

Report on	Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Déaglán Ó Doibhlin

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek members' approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international festival that runs from 1st to 17th March each year.
2.2	The Festival seeks to celebrate and promote the Irish Language throughout this period through various schemes and activities delivered by and within the wider community.
2.3	Subject to Council approval, it is proposed that Mid Ulster District Council will issue a call for Expressions of Interest for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities, advertising on MUDC's website and social media platforms.
2.4	The scheme will be open to applicant community groups or individuals who wish to apply for funding support to carry out an Irish Language activity as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Officer team will advertise the scheme in local press to ensure all groups and individuals who wish to apply, are aware of the funding available.
3.2	The Officer team will seek to encourage a varied range of bilingual and Irish language events across the district in order to encourage maximum participation by the wider Mid Ulster community. To this end an information brochure will be compiled and publicised promoting all the events and activities being delivered.
3.3	£5,000 has been identified within the Irish Language Action Plan, within the Regional and Minority Language budget allocation for 2020/21.

3.4	It is intended that all events will be virtual/online in nature taking into account the difficulties presented by the current Covid-19 pandemic.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Budget of £5,000 currently allocated from within the Regional Minority Languages budget.
	Human: Officer time only
	Risk Management: To avoid risk of groups missing the call for expressions of interest, council's social media channels will be utilised to publicise the project
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Expression of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities across the Mid Ulster District.
	Rural Needs Implications: The Expressions of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities across the Mid Ulster District
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that members approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver online/virtual activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/a