming lessons could cost in the region of £1,500 per year in coaching costs (4 X 12-week sessions X £30 per hour).  The cost to access the 12-week programme would be £37.50 (as this meets the eligibility for Council's policy of 50% concession for specific groupings) and under advisement there would be 6 spaces available, and it is intended to advertise these spaces during December and would be filled on a first come first served basis. Should demand exceed supply, Officers will keep this under review and assess what other options/capacity are available at that point.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Pilot programme to be funded by existing revenue budgets for 2022/2023.  Total Income (Fee x Max Participants)      £37.50 x 6 = £225.00 Total Expenditure (Coaching Cost x Weeks) £30.00 x 12 = £360.00 Net Cost to Operate      = - £135.00  Achieving 85% occupancy Net Cost to Operate      = - £172.50
	Human: Officers time to co-ordinate and manage the planned programme. Delivered within existing resources at facility with support from specialised external coaches. (Costs of which can be derived via existing revenue budgets for 2022/2023)
	Risk Management: Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A – Provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs.



## Appendix A – Provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs.

### (1) Memberships and General Admission Pricing

Members approved the updated Leisure Pricing for the period April 2022 to March 2023. Itemised within this pricing document was all the areas that concession pricing is applicable. Reduced rates are available to those living with a disability under the MUDC Leisure Departments priority scheme, prices dependant on chosen activity and a carer is free.

This builds upon previous Council decisions, specifically January 2015, where Members approved the leisure approach to groupings that would be eligible for concession pricing (50% discount) along with the mechanism for promotional pricing (based on market conditions):

- *Priority Groups: 50% discount - Senior Citizens: 65 plus, Junior: Under 18*
- *Student: Full Time Students, People with disabilities: People with disabilities as described in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.*
- *Management have the discretion (agreed by the Director) to apply discounted pricing packages, varied times and activities in order to market less attractive facilities, low usage periods and to promote Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing initiatives.*

### (2) Planned Activity within Mid Ulster District Council Leisure Facilities September 2022 – 31st March 2023

All activities including dates/times/booking/payment arrangements to be advertised via social media, website and also within leisure facilities.

Inclusive Coordination			
Activity	Target Group	Location	Session
<b>Autism Club:</b>	6yrs-18yrs	DLC GLC MLC MUSA	Sept 2022 - April 2023 (26 sessions)
Locations x 4 1 x hour session, 1 x day per week, max numbers anticipated per session: 10 A multi activity club focusing on facilitating primary school aged children with Autism to do things at their own pace, and for parents to get information and support.			
<b>Disability Hub:</b>	6yrs-18yrs 18-64	MUSA	Sept 2022 - April 2023 (26 sessions) weekend
Locations x 1 1 x hour session, 1 x day per week, max numbers anticipated per session: 10 A multi activity session for adults and or children using the inclusive sports equipment			
<b>Quiet Swims Sessions</b>	All ages	CLC DLC GLC	Sept 2022 - April 2023 (26 sessions) weekend
Locations x 3 1 x hour session, a range of lunch, afternoon and evening session per week Quiet sessions focusing on the neurodiversity needs of swimmers			



### **(3) Additional Leisure Service Facilities and Programmes**

#### **Pool Pod**

Two facilities, Greenvale LC & Cookstown LC have pool pods which allow access to swimming pools for those that find traditional steps difficult. At present pool pods are only available for deck level pools (therefore this unfortunately means Dungannon LC cannot avail of installation) but its Officers understanding that design modifications are nearly completed for a pool pod which will be capable of being used on pools with scum channels. An additional pool pod for Greenvale LC (as a result of DfC Access & Inclusion funding) was installed earlier in 2022 bringing the total number to two pods in Greenvale and three overall in the District (including Cookstown).

#### **Sign Video**

During 2021, Council implemented a pilot for Sign Video at various Council facilities. This is a service which seeks to benefit our customers who are deaf or are hard of hearing. This service seeks to provide instant access to a Sign Language Interpreter for customers who use British Sign Language (BSL). The service also caters for Irish Sign Language (ISL) users on a request basis. The service is free from users' own home, as well as being simple, fast and secure. The service currently gives users access to an online BSL interpreter at the following leisure venues, Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm:

- Cookstown Leisure Centre
- Mid Ulster Sports Arena
- Dungannon Leisure Centre
- Greenvale Leisure Centre
- <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/your-council/equality/sign-video>

#### **Disability Sports Hub**

Previously in September 2017, Members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Development Plan for a partnership with Disability Sport NI on the provision of a Disability Sports Hub based at Mid Ulster Sports Arena. This initiative seeks to encourage and support people with disabilities to participate in sport and active recreation through the Disability Sports Hub and Disability Sport NI funded equipment to the value of £45,500 for the project along with providing bespoke training on use of the equipment. This equipment includes tandem cycles, tricycles, hand cycles and sport wheelchairs. Activities include inclusive cycling and the establishment of a junior Paralympic club. Whilst the initial two-year partnership approach which includes a funded Disability Hub Activity Coordinator has ended, Council Officers are continuing to ensure the legacy of this arrangement along with the use of the equipment is maximised to its full potential where possible as part of the new pilot active recreation plan.



## GOGA

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) is an exciting programme that supports disabled and non-disabled people to enjoy being active together and is delivered by 1 x co-ordinator for the Mid Ulster District Council area. Funded by Spirit of 2012, all partners are focused on getting some of the UK's least active people moving more through fun and inclusive activities.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	<p><b>Group:</b> Over 50s Zoom</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Fitness</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly</p> <p><b>Group:</b> Volunteer Centre – Carefully Yours Group Over 60s</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Chairbased Exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly</p>	<p><b>Group:</b> Over 50's Circuits</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Dungannon LC</p>	<p><b>Group:</b> BuggyFit (Partnership with Surestart)</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Circuits for post partum</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly (6 week blocks)</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Dungannon LC</p> <p><b>Group:</b> Lissan House Elderly Group</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly in New Year</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Lissan House</p>	<p><b>Group:</b> Mental Health Group</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Dance/ Chairbased Activity</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Ongoing</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Volunteer Centre Magherafelt</p>	
	<p><b>Group:</b> Happy Mondays (Learning Disability Group)</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Dance/exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly Group</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Tamnamore Community</p>	<p><b>Group:</b> MenCap Group</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Sport/exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly Group</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Dungannon LC</p> <p><b>Group:</b> Castlecaufield Parish Group Over 60s</p> <p><b>Activity:</b></p>	<p><b>Group:</b> Wheelie Active (Children with Physical Activities)</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Multi-skills</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Ongoing</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Moneymore Rec</p>	<p><b>Group:</b> Volunteer Centre – Carefully Yours Group Over 60s</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Chairbased Exercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Weekly</p> <p><b>Group:</b> Nordic Walking</p> <p><b>Activity:</b></p>	<p><b>Group:</b> Mental Health Group</p> <p><b>Activity:</b> Pilates/boxercise</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> Ongoing</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Niamh Louise Foundation</p>



		Chairbased Exercise <b>Dates:</b> Commencing in New Year		Pole Walking <b>Dates:</b> New Day for January <b>Venue:</b> Changing every 6 weeks	
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## Swimming Lessons

Special Schools within the District are participants in the School Swimming Programme hosted in Dungannon LC and Greenvale LC which includes hydrotherapy sessions. Learning Support Units in many Primary and Post Primary Schools attend the School Swimming Programme in Cookstown, Dungannon and Greenvale Leisure Centres.

**Physical Activity Referral Scheme** (rolling annual programme subject to recurring funding from the Public Health Agency)

Selection Criteria -

Anyone aged 16 and over who currently has one or more of the following conditions:

- high blood pressure
- controlled diabetes or a strong family history of diabetes
- heart disease or risk factors associated with coronary heart disease
- anxiety, stress, depression and controlled mental health problems
- overweight or obese
- well-controlled lung problems such as asthma, bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- mild to moderate joint problems such as osteoporosis
- another condition that does not prevent you taking part in physical activity

Referral Pathway:

Via GP or health care professional who will assess suitability and will complete a referral form and send it to a leisure centre. The leisure centre will then contact you to make your first appointment.

PARS Coordinator based in Dungannon and Maghera Leisure centres.

Each participant is eligible for discounted leisure centre membership upon conclusion of their 12-week programme.

Physical Activity Referral Programme	Monday 9-5	Tuesday 7-3	Wednesday 9-5	Thursday 7-3	Friday 9-4.30
	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-4.30

## Macmillan Move More NI

Move More programme is funded until March 2024. Embedding personalised, early-intervention support into an integrated pathway for adults diagnosed with cancer in



Northern Ireland. Working in partnership with physical activity providers, local councils and health and social care trusts all over Northern Ireland to provide the support that people living with cancer need to improve their fitness.

Each participant is eligible for discounted leisure centre membership upon conclusion of their 12-week programme.

	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Cookstown LC</b>	<b>Greenvale LC</b>	<b>Macmillan/trust meetings/Client consultations</b>	<b>Dungannon LC</b>	<b>Dungannon LC</b>
<b>1.Spin</b> <b>2.Cancer Rehab</b>	9.30am 10.00am	Consultations		Consultations	Consultations
<b>1.Spin</b> <b>2.Pilates</b> <b>3.Open Gym</b>	Consultations	9.30am  10.30am		Consultations	Consultations
<b>1.Open Gym</b> <b>2.Cancer Rehab</b>	Consultations	Consultations		10.00am	Consultations
<b>1.Open Gym</b> <b>2.Pilates</b>	Consultations	Consultations		Consultations	9.30am 10.00am
<b>Pre-Hab</b>	1-1	1-1		1-1 x2	1-1 x2
<b>Outdoor walks-MUDC</b>	1.00pm	Consultations		Consultations	Consultations

#### (4) Leisure Facility Developments

Over the past three years, Mid Ulster District Council has benefited from DfC's Access and Inclusion Grant:

- Automatic doors and shutters installation at Mid Ulster Sports Arena (2019/2020)
- Aquatic wheelchairs at various sites (2019/2020)
- Changing Places installation at Dungannon Leisure Centre (2020/2021)
- Changing Places installation at Mid Ulster Sports Arena (2020/2021)
- Hi-Riser Benches installations at Dungannon, Cookstown and Maghera leisure centres. (2020/2021)
- Pool Pod system installation at Greenvale Leisure Centre (pending 2021/2022)
- Hearing Loop Systems installation at Dungannon LC, Cookstown LC, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Moneymore Recreation Centre, Greenvale LC, Meadowbank Sports Arena, Maghera LC (2021/2022)
- Automatic door installations at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Maghera LC, Cookstown LC, Greenvale LC, Tobermore Golf Centre (2021/2022)







<b>Report on</b>	Positive Ageing Month Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7th December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on Positive Ageing Month October 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The "Ageing Well" initiative is one of the outcomes within the Health and Wellbeing Theme of the Mid Ulster Community Plan. Work on this theme is being progressed by the Age Friendly Co-ordinator who is funded by the Public Health Agency.
2.2	The Active Ageing Strategy is one of the Northern Ireland Executive's key strategies to address the ageing of our population. It's vision is 'one of Northern Ireland being an Age Friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected'.
2.3	October was Positive Ageing Month, a month-long festival of events and activities for older people. It celebrates the contribution that older people make to their communities.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	October was Positive Ageing Month and throughout the month, the contribution that Mid Ulster's older citizens make to their local communities was celebrated. The Age Friendly co-ordinator communicated with community, voluntary and statutory organisations giving them the opportunity to link up to generate ideas and interest for programming of content for the month of October. With a mix of events delivered residents were enabled to connect both virtually through online events and in person.
3.2	There was an extensive programme of in-person and online events throughout the month that aimed to focus on decreasing the sense of isolation and loneliness that many older people feel. Mid Ulster older people's population size has been increasing every year and with that comes the need for increased support therefore issues of health, well-being, financial advice, cost of living issues and even drop-in hearing clinics were all covered via the timetable of free events.
3.3	The programme started on International Day of Older Persons, on Saturday 1 October with the launch of the Food for Life 'Get Together' Christmas Small Grants Scheme. Mid Ulster based activities included a free series of sessions held by the Council's Age Friendly Co-ordinator on falls awareness and prevention and Chatty Walks with the Council's Live Active NI Recreation Officer at Dungannon Park and Manor House in Moneymore, as well as Better



	<p>Connected Fitness sessions online and in Dungannon Leisure Centre. Other events such as a cost-of-living workshop and drop-in hearing clinics were also made available.</p>
3.4	<p>A wide range of free online sessions were organised for people available to attend, covering topics such as Pension advice, Carers Information Support programme, TV Licensing Scam Awareness talks, and Energy Efficiency in the Home.</p>
3.5	<p>A social media plan was devised, and sessions were advertised throughout the month of October on social media including Facebook and Instagram for residents of Mid Ulster to take part in. The 1st positive ageing month booklet was made available in hard copy and there was also a one week campaign running in October with Q Radio to advertise the free sessions. A Positive Ageing Month report was produced on the evaluation of social media, press, and website clicks. See attached appendix B.</p>
3.6	<p>Events were well attended with positive feedback received and a sample of feedback is detailed below:</p> <p><b><u>RNID Drop-In Hearing Clinics</u></b></p> <p>Total of 85 people attended the drop in hearing clinics throughout Mid Ulster. At least 16 people left with a certificate to take to their GP for further investigation.</p> <p><b><u>Cost of Living Workshops</u></b></p> <p>STEP along with supporting agencies including MUDC delivered a series of three coffee mornings during October 2022 throughout the district to approx. 120 people. These events were organised to provide members of the public with access to information that would help to counter the rising costs of living and help them to navigate through the winter months. The events were informal, with information stands staffed by support agency employees and volunteers. Some feedback from the sessions:</p> <p><i>‘Very beneficial, I got a great cookbook with 101 recipes and the Council have invited me to another event next week. I’m glad I came.’</i></p> <p><i>‘Thank you for the coffee and buns. I got some information about my benefits too and spoke to woman from St Vincent De Paul. I need help and she has said she will help.’</i></p> <p><i>‘I’ve been round all the tables and got so much information that will help me. I’m in supported living and it is good to have more support.’</i></p> <p><b><u>Better Connected (Over 50s fitness) with Get out Get Active Coach</u></b></p> <p>117 participants took part in various keep fit exercises throughout the month of October-classes were held in Dungannon Leisure Centre and online via zoom.</p> <p><b><u>Medieval History Walk/Chatty walks</u></b></p> <p>12 participants</p> <p><i>“Really enjoyed and would be interested in keeping in touch about more like events”</i></p> <p><b><u>Age NI Community Navigator Pop Up Information Points</u></b></p> <p>Over approximately 100 people attended Pop Up events throughout the district. Venues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Carn Tirkane</li> <li>• Draperstown Library</li> <li>• Gortalowry House</li> <li>• Granaghan Resource Centre</li> <li>• Ballyronan Marina Centre</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magherafelt Library</li> <li>• Maghera Library</li> <li>• Cookstown Library</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Falls Awareness Session with SHSCT</u></b></p> <p>Approx 40 attendees came along to the falls awareness session in the Junction Dungannon. Guest speakers included home safety officer, an optician and the SHSCT who delivered a Take 5 mental wellbeing session along with Thai Chi exercise. Attendees received a goodie bag to take home.</p> <p><i>"It was a fantastic event and thanks to the council's home safety officer for inviting me. I would love to have something similar in our over 50s and carers group in Tamnamore"</i></p> <p><b><u>Hill of The O'Neill &amp; Ranfurly House Arts &amp; Visitor Centre</u></b></p> <p>Film Waking Ned = 15 participants  Ann Street Memories: A Look Back at Dungannon = 26 participants  Afternoon Tea Dance= 23 participants.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: None
	Human: None
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the update on Positive Aging Month October 2022.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A - Programme of events
6.2	Appendix B - Evaluation of Social media, Press, and Website clicks









# Mid Ulster

## Positive Ageing Month Events

Activities, taster sessions  
and informative online talks.



More events added online  
[www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022)



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



## Mid Ulster Positive Ageing Month

Throughout October, Positive Ageing Month will celebrate the contribution that Mid Ulster's older citizens make to their local communities. With a mix of events to enable older people to connect both virtually through online events and physically where possible within COVID-19 guidelines taking place, there's something that will suit!



For a full list of events happening during Positive Ageing Month in Mid Ulster go online at:  
[www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022)

### Better Connected (Over 50s fitness) with Rebecca.

Fun and tailored fitness for all

Where	When	Time
Online	Monday 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October	10am – 10.45am
Dungannon Leisure Centre	Tuesday 4, 11, 18, and 25 October	11am – 11.45am

Pre-register T: 07901 773 463 or [rwilliamson@liveactiveni.co.uk](mailto:rwilliamson@liveactiveni.co.uk)

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### Medieval History Walk

A Bilingual Walk and Talk at Tulach Óg/Tullyhogue Fort Cookstown – an exploration of the medieval history of this iconic site.

**Monday 17 October:** Tullyhogue Fort, Cookstown from 2 - 3pm.  
T: 03000 132 132 / E: [Deaglan.ODoibhlin@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Deaglan.ODoibhlin@midulstercouncil.org).



## Ulster-Scots Community Network

A webinar giving a flavour of the Plantation of Ulster which will hopefully inspire you to look deeper Ulster history.

**Monday 10 October:** 2pm - 3pm | Online

Contact Deirdre E: Deirdre@ulster-scots.com T: 07826 849767

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## Age NI Community Navigator Pop Up Information Points

Throughout Positive Ageing Month, the Age NI Community Navigator is popping up across the district to help you with information and support.

Where	When	Time
An Carn, Maghera	Tuesday 4 October	10am – 1pm
Draperstown Library	Tuesday 4 October	2pm – 4pm
Gortallowry House, Cookstown	Tuesday 4 October	6pm – 8pm
Granaghan Resource Centre Swatragh	Thursday 6 October	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Ballyronan Marina Centre	Tuesday 11 October	10am – 12pm
Magherafelt Library	Wednesday 12 October	10.30am – 12.30pm
Cookstown Library	Thursday 13 October	2pm – 4pm

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## Alzheimer's Society Carers Information Support Programme

This is a programme for people who provide unpaid care and support to someone living with dementia.

**Tuesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 October:** 6.30pm-8pm | Online

Contact Carole E: carole.murray@alzheimers.org.uk or call 07918 706 095



## Nordic Walking

Join in this relaxed walking group that uses poles to help tone both the upper and lower body.

**Tuesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 October:** Various locations from 1pm – 2pm. Pre-registration essential. T: Rebecca on 07901 773 463 or E: [rwilliamson@liveactiveni.co.uk](mailto:rwilliamson@liveactiveni.co.uk)

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## Safer Ageing and Stopping Abuse Webinar

A webinar hosted by Hourglass, the UK's only charity focused on the abuse and neglect of older people.

**Tuesday 4 October:** Online via Zoom | 2pm - 3pm  
T: 07826 849 767 / E: [shaunpaskin@wearehourglass.org](mailto:shaunpaskin@wearehourglass.org)

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## Chatty Walks

With the Get Out Get Active Coach and Age-Friendly Co-ordinator. Join Rebecca and Raisa for a dander in Dungannon Park or a meet round Moneymore

Where	When	Time
Dungannon Park	Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 October	11am – 12pm
Manor Park, Moneymore	Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 October	1pm – 2pm

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## TV Licence Help & Support Session (Online)

TV Licensing Northern Ireland Support Team will be providing a free session to help and support people within our community.

**Thursday 6 October:** 11am – 11.30am | Online  
T: 028 9026 7099, M: 0775 963 1614, E: [Niamh@mcecomms.com](mailto:Niamh@mcecomms.com)



## Cost of Living Workshop

Where	When	Time
The Junction, Dungannon	Thursday 13 October	10am – 1pm
The Hub, Cookstown	Wednesday 19 October	10am – 1pm

E: Philip McQuaid - philip.mcquaid@stepni.org

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## Pensions and You: Planning for a more certain future (Online)

Join experts from the government-backed MoneyHelper to cut through the complexity and talk about your pension rights. Discussion will include: Planning and budgeting for retirement, Knowing what to expect from your State Pension and accessing money from your pensions – how and when?

**Thursday 13 October:** 10.30am – 11.30am | Online

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## Cookstown Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

Cookstown MS Group meets every Thursday in the Fairhill Community Centre in Cookstown – come along and chat about the week's events over a warming cup of tea or coffee!

Where	When	Time
Fairhill Community Centre, Cookstown	Thursday 6, 13, 20 and 27 October	11am – 1pm

Contact Denise on 028 8676 6146 or John on 07706 249 349 if you're interested in coming along.

For links to online events:

[www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022)





## RNID Drop-In Hearing Clinics

Have your hearing checked for free and in less than 10 minutes!

Where	When	Time
Magherafelt Council Offices	Friday 7 October	10am – 1pm
Dungannon Council Offices	Friday 14 October	10am – 1pm
Cookstown Council Offices	Friday 21 October	10am – 1pm

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## STEP Cost of Living Workshop

**Friday 7 October:** 10am – 1pm

Involve House, 16 – 18 Queens Street, Magherafelt.

Philip McQuaid, T: 07961 934 361, E: [philip.mcquaid@stepni.org](mailto:philip.mcquaid@stepni.org)

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## Falls Awareness Session with SHSCT

**Tuesday 18 October:** 10.30am – 1pm

The Junction, Dungannon. Light Lunch provided.

Call Raisa T: 03000 132 132 E: [raisa.donnely@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnely@midulstercouncil.org)

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## Townlands Talk (Online)

Explore the meaning behind place names through myths, connections to the landscape and local heritage

**Wednesday 19 October:** 10.30am | Online

E: [gaeilge@fermanaghmagh.com](mailto:gaeilge@fermanaghmagh.com) or T: 03003 031 777.



## TV Licensing Scam Awareness Webinar (Online)

Due to a recent rise in scams, TV Licensing are running a FREE scams training session to educate and spread awareness. In this session we will cover online, email, phone call, text and in person scammers as well as what to look out for, how to combat the scammers and best practices.

**Thursday 20 October** at 11am | Online

For more information call Niamh Donnelly T: 028 9026 7099 or 0775 963 1614, or E: [niamh@mcecomms.com](mailto:niamh@mcecomms.com)

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## Games Day with Dungannon Visually Impaired Peoples (VIP) Club

**Thursday 20 October:** 2pm – 4pm

Dungannon West Renewal, Ballysaggart Business Complex, Dungannon

Contact June Walker on 028 3754 8615 or Ann Wilson on 028 8772 3082 for further details.

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## Energy Efficiency in the Home (Online)

Find out about energy efficient heating, lighting, and appliances, keeping the heat where it is needed, comparing and switching energy suppliers, advice and support in Northern Ireland. Delivered by Zoom. Please note places are limited

**Monday 24 October:** 10am - 11:30am | Online

To register please email [agefriendly@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:agefriendly@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



## Ann Street Memories: A Look Back at Dungannon

A display of photographs of Dungannon and surrounding areas) through the years (credits to Ann Street Memories). M.C. Ian Coulter.

**Tuesday 25 October:** 7pm – 9pm  
Book online at [www.hilloftheoneill.com](http://www.hilloftheoneill.com)

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## Afternoon Tea Dance

Music and dance moves instructed by Marie Garrity.

**Thursday 27 September:** 1pm – 4.30pm  
Book online at [www.hilloftheoneill.com](http://www.hilloftheoneill.com)

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## Useful Contact:

### Raisa Donelly

Age Friendly Co-ordinator  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN  
Tel: 03000 132 132  
Mob: 07553379721  
Email: [Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)





## **Positive Ageing Month October 2022**

### **Evaluation of Social media, Press, and Website clicks**

#### **Campaign Delivery**

Campaign delivery was focused on digital channels, with the event added to the events section of the website and a custom URL added:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth2022>

The web page received **767 Page views**, (the total number of times any pages were visited, including multiple views from the same user).

And with **Unique page views being 419** (how many users visited the specific page)

#### **Social Media**

Given the event was targeted at local men and women who are over 55, and not relevant for businesses or other stakeholder organisations, the channels used for promotion were Facebook and Instagram. Posts were added on Facebook and Instagram from September 30<sup>th</sup> until 27<sup>th</sup> October.

##### **Facebook**

Eighteen posts (all organic) were posted on the Council's Facebook page before, during, and after the event. The page currently has 17,132 followers.

The posts resulted in a total reach of **89,525**, which means the posts reached over 5 times the number of followers on the page. The posts collectively resulted in **221 likes, 32 comments, and 45 shares**.

The Applause Rate was 1.38%. The Amplification Rate was 0.24%.

The overall Average Engagement Rate for the campaign on Facebook was 3.71%. With an engagement rate of over 1% on Facebook considered to be good, this performance is a positive indicator of the success of the channel.

Also important to note is that all 42 comments under the posts were mostly positive apart from two comments that were negative due to an event being cancelled due to bad weather.

##### **Instagram**

Fourteen posts were posted to the Council's Instagram page, which currently has 2,856 followers.

The posts had a total reach of 6,469 almost two and a half times the total number of followers on the page.

The posts collectively resulted in 28 likes and 8 shares.



The Applause Rate was 1%, and the amplification rate was 0.3%. The overall Average Engagement Rate was 1.35%. A strong engagement rate on Instagram is considered to be between 1% and 5%.

### **Social Media Conclusion**

Social media stats show that there were positive levels of reach and engagement on both Facebook and Instagram. The fact all posts were organic and none were promoted, and that all engagement was 89% positive, is encouraging and shows how well the event was received by residents.

**\*Applause Rate:** total percentage of followers who engaged positively with the posts

**\*Amplification Rate:** total percentage of followers who shared the posts to their own page

**\* The campaign received positive local press coverage in the Mid Ulster Mail, the press cutting is attached.**



<b>Report on</b>	1. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2. MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) 3. Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b>  Council has 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. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  MEGA (Mid Ulster Manufacturing &amp; Engineering Growth &amp; Advancement) is an award-winning collaborative growth network formed in 2017 with the support of Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI to address the immediate and medium term skills shortages in the manufacturing and Engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network of businesses who are working together towards a common goal. Its main aim is to tackle skills, labour issues in Mid Ulster, create, and implement ways to attract and retain talent in the engineering and manufacturing industry.</p>
<b>2.3</b>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  Over the past number of years, a group of 5 Councils from around the shoreline of Lough Neagh (as listed below) have provided a financial contribution towards Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) to support their work; these are Mid Ulster</p>



	District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council.								
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>								
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b>  In May 2022, Council received correspondence from the Department for Communities (DfC) advising that Mid Ulster LMP's annual budget for programme expenditure 2022-23 had been reduced from £374,700 to £274,334.25. Council officers liaised with representatives of Mid Ulster LMP to scale back the operational programme and associated budget following which a revised Action Plan 2022-23 was submitted to the Department.</p> <p>The Council received a letter of offer dated 1 November 2022 from the Department from Communities for £368,009.25 to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022/23 (<b>See Appendix 1</b>). The breakdown of the amount is as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Budget</th><th>£</th></tr> <tr> <td>Administration costs</td><td>93,675.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Operational/Programme costs</td><td>274,334.25</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Award</b></td><td><b>368,009.25</b></td></tr> </table> <p>In July 2022, Council approved that delegated authority be awarded to the Council's Chief Executive to sign and accept a letter of offer from the Department for Communities. Thus, a signed letter of acceptance and copy of budget schedule has been returned to the Department. In anticipation of the level of work required alongside the short timeframe to complete it in, Council previously agreed to tender a number of LMP programmes but pause formal appointment until Council was in receipt of a letter of offer from DfC.</p>	Budget	£	Administration costs	93,675.00	Operational/Programme costs	274,334.25	<b>Total Award</b>	<b>368,009.25</b>
Budget	£								
Administration costs	93,675.00								
Operational/Programme costs	274,334.25								
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>368,009.25</b>								
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  The report attached on <b>Appendix 2</b> provides an update on MEGA's work across the areas outlined in MEGA's SLA with Mid Ulster District Council. On review of the 6 month progress report, the work is on track across all areas.</p>								
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  The report attached on <b>Appendix 3</b> provides an update on Lough Neagh Partnership work across the areas outlined in the SLA with Mid Ulster District Council. On review of the 6 month progress report the work is on track across all areas.</p>								



<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> LMP activity is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC). A letter of offer for £368,009.25 has been received from DfC covering Administration and Operational /Programme expenditure for 2022-23.</p> <p><b>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> Provision was made in 2022/23 Economic Development budget for MEGA to receive funding of £15,000 per annum.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> Provision was made in 2022/23 Economic Development budget for Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) to receive funding of £22,000 this financial year.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> Officer's time.</p> <p><b>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> Officer's time.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> Officers time</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> Delivery of the LMP Action Plan 2022-23 has to be completed by end of March 2022. LMP staff will work closely with appointed delivery agents to monitor progress and minimise risks.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> The project is managed in accordance with MUDC policies and procedures</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b> Council policies and procedures were adhered to in the roll out of Lough Neagh Partnerships plan with continuous community engagement.</p>



	<p>Rural Needs Implications:  <b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  Rural needs around Lough Neagh shoreline are being implemented in the roll out of this plan</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b>  <b>Note</b> content of the report and receipt of Letter of Offer totalling £368,009.25 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022/2023.</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  <b>Note</b> update report from MEGA for the period April – September 2022.</p>
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</b>  <b>Note</b> update report from Lough Neagh Partnership for the period April – September 2022.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Letter of offer from Department for Communities for LMP funding 2022-23.</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – MEGA Service Level Agreement - Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> – LNP Service Level Agreement – Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</p>





## APPENDIX 1

Mid Ulster District Council  
Council Offices  
Dungannon Office  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

Work & Wellbeing Division  
Department for Communities  
Design Centre  
39 Corporation Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3BA  
Email: LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: LEP/ENI/10/22

Date: 01 November 2022

Dear Chief Executive,

### **LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) FUNDING 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023**

The LMP Letter of Offer issued on 15 April 2022 included an offer of funding for administrative costs and an indicative offer of funding for operational costs associated with the local LMP. I can now confirm, on behalf of the Department of Communities, an offer of funding of £368,009.25 to Mid Ulster District Council for costs associated with the local LMP for the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

I would be grateful if you could complete the 'Proposed LMP Budget 2022/23' column of the attached Budget Schedule to confirm the areas of the Action Plan that will be enacted. You will note that the Budget Schedule includes previously provided figures and an Active Budget including any change control requests received to date.

Specific conditions of the offer:

1. The funding provided is to be used solely for LMP expenditure.
2. This offer is governed by the conditions for LMPs funding as detailed in the LMP Financial Guidelines.
3. This offer is conditional on acceptance of and adherence to the terms and conditions contained in the LMP Funding Agreement.
4. The Department reserves the right to recover subsidies if required to do so.



## **Acceptance**

Please complete the enclosed letter of acceptance with a copy of the budget attached within 4 weeks from the date on Letter of Offer, and return it to:

Secretariat to Labour Market Partnerships  
Work and Wellbeing Division  
Department for Communities  
Design Centre  
39 Corporation Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3BA

Additionally an electronic copy can be sent via email to [LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk).

The Department for Communities requires acceptance prior to authorising the LMP first quarter grant claim.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deirdre Ward".

**Deirdre Ward**  
**Director**  
**Work and Wellbeing Division**



<b>LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE</b>
-----------------------------

Secretariat to Labour Market Partnerships  
Work and Wellbeing Division  
Department for Communities  
Design Centre  
39 Corporation Street  
Belfast  
BT1 3BA

Date .....

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) FUNDING 1  
APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023**

**Mid Ulster District Council**

This Council agrees the funding offer from the Department for Communities of £368,009.25 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 to administer and run the activities of the LMP, in line with the funding criteria.

The funding will be wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in running the activities of the LMP as detailed in the LMP Action Plan and budget schedule. The Council accept and agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the LMP Financial Guidelines and Funding Agreement. The Council understand that in accepting this funding offer, the previous funding offer made by the Department on 15 April 2022 in support of LMPs has been superseded.

**Statement of Financial arrangements and control environment**

I confirm the Council:

- has sound financial procedures and controls in place to govern the activities and expenditure of the LMP;
- will ensure all relevant documentation is retained to support all LMP expenditure claims;
- has arrangements in place to satisfy the requirement for providing assurance on the probity and proper use of funds;
- has effective Corporate Governance, Risk Management and operating policies referred to in the Financial Guidelines in place for the LMP; and
- will allow reasonable access to Council records relating to LMP transactions.

Signed.....

Date .....



Chief Executive, on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council

<b>BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS</b>
-----------------------------

DfC Reference No: LEP/ENI/10/22

Applicant: Mid Ulster District Council

Amount of Funding: £368,009.25

Period of Funding: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Please complete Bank details below:

Name of Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by (Chief Executive)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Block Capitals)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## Progress Update Report

The implementation of MEGA's new strategic action plan will deliver outcomes and positive impacts by 2025

Quarterly Review Number:	1	Period covered by Review	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 31 <sup>st</sup> September 2022
Network Name	MEGA – Manufacturing & Engineering Growth Advancement	SLA Start/End Date	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Maria Curran	MEGA Project Director	maria.curran@midulstermega.com	

### ACTION

#### 1. Focus on People

Address the current deficit in human resources available to the manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster.

- Careers Portal - Collaborate with MUDC to develop a Manufacturing & Engineering online careers portal that showcases MEGA companies; career paths; "a day in the life of"; job vacancies etc.
- School Ambassadors programme rolled out. All ambassadors attend at least 1 school visit per year.
- Schools Projects – Year 1 pilot project with 5 schools/companies. Year 2 & 3 increased to minimum 8/10
- JBO Connections attend 2 MEGA meetings per year
- National diversity. Target marketing in native languages.
- Host an annual MEGA jobs fair targeted at specific recruitment groups.
- Workplace attractiveness. Design a self assessment questionnaire to baseline & score MEGA member working conditions. Consider the facilities necessary to support diversity in the operational workplace. • Encourage members to apply for funding support to address improvement action plans.



- PR & Marketing. Part time marketing resource to handle all social media, website content, PR and marketing activity. • Develop a new communications strategy. • Use PR to address misperceptions of the sector. • Maximise MEGA opportunities for press and media exposure. • Seek media training for key MEGA representatives

## **ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS**

- Industry & Education engagement manager visited nearly every post-primary school in Mid Ulster, and several in the bordering areas for a total of 31 schools reached during the 2021-22 academic year. This resulted in a total of 1,270 students being informed about the career opportunities within the manufacturing and engineering sector.
- MEGA Ambassadors also attended post-primary schools: Engineers, HR Managers, Apprentices, Welders, etc. all spoke to students about their roles, what inspired them into the sector and what the highlights are of working where they do.
- Well-attended Education Sub-Committee meeting in May 2022 with 20 attendees: careers teachers, principals, technology & design teachers and industry. Many topics were discussed, such as: parents not wanting their children to take up careers in manufacturing & engineering; apprenticeship deadlines; increasing collaboration with schools & industry.
- The commencement of company tours for careers & technology & design teachers brought 20 teachers from Mid Ulster to industry to raise awareness of the career opportunities within the manufacturing & engineering sector.
- Two career information sessions held in Magherafelt & Dungannon during GCSE exam results day (Aug 22) to help inform students of the career opportunities within the sector.
- Schools newsletter August 2022 sent to all stakeholders highlighting all the industry/education activity that took place over the 2021-22 academic year i.e. Ambassador programme, Year 11 projects, Year 12 company visits, teacher tours, primary school outreach programme, etc.
- MEGA STEAM Train programme was a new initiative over the summer. Industry & Education engagement manager organised and helped deliver 4 summer scheme sessions, during July and August, at the Torrent Complex in Donaghmore. The 240 places were sold out within 48hrs.
- Regular communication with local JBO's and dept. for communities on upcoming events and opportunities.
- Recruitment event held in Dungannon, April 2022 to attract foreign national workers. Marketing materials created in four different languages. Poor turn out of potential applicants.
- 37 students now on degree apprenticeship course. Cohort 2 of degree apprentices are of mixed age, background and diversity
- Mentor engaged with 35 industry providers to secure 23 placements. New links established for next year's cohort.
- Article in Irish News and advertisement on Q Radio during GCSE exam week to promote opportunities in the sector and highlight Careers Information sessions.
- On completion of the 6-week welding academy course 85 people were employed at end of July. Currently, 66 welding, 4 engineering alternative role and 15 did not respond to employment update.



**ACTION****2. Skills for the Future**

Adapt the provision of education of skills development to meet the changing needs of the sector over time.

- Skills demand planning. Conduct an annual survey of members to understand people & skills demands for the 12-18 months ahead. Collaborate with MUDC LMP to inform stakeholders of the rolling 12 – 18 month skills needs.
- MEGA Skills Academy. Create a skills academy to deliver a range of short training courses (e.g. spray painting; robotic welding; CNC; Hydraulics). Leverage the supply base to loan training equipment & materials
- Digital manufacturing & I4.0. Identify a training partner for digital manufacturing & automation (e.g. Digital Catapult, Dundalk AMTCE) adopt a clear curriculum relevant to MEGA members. Identify funding opportunities to support member training. Train members in emerging technologies
- Skills investment programme. Signpost and encourage members towards grant support packages available for skills investment (e.g. Skills Advancement Grant for INI clients) 3 year span of project
- Skills demand planning. Conduct an annual survey of members to understand people & skills demands for the 12-18 months ahead. Collaborate with MUDC LMP to inform stakeholders of the rolling 12 – 18 month skills needs.
- MEGA Skills Academy. Create a skills academy to deliver a range of short training courses (e.g. spray painting; robotic welding; CNC; Hydraulics). Leverage the supply base to loan training equipment & materials
- Digital manufacturing & I4.0. Identify a training partner for digital manufacturing & automation (e.g. Digital Catapult, Dundalk AMTCE) adopt a clear curriculum relevant to MEGA members. Identify funding opportunities to support member training. Train members in emerging technologies
- Skills investment programme. Signpost and encourage members towards grant support packages available for skills investment (e.g. Skills Advancement Grant for INI clients) 3 year span of project

**ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS**

- Meeting with Matt Murray, Head of Dept. NRC, resulted in discussion leading to creating an apprenticeship course in Magherafelt campus for Sept 2023 intake. (Currently only offered in Ballymena campus). This will help companies in that region to steer more students towards apprenticeships and for Mega to attract new members from the Northern region of MUDC.
- NRC, SWC & AMTCE currently completing a course mapping document that Mega will collate and distribute to network members
- 10 companies attended information session in Glenavon on SMDH Project. Business development officer has since engaged with Terex, Specdrum, Muldoon Transport, Edge Innovate, and SFM Engineering. Overall long-term impact of engagement in SMDH is the development of digital 4.0 knowledge and skills that support the transition of the sector into a new era of manufacturing.
- 5 companies so far have agreed to get involved in SMDH project. Project team have to provide a solution and then get companies signed up to access their data. (verbally onboard)
- Funding opportunities are available for companies participating in SMDH project

**ACTION****3. Collaborate to win**



Build strong working relations with key delivery partners and leverage third party resources and budget to the best advantage of MEGA members.

- Education & skills alignment. Build strategic working relationships at board level with funded skills delivery partners (e.g. SWC, NRC) Collaborate with operational resource to devise new training and development offerings that are aligned to industry skills demands.
- Degree apprenticeships. Sustain the Engineering degree apprenticeship. Grow to 30 plus places per year
- Emerging skills programme. Build networks with Centers of Excellence to understand emerging technologies & skills requirements. Encourage Centers of Excellence to host awareness sessions in Mid Ulster
- Influence & communicate. Embrace Manufacturing NI as a collaboration partner to manage communications and influence with Government.
- MSW economic engine. Build relationships with the MSW programme team and stay abreast of developments under the Growth deal
- Assign two MEGA representatives to the ESIC working group
- NI Makers Alliance. Maintain representation with the Makers Alliance and provide periodic updates on MEGA activities and successes.

#### **ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS**

- Meeting with Ciaran McManus, SWC & Matt Murray, NRC August 2022 to devise new training and development offerings i.e. SWC – Business in Engineering course NRC- Apprenticeships in Magherafelt campus
- Collaborating with Ryan Harkin, Justin Quinn UU to deliver CRF funded Engineering Skills Catapult for development of degree apprenticeship
- Mentoring officer collaborates regularly with UU, mentors, students, industry to ensure the provision of equal training and support opportunities
- SMDH Project - Improved industry cohesion through links with Cambridge, Catapult, Ulster University, Hartree, and Manufacturing NI will lead to improved industry collaboration to promote the overall competitiveness of the Mid-Ulster region in a global marketplace.
- Maria invited by Manufacturing Ni to take part in Q&A at the Leadership Summit Anchor High on 12th May 2022. New connections made within the sector and companies throughout NI more aware of the work being undertaken by the MEGA network.
- Darragh Cullen will contribute to the NI wide manufacturing agenda on behalf of Mega members and ensure our voice is heard when industrial strategy is being devised by Makers Alliance



## APPENDIX 3

### Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd - Service Level Agreement with Mid Ulster Council

#### Progress Report 2022/23

#### **Progress Report No. 1 – April – September 2022**

#### Project Development

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will continue to develop the following projects for member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC): -

<b>Projects for Further Development</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Marketing and promotion of Lough Neagh by sharing information with Tourism NI (TNI), Tourism Ireland (TIL) and visitmidulster.com on a regular basis, producing and distributing Lough Neagh newsletter for stakeholders and consumers online, attend and promote at trade fairs and exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listing of scheduled tours on TNI &amp; TI website, TNI shared them on social media. This was in relation to the Lough Neagh Artisan Tour Series &amp; Artisan Markets in May/June 2022.</li><li>• Set up new social media platforms for LNP, merged Lough Neagh Tours with Love Lough Neagh on Social Media, extensive social media &amp; marketing campaign for Lough Neagh Artisan markets – this project was shortlisted for the Embrace a Giant Spirit Awards, LNP attended</li><li>• Produced 5 year report for stakeholders highlighting all the work carried out across LNP's various projects.</li><li>• Production of Wonders &amp; Legends of LN book &amp; LN Atlas of the Natural &amp; Built Cultural Heritage</li><li>• Newsletters issued to monthly April – September 2022</li><li>• Attended the Adventure Travel Show in San Francisco in May 2022 with Tourism Ireland. LNP registered to attend WTM, ITOA &amp; Great Days out Mid Ulster.</li></ul>
Assist Mid Ulster District Council implement recommendations of a Heritage Cluster Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To meet Assistant Director to discuss recommendations in Oct 2022 et al.</li></ul>
Develop a Lough Neagh Artisan Food Programme, including the development of new and existing artisan members, identifying artisan event opportunities and promotion of both.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Held two successful Artisan Food Markets in Toome during May &amp; August 2022.</li><li>• Increased group membership to 20, with 8 members from Mid Ulster Council area. Hosted an Artisan Tour Series in May/June, two of the tours included Mid Ulster artisans/venues.</li><li>• LNP is working with MUDC for the Lough Neagh Artisans to run the Magherafelt Christmas Market in Nov 2022</li></ul>
Joint development of tourism and economic programmes with Mid Ulster District Council including links with ICBAN and MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Held teams meeting with Shane Mc Kinney from ICBAN regarding inclusion of Blackwater River in Shared Island North Ulster Canal Proposal.</li></ul>



groups, assist with access and recreational plans for school lands Derrytresk, Lower Bann Pathway and Traad Point/Ballyronan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to do presentation to ICBAN and to meet Shared Island personnel on feedback to rejected proposal</li> <li>• Meet with Waterways Ireland CEO, MUDC CEO and Northern Regional Operations Director regarding development of Lough Neagh, Blackwater River and River Bann including access.</li> <li>• Held two meetings with MUDC directors, elected representatives and local stakeholders to discuss potential development of Traad Point. Provided copy of previous Tradd Point plan to MUDC. To follow up with advice on River Bann proposal</li> </ul>
Development of Blackwater River, providing technical advice associated with dredging, help with boating needs to council staff on river and lough, assist with EIA's and DfI business plans, link with ICBAN and Waterways Ireland to progress Ulster Canal development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped develop Blackwater Dredging Steering Group</li> <li>• Prepared Blackwater Study and did presentation to MUDC</li> <li>• Attended Blackwater Steering group in Oxford Island June 2022</li> <li>• Coordinated and held Lough Neagh and Blackwater Dredging workshop in Ballyronan in June 2022.</li> <li>• Liaison with DfI rivers section and Fishermen's Co-op regarding dredging of Quays and River mouths</li> <li>• LNP Commenced EIA surveying of all quays and river mouths</li> <li>• Drew up basis spec for chemical analysis and topography for MUDC</li> <li>• Consulted with ICBAN regrading Shared Island North Ulster Canal proposal</li> <li>• Offered MUDC and Blackwater Dredging Steering Group to help with preparing and any DfI business applications.</li> <li>• Prepared and submitted Levelling Up application for new markers and dredger on Lough Neagh</li> </ul>
Continue to develop NIEA Shoreline Plan and securing funding for a management plan for Killycolpy and Killywoolaghan, community bird hides as per 2021/22, develop wet woodland and climate change strategy for Western Shores taking into consideration Mid Ulster District Council's climate change and biodiversity plans. Implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management Plan for Killycolpy complete</li> <li>• Wet woodland study being drawn up</li> <li>• Climate Change and Carbon study being developed</li> <li>• Transfer of Killycolpy nature reserve and School lands signed for and near completion.</li> <li>• Community Bird hide received funding from NIEA for stage 2 to prepare off the shelf project.</li> <li>• CRESI HLF application successful for new ranger to manage nature reserves.</li> <li>• NIEA major 5-year strategic project being prepared</li> <li>• SEUPB nature peatlands restoration project being prepared with RSPB</li> <li>• Islands conservation work and all bird monitoring continuing via new boat.</li> </ul>
Continue to develop and deliver an Environmental Farm Scheme on western shores of Lough Neagh by attracting new funding and through engagement with farmers, landowners, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Group Farm Scheme continues western shore</li> <li>• Major Nature Recovery Network being developed at School Lands and Killycolpy</li> <li>• 143 new members in group scheme</li> </ul>



relevant stakeholders to improve conditions. Assist Mid Ulster District Council in development of an Agricultural Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£17,000 avg investment over last 5 years brought into individual farms</li> <li>New policy engagement with DAERA Countryside Management for next programme.</li> <li>Offer open for help with the development of new agricultural biodiversity and climate change strategies in new 5-year SLA from Mar 2023 – Mar 2028</li> </ul>
Develop funding applications and attract investment from SEUPB for RSPB project, NPA for bicycle tourism development, Levelling Up for navigation aids and new dredger, examine Shared Island funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New independent strategy drawn up for LNP and sent to three main Councils with details of integrated investment strategy with major funders and Councils.</li> <li>Levelling Up application made for new markers and dredger</li> <li>Shared Prosperity application developed and ready to be made</li> <li>Discussions held with RSPB and UWT regarding SEUPB peatland and Nature recovery proposals for Lough Neagh</li> <li>Request for MUDC CEO and Monaghan County Council to meet with Shared Island people</li> </ul>
Develop an Interdepartmental Committee for Lough Neagh and examine funding opportunities for technical developments of Lough Neagh ownership bid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting and presentation made to Minister O'Dowd in July 2022</li> <li>Request for him to set up interdepartmental group for Lough</li> <li>NLHF expression of interest made for ownership of Lough Neagh</li> <li>Follow up Letter sent to Minister regarding Interdepartmental Group sent in Aug 2022</li> <li>Request for DFI meeting made</li> </ul>
Develop Moiled Cattle Scheme for Lough Neagh and western shore members and create a new food chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moiled Cattle scheme set up</li> <li>Website under construction, promotional materials in production and marketing plan is being developed.</li> </ul>

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide the following services for the Council:

<b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b>	<b>Progress</b>
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will assist with project identification, project co-ordination and financial management as agreed for relevant funding programmes.	Financial management and project coordination continues
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will represent the agreed vision of the region in responding to consultations relating to regional, international, and global issues	LNP meetings with CEOs and senior directors of new funding bodies and three main Councils
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.	EFS best practice meetings and dredging best practice meetings arranged
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will submit six monthly reports detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions.	This is first six-monthly report provided for 2022/23



LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.	All funds recorded
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will facilitate the involvement of council staff and elected members in its work.	MUDC Cllrs attend LNP board meetings and AGM, and feedback reports provided.
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide ongoing support to council's objectives.	Continual liaison with elected and executive officers
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Strategic Manager will meet with Council's Tourism Manager at least four times throughout the year to review and monitor progress.	Manager regularly meets with MUDC Tourism Manager. Has met at least three times in last 6 months