



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Parks Service of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation

SERVICE PLAN - 2019 / 20

Date

Consulted within staff team

28/ 05 / 2019

Discussed & signed off by Director

30/ 05 / 2019

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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SERVICE

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Service

The scope, diversity and potential developmental capacity accessible to Mid Ulster District Council Parks Service is both tremendously exciting and challenging. The greatest importance is sustaining a welcoming, safe environment and raising quality standards for parks and open spaces, together with the provision of facilities that are sufficient to meet the varied recreational demands of a growing residential population. This needs to be achieved in the context of increasing pressure on public expenditure, alongside encouraging greater community ownership and involvement.

The Parks Service is committed to the achievement of quality standards across parks and open spaces in line with the Green Flag status through the attainment of additional Green Flag Awards for suitable sites. The Parks Service will support achievement of sustainable development in line with approved management and maintenance plans delivering on the protection and enhancement of the natural qualities of parks and open spaces, embracing positive biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.

The Parks Service will endeavour to actively support volunteering opportunities within parks and open spaces and encourage greater community involvement and additional partnership working between agencies, groups and organisations, exploring opportunities (where compatible with corporate priorities) to provide high quality parks and open spaces that are enjoyed by all who visit or live within our shared community.

The Parks Service is part of the Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Directorate, and is made up of the following service areas:

1. Public Parks and Open Spaces
2. Play Areas
3. Countryside Access
4. Forest Recreation
5. Water Recreation
6. Camping & Caravanning

1.2 Responsibilities

The section is specifically responsible for the following functions:

PUBLIC PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Mid Ulster District Council manage sixteen public parks of varying sizes and facilities the largest of which are Dungannon Park and Ballyronan Marina. Some one hundred and twelve play park/playground amenities are provided and maintained across the towns, villages and hamlets of the district.

- Public parks provide our local communities with the opportunity to be physically active
- Parks with the capacity to attract day visits have true economic benefit to surrounding towns and villages
- Parks provide vital green space in urban landscapes
- Parks preserve wildlife habitat
- Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions
- Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness
- Playing outside helps children to develop their learning abilities. Outdoor play encourages children's creativity and provides numerous health benefits as opposed to indoor environments.

FOREST RECREATION

Mid Ulster District Council are engaged with Forest Service Northern Ireland through the development of Licence Agreements to increase quality recreational access to forest lands in the district. The council currently hold five licence agreements with Forest Service for recreational use. The contribution of forest recreation province wide was measured in a recent survey completed by Forest Service in 2014. Some 65,000 visits were estimated to have taken place at Drum Manor Forest Park, one Mid Ulster Forest site to be included in the survey.

- An estimated 4.7 million visits were taken to Northern Ireland forests on the Forest Service Forest Estate in 2014.
- An average of £20 (including accommodation) was spent during visits taken to the surveyed forests, of this total an average of around £3 was spent within the forest.
- 80% of visitors are adults (aged 16 or older)
- The estimated total annual spend during trips that involve visiting a publicly accessible Forest Service location (including any amounts spent on accommodation) is £76.1 million.
- The most popular activities on visits to the surveyed forests were walking (75% of visits) and dog walking (34% of visits).

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND WATER RECREATION

Mid Ulster District Council manages one significant water recreation facility at Ballyronan Marina, almost 150 kilometres of cycle and walking trails along with 22 kilometres of designated canoe trail and nine angling facilities (two game and seven coarse) across the district. These include amenities such as the Coalisland Canal Trail, Clogher Valley/Carleton Trail, riverside walks at Dunamore, Augher and Cots Lane and Ardtrea. Angling facilities at coarse waters Creeve, Enagh and Carrick Lough and Game fishing at Dungannon Park and Bradley lake and mountain bike activity centres at Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate offering over 41 kilometers of trails for riding and walking enthusiasts.

In addition to this the Council has a statutory responsibility to manage Access to the Countryside under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983, district councils have a duty “to assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment, any public right of way...”. They are also given discretionary powers to repair and maintain rights of way, to create, divert or close public paths and to make access agreements or orders to open land.

The socio-economic and wider health benefits attached to access to outdoor activities and recreation is widely known that sport helps to reduce incidents of heart disease and obesity. According to ‘Sport Matters: The Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation in Northern Ireland, 2009-19’, sport and recreation is one of the best investments that can be made in preventive medicine. Significantly the strategy adds: “Outdoor recreation is widely recognised as a positive force. It can build lasting relationships between people and often people from different social and religious backgrounds.” There are many UK studies that highlight that outdoor recreation has a positive impact on:

- Health and fitness;
- Quality of life;
- Work ethic and productivity;
- Inward investment; and
- Reduction in crime.

CAMPING AND CARAVANNING

Visitors to Mid Ulster can choose from three council managed campsite facilities, Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake, Fivemiletown.

Forty-eight serviced caravan pitches are available for hire throughout the thirty week season. Larger groups can be accommodated such as caravan clubs at Dungannon Park with capacity to welcome in excess of eighty units. Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake welcomed 1638 caravanning units for the 2018/19 season an increase of 544 on 2017-18. Mid Ulster District Council sites recorded 386 tenting units for the 2018-19 season an increase of 276 on 2017-18 season. The potential to increase visitor footfall through campsite development is an option being considered with Forest Service.

The following list of contacts illustrates the nature and range of stakeholder relationships that exist between the Parks Service and other Council functions, public and private sector organisations, the community and voluntary sectors and is not inexhaustible given that new situations and opportunities arise throughout the

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

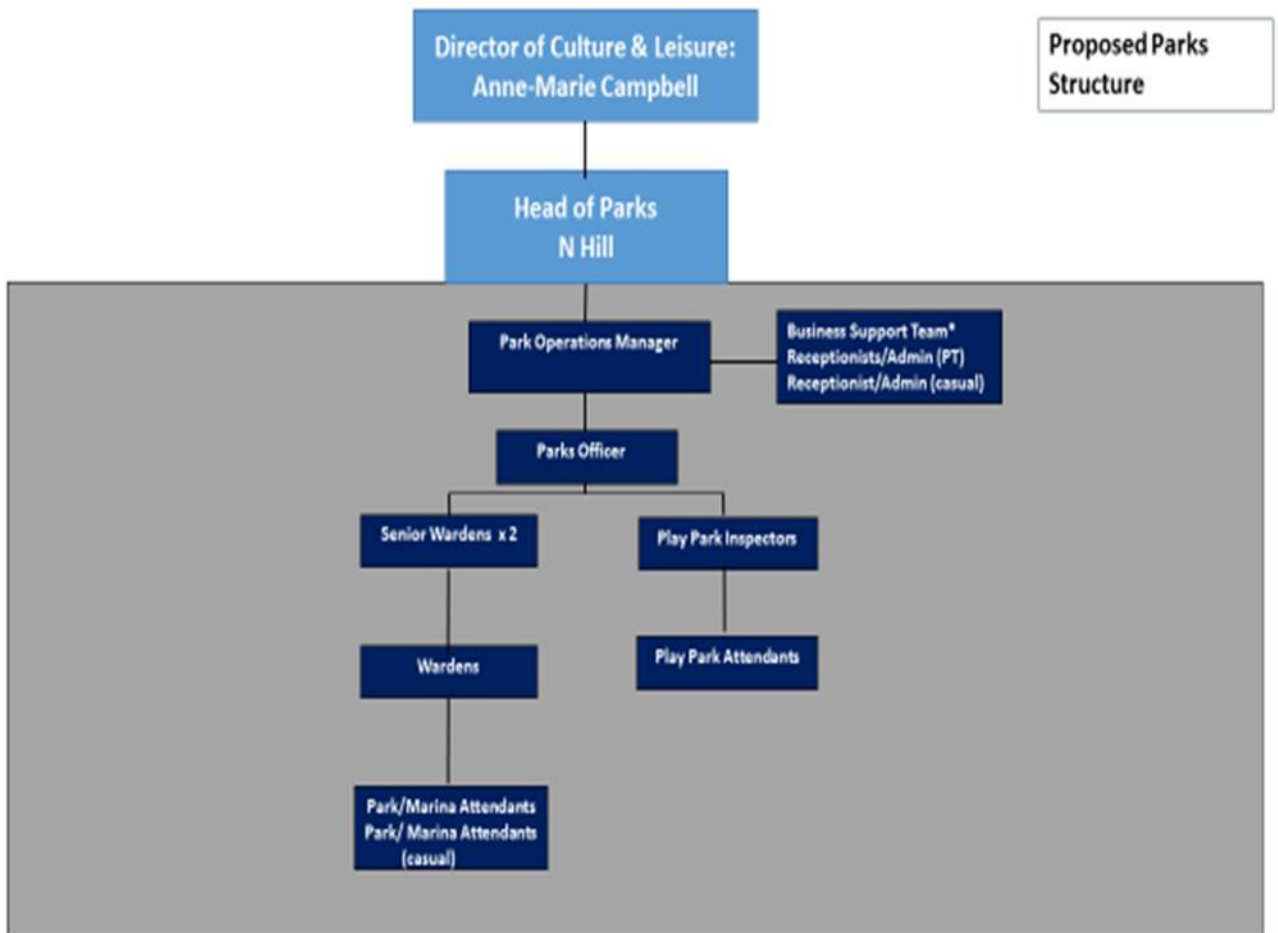
Customers & Stakeholders
• CHIEF EXECUTIVE
• ELECTED MEMBERS
• STAFF
• ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY SERVICES
• ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
• TOURISM & EVENTS
• FINANCE
• TECHNICAL SERVICES
• COMMUNITY SERVICES
• HUMAN RESOURCES
• LEISURE SERVICES
• ARTS & CULTURE
• LEGAL SERVICES
• PLANNING SERVICES
• ICT
• HEALTH & SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT
• POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
• MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
• VISITORS/TOURISTS
• GENERAL PUBLIC
• FOREST SERVICE NI
• OUTDOOR RECREATION NI
• PSNI
• COMMUNITY GROUPS
• DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
• SPORTS CLUBS/ANGLING, CYCLING, RUNNER AND WALKERS
• TOURISM NI
• SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES (NI) INTER-AGENCY FORUM
• DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS
• WATERWAYS IRELAND

1.4 Performance Overview in 2018/19

The following table provides a progress summary and the impact made by last years' Service Plan (2018-2019). It also details key successes, a summary of the end of year progress, remaining challenges for the Service and how it made a difference.

2018/19 Performance Overview	End of Year Progress Status: Completed/Commenced/Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Five Year Parks and Play Strategy 2017 – 2022 which was an objective on the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 	Commenced and reviewed for council approval July/August 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2017 – 2022 which was an objective on Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 	Commenced and reviewed for council approval July/August 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an extension of Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI 	Commenced two new Licence Agreements with FSNI and completed capital development projects at Knockmany, Gleonone and Brantry Forest locations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Countryside development via long distance trails 	Commenced the refurbishment of 89 angling stands and upgrade of Walk and cycle link from Portglenone town to Blueway trail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver event and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues Deliver Parks Marketing Plan in conjunction with MUDC Marketing & Communications 	Completed Delivery of 149 Events as part of Parks Service calendar Establish Parks identity and increased Parks Service profile with seasonal event campaigns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project 	Commenced Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project. Currently a Live project on schedule for operational opening to public for April 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway proposals 	No further development, subject to funding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reservoirs Management 	Conformity to The Reservoir Act (NI) 2015 Water Regulations requirements commenced, ongoing programme of works.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Parks Improvements Programme 	Twelve play park enhancements in conjunction with Village renewal RDP Programme. Year one of five year rolling programme of play provision improvements not commenced due to extended consultation period

2.2 Staffing Complement - 2019/20



Staffing	No. of Staff
Head of Service	1
Managers	1
Officers	1
Receptionists 2PT/2Casual	4
Senior Wardens	2
Play Park Inspectors	3
Park Wardens	2
Park/Marina Attendants	10
Play Park Attendants	14
Park Attendants (Casual)	7
Total	45

2.3 Service Work Plan - 2019/20

This plan confirms the core activities and actions, which will form your Service Work Plan for 2019-20. This should be a high-level capture of the Service activities and work which it will focus on throughout 2019-20. The Plan links to the Council's 2015-2020 Corporate Plan priorities (the Corporate Plan 2015/19 priorities were extended for another year to include 2019 to 2020), Annual Corporate Improvement Plan Objectives, Corporate Indicators and Mid Ulster Sustainable Community Plan themes & outcomes:

SERVICE WORK PLAN

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Establish an extension of Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI	Creation of increased recreational access and development proposals for regional multi-activity hubs	MUDC have currently eight Forest partnership agreements Davagh Pomeroy Inniscarn Moydamlaght Derrynoyd Drum Manor (Play area) Knockmany Glenone	Projects in partnership with local community groups with a proposal of three new agreements at Parkanaur, Drum Manor and Drumcairne Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council approval • Stakeholder consultation • Legal Agreements • PR/ Marketing/launch events programme in conjunction with community 	July 2019 Sept 2019 Jan 2020 March 2020	MUDC Forest Service NI Local Community Groups	Significant increase for public access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities and the countryside

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children	CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Undertake Master Planning and feasibility studies for selected MUDC Regional and Local Multi-Activity Hubs	Complete two Master Plans from the selected proposals: Ballyronan Marina or Round Lake. Parkanaur Forest Park or Drum Manor Forest	Initial feasibility recommendations from Forest Audits and MUDC strategies	Completion of two master plans from the three options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council approval Development Tender brief/Procurement Stakeholder consultation Draft report submissions Final Master Plans 	July 2019 Aug 2019 Sept 2019 Nov 2019 Jan 2020	MUDC Local Community groups Forest Service NI	Significant increase for public access to quality play, outdoor recreation opportunities and the access to the countryside

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Access to the Countryside development via long distance trails	Creation of a Blueway Trail on the Lower Bann from Portglenone to Newferry in partnership with	Phase one Initial section completed with funding from Waterways Ireland £106k. Stage two	Landowner agreements for stage 3 and 4 sections Newferry to Glenone Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public/Landowner/stakeholder consultation Access agreements Project Tender brief/procurement Design Planning and construction 	June 2019 July 2019 Aug 2019 Sept 2019 Dec 2019	MUDC Waterway Ireland Ulster coarse Anglers Federation	Creation of seven kilometres of off-road public path. Provision and refurbishment of 180 angling stands.

	Waterways Ireland (WI), Forest Service (NI) and community stakeholders	Glenone section commenced £90k	Secure stage 3 funding from RDP Complete construction stage 4 Newferry to Bulrush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 3 funding DRP • Stage 3 Project Tender brief/procurement • Stage 3 Design planning and construction • Stage 4 Complete construction phase 	Jan 2020 Aug 2020 Dec 2020	Forest Service NI Angling NI Honourable Irish Society Local Communities Landowners	Walk and cycle link from Portglenone town to Blueway trial Establishment of significant water recreation hub in Northern Ireland
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.	CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
<p>Deliver event and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues</p> <p>Support event and activity programmes in Forest & Countryside venues managed by Mid Ulster District Council</p>	<p>Delivery of Parks Service events programme to schedule and within allocated budget</p> <p>Support programme of public and community events to schedule and within allocated budget</p>	Facilitated 149 events in 2018	<p>Facilitate of 150 Council/Public Events as part of Parks Service calendar</p> <p>Establish Parks identity and increased Parks Service profile through seasonal specific event campaigns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review budget allocation • Establish programme of events • Tender/procurement of services • Link with marketing and communications • Produce marketing campaigns • Coordinate logistical resources • Deliver events programme • Evaluations/Feedback analysis 	April – Oct 2019	Parks Service Marketing and Communications Stakeholder and participating Community groups/organisations	Programme of varied events and activities across Parks Service / MUDC venues throughout the spring/summer/autumn period seeking to engage a broad spectrum of participant and spectator audience

Deliver Parks Marketing Plan in conjunction with MUDC Marketing & Communications	Delivery of integrated marketing plan for Parks 2019/20 Spring/Summer Programme	Annual Parks Marketing Plan established in 2018		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review marketing budget Development marketing plan with Marketing & Communications Deliver Marketing Plan objectives Evaluations/Feedback analysis 	April – Oct 2019		Promoted effectively and delivered to a high standard in term of quality, public satisfaction and safety
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Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 4.3 Health & Wellbeing - We care more for those most vulnerable and in need	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Play Parks Improvements Programme	Complete upgrades and refurbishment of children's play parks as part of an annual MUDC rolling works programme Increasing inclusive play equipment provision across MUDC	Parks and Play Five Year Strategy completed Year 1 Action Plan budget allocation of £250k Current MUDC inclusive play baseline figure 12.6%	Enhance 9 low scoring children's play parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review budget allocation Consultation Establish scope and programme of works Tender/procurement of contractor Marketing and communications Award contracts and commence works Programme updates 	April 2019 July 2019 July 2019 Aug 2019 Sept 2019 Sept 2019 Oct-Nov 2019 Dec 2019	MUDC Local stakeholders community groups Marketing and Communications	Initial stage of five year rolling programme of play provision improvements across MUDC
			Tender/procurement of schemes within budget allocation Installation of items of new inclusive play equipment to achieve an increase of 5%				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate of completion and Launch event Evaluations/Feedback analysis Play Parks annual audit

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.	CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project	<p>Creation of a Visitor Centre and Dark Sky Observatory including a range of interpretation linking the heritage of the area with the night sky.</p> <p>Development of the visitor hub/trail head area i.e. ancillary facilities/services and car parking.</p>	<p>Completion of Economic Appraisal</p> <p>Funding streams confirmed DAERA and Landfill Communities Fund</p> <p>Forest Service Licence Agreement and Lease</p> <p>Planning approval</p> <p>Consultant architects appointed and design agreed</p> <p>Tendering for contractor initiated</p>	<p>Completion of Davagh Forest Dark Skies Project in conjunction with Tourism partnership.</p> <p>Deliver on service related transitional time line targets as identified as key actions</p> <p>Full operational opening to public for April 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete on Forest Service Licence/Lease arrangements • Community consultation • Develop budget allocation • Catering contract • Bike hire contract • Staff recruitment and staff training • Establish programme of events • Establish NOP's/EOP's for Davagh • Produce marketing campaign 	<p>May 2019</p> <p>April 2019</p> <p>April 2019</p> <p>Dec 2019</p> <p>Dec 2019</p> <p>Jan 2020</p> <p>Jan 2020</p> <p>Jan 2020</p> <p>Jan 2020</p>	<p>MUDC Forest Services NI Local community group Mountain Bike Consortium</p>	<p>Contribute to long-term economic growth through the development of the economy of the Council area, offering a distinct and complementary sustainable outdoor recreation product to that already being offered within the Council area.</p>

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Progress Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway proposals	Continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway and Clogher Valley Greenway projects	<p>Expressions of interest to DRD for Ulster Canal and the Clogher Valley Greenway.</p> <p>Both proposals were selected and advanced to the second stage of competitive evaluation.</p> <p>Stage two feasibility studies were completed and submitted for stage three evaluation</p> <p>Both submissions failed selection for stage three</p> <p>Estimated £25k per project to progress</p>	<p>Stage three design and cost options appraisal for both projects</p> <p>Projects to progress on the basis of Council approval and subject to sourcing available funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review budget allocation, progress subject to available funding • Establish scope and project brief • Tender/procurement of consultancy • Award contracts • Consultation • Draft Reports • Final Report Submission 	<p>July 2019</p> <p>July 2019</p> <p>Aug 2019</p> <p>Aug 2019</p> <p>Oct 2019</p> <p>Jan 2020</p> <p>Feb 2020</p>	<p>MUDC Forest Services NI</p> <p>Local community group</p> <p>Mountain Bike Consortium</p> <p>Consultancy Team</p>	<p>Contribution to making our communities more liveable improving the economy through tourism and civic improvement preservation and restoration of open space and provision of opportunity for physical activities to improve fitness and mental wellbeing across our communities</p>

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment & enhance it for our children	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Reservoirs Management	Conformity to The Reservoir Act (NI) 2015 Water Regulations	<p>Completion of Dungannon Park Lake and Ballysaggart Lough condition Survey reports</p> <p>Completion of Dungannon Park Lake and Ballysaggart Lough Section 10(2) Reports</p>	Meet with the Section 10 Report recommendation that works are carried out within 12 months or the date when the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) becomes enforceable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council staff visit at least weekly. • Appointment of Supervising Engineer, not currently required by the legislation and visits the site at least twice a year. • Council staff member to be trained to carry out observation assessments • Supervising Engineer visits at least twice a year. • On-site Emergency Plans for Dungannon Park Lake and Ballysaggart Lough • Appoint ICT to development Reservoirs Management Plan and Programme of recommended remedial Works • Seek tenders and appoint Contractors for capital works programme • Investigate the valve and penstock works at the reservoir and if necessary repairs carried out to try to get the facilities to function • Attempts be made to stop the significant leakage through the dam • A flood study be undertaken • A review of the ability of the dam to pass the design and safety check flood in terms of stability, spillway capacity and hydraulic performances be undertaken 	April 2019 March 2020	MUDC Dfl Rivers Atkins Consultancy Team	Conformity to The Reservoir Act (NI) 2015 Water

3.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICE AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE

3.1 Annual Improvement Objectives and Associated Programs

The Council has set a number of annual improvement objectives and associated programs (projects and activities) for 2019/20, which aim to bring about improvement. The improvement objectives and key improvement programs, set out Council's contribution to the sustainable Community Plan for the District; against which we can monitor and report progress.

Each Council department provides resources to assist with the improvement activities contained within each improvement project (individual service improvement contribution activity linked to corporate improvement programs can be found in 3.2 of the service plan). The annual improvement objectives also align to the Council's main corporate planning document, which contains the council's strategic direction and main priorities.

The Council will focus on the following improvement objectives for 2019 to 2020:

- 1. To assist the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.*
- 2. To improve the average processing time of Local Planning Applications (New).*
- 3. To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.*
- 4. To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council Recreational Facilities.*

We utilise outcome based accountability methodology to manage our performance. This tells us the impact our services are having on communities. Further detailed information relating to Council's improvement objectives, associated activities, outcome indicators, projects and targets is available at www.midulstercouncil.org/Council/Performance (*Mid Ulster Council's Improvement Plan 2019- 2020*) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 03000 132132.

4.0 Equality

The council is committed to fulfilling its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This commitment is demonstrated by allocating the appropriate time, people and resources to fulfil our equality duties. The Equality Scheme commits us to implementing our duties effectively and in a timely way alongside implementing this Service Plan. Without impacting upon our obligations, when carrying out our equality duties we will also take into account the desirability of promoting good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. We are also required to take into account the need to

promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability and encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life. Mid Ulster District Council are committed to fulfilling our disability duties and we set out how we intend to do this in our disability action plan.

3.2 Service Contribution to the Corporate Improvement Objectives/Projects

Link to Community Plan Theme:		Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 4.1 Health & Wellbeing - We are better enabled to live longer healthier & more active lives		CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction						
Improvement Plan Objective	Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
					Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
4.0 To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council Recreational facilities.	Audit of planned outdoor recreation events and programmes	(1) Monitor data of facility visitor numbers/ footfall (2) Mystery visit (3) Number of programmes delivered. (4) Develop role of Parks in the health agenda through enhanced partnership with the Health Trusts (5)	(1) Current facility usage 576,660 (2) Mystery visits 77% (avg) (3) Number of compiled programmes/ events 26 (4) Current Green Flag status at 2 sites.	(1) Current facility usage 616,660 (2) Mystery visits 80% (avg) (3) Number of compiled programmes/ events 29 (4) Partnership working established (5) Achieve Green Flag status at One more site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Inclusion of Davagh and Blessingboutne MBT into Parks Service (2) Develop and deliver health and wellbeing programmes at specific locations (3) Develop facility activity programme and promotions at specific locations (4) Implement a customer survey for users at Davagh and Blessingbourne MBTs (5) Achieve 'Green Flag' status at one additional site. 	(1) Start April 2019 complete March 2020 (2) Start April 2019 complete March 2020 (3) Start April 2019 complete March 2020 (4) Start April 2019 complete	MUDC	Increased participation and healthier lifestyles by greater numbers attending recreational facilities. Improved health and wellbeing for children and adults

		Number of Green Flag sites				March 2020 (5) Start April 2019 complete March 2020		
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Link to Community Plan Theme:		Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 4.1 Health & Wellbeing - We are better enabled to live longer healthier & more active lives</i>		<i>CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction</i>						
Improvement Plan Objective	Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
					Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
4.0 To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council Recreational facilities.	Development and Implementation of proposals for Key Parks Capital Projects	(1) By March 2020 Implement key programme of work for Railway Park and Portglenone Blueway (2) By March 2020 implement programme	(1) Project designs and business case developed for Railway Park and Portglenone Blueway	(1) By March 2020 Implement key programme of work for Railway Park and Portglenone Blueway (2) By March 2020 implement programme of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Appoint consultancy teams to develop and implement proposals for Key Capital Projects including Railway Park and Portglenone Blueway. (2) Implement inclusive play and startegic play investment programme following Council approval 	(1) Start and Developed by March 2020 (2) Start and developed by March 2020	MUDC	Improved quality recreational facilities in MUDC

		of work for Play Parks and Parks		work for Play Parks and Parks				
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Link to Community Plan Theme:		Corporate Plan Theme						
<i>CMP 4.1 Health & Wellbeing - We are better enabled to live longer healthier & more active lives</i>		<i>CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction</i>						
Improvement Plan Objective	Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
					Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
4.0 To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council Recreational facilities.	Revisions of Parks, Play and Outdoor Recreation Plans	(1) Strategies approved for Parks and Play facilities (2) Strategies approved for Outdoor Recreation facilities	Consultation carried out with key stakeholders. Current facilities drafted.	(1) By March 2020 strategies approved - develop and implement action plans - linked to capital programme. (2) By March 2019 strategies approved - develop and implement action plans - linked to capital programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Strategy developed to be agreed to provide direction for parks and play facilities by March 2019. (2) Strategy developed to be agreed to provide direction for Outdoor Recreation facilities by March 2019. 	(1) Started and completed by March 2020 (2) Started and completed by March 2020	MUDC	As per strategies

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Service to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Services business in 2019-20.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	A lack of, or untimely, maintenance of Parks and Open spaces with the possibility of creating an unsafe environment for public users with potential for injury claims.	6 (3x2)	Currently managed through Property Services. This function of the Council has an extensive remit, responsible for the maintenance of all council lands and property.
2.	Accident occurs on play area	8 (4x2)	Majority of playgrounds are inspected weekly by council staff. Independent annual inspections by ROSPA or RPII Inspectorate. Significant number playgrounds have been replaced or upgraded in recent years and evidence of current good and safe practices reflect in low claim levels. Comprehensive Audit has been completed Play Strategy being developed by Parks Service. Council approval pending
3.	Parks budget under pressure	6 (3x2)	Monthly Budget Management Reports. Networking with potential partner organisations to advise on funding environment. Selection based on greatest need or H&S assessment and annual resource availability. Continue to manage and monitor monthly reports throughout financial year.
4.	Resources, skills and expertise within service to deliver service efficiently	9 (3x3)	Additional casual staff recruited.

5.	Play area equipment etc. is inadequate/outdated	6 (3x2)	<p>A designated officer is responsible for ensuring and monitoring the use and condition of safety materials, particularly around play equipment. Parks service has developed a detailed strategy to ensure that adequate leisure facilities are provided.</p> <p>Programmed internal and external inspections of parks and open spaces are carried out to ensure that standards of maintenance are maintained and the facilities available are up to the required standards. There are documented consultation procedures to ensure that public expectations are identified. There is a planned maintenance programme that is documented and communicated to maintenance staff. There is compliance with industry health and safety standards to ensure the latest materials are used/introduced on a timely basis.</p>
6.	Fraud, theft or bribery occurring within Parks service.	6 (2x3)	<p>All Ballyronan financial transactions managed by Council staff. Approx 70% of bookings - Marina and Caravan Park dealt with as online bookings by World Pay. Cash & Cheque Handling @ Dungannon Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation of duties takes place. • Financial procedures followed • Checks and audits take place at random intervals

			IT solution that centralises bookings introduced Jan 2017. Review of Service Level agreement at Ballyronan Marina allowed the transfer of all cashier duties from community group to council staff.
7.	Water Safety general. Risk to general public/visitors and council employees in relation to water recreation facilities owned and managed by MUDC	8 (4x2)	MUDC Water Safety Policy in place. Water Safety Equipment deployed on designed sites. Programmed Site Inspections. Audited Inspection software records. Damaged or Missing safety Equipment replaced Immediately from stock.

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)