

Report on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) LED Outdoor Mobile Screens 2) NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018- 21 3) Maghera Town Centre Forum 4) Village Renewal Project 5) Coalisland Public Realm 6) Hong Kong Trade Visit 7) Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund 8) International Women's Day Events 9) World Butchers Challenge Event
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screens</p> <p>Approval was previously granted for £50,000 from Council's economic development budget to be used to lease or contract hire large LED Outdoor Mobile Screens for key MUDC events over the next three years for key events such as Christmas, Halloween, Continental market etc.</p>
2.2	<p>NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018- 21</p> <p>Women in Business have submitted a Proposal to the 11 Councils for the delivery of a three year collaborative regional programme between Women in Business, Invest NI and the 11 Councils to increased female entrepreneurship.</p> <p>NI Women's Enterprise Challenge (NIWEC) is a proposed collaboration resulting from a unique situation: an American entrepreneur originally from NI, impressed with the efforts of Women in Business to encourage new entrepreneurs, made a substantial financial commitment (£200,000) towards the development of other support initiatives. Invest NI then approached the councils to consider whether they, along with Invest NI, committing £200,000 could consider a partnership approach to supporting female entrepreneurship. The overall target participants is 600 women per year.</p>

2.3	<p>Maghera Town Centre Forum</p> <p>A key recommendation contained in Maghera Development Framework is the establishment of a Town Forum / Partnership. This would allow Council to work collaboratively and in partnership with agencies, businesses, community and voluntary groups to ensure Maghera achieves its full economic/social potential.</p>
2.4	<p>Village Renewal Project</p> <p>MUDC is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020. Council will make an application to the Local Action Group (LAG) for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to compliment the funding from RDP.</p>
2.5	<p>Coalisland Public Realm</p> <p>A design team has been appointed for the £2.75M redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme includes works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment; ▪ Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre; ▪ Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles; ▪ Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking. <p>The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards.</p>
2.6	<p>Hong Kong Trade Visit</p> <p>It was agreed in February 2018 that Council, in association with Invest NI, would host a Trade Visit for senior buyers from Hong Kong’s agri-food sector to visit Mid Ulster.</p>
2..7	<p>Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund</p> <p>MUDC had submitted an initial Expression of Interest in September 2017 to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) with an outline proposal to deliver Gigabit Internet to three parts of the Mid Ulster District Council area, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment of a full fibre network in the Derryloran area, around Cookstown Enterprise Centre. - The establishment of a full fibre network from the existing BT exchange in Maghera to the Council owned site of the former Maghera High School

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment of a full fibre network from Mid Ulster District Council's Technical Service Depot in Dungannon (adjacent to Dungannon Enterprise Centre) to the new Coalisland Recreation Centre <p>Estimated cost of initial MUDC project is £1,566,560.</p> <p>The Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund is for very specific projects that will enable Telecom providers to link into and maximise the benefit to the surrounding areas. The purpose of this funding is to create "fibre spines" along major transport routes mainly by using public building networks.</p> <p>International Women's Events 2018 To celebrate International Women's Day in March 2018, the Council Chair, Councillor Ashton, hosted two events at the Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon and the Bridewell, Magherafelt.</p> <p>World Butchers Challenge Event The World Butchers' Challenge (WBC) was created as a platform for butchers from across the world to compete and showcase their butchery skills and creative use of products from their respective countries. At Development Committee in November 2017, Council agreed to provide to sponsorship to the value of £10,000 towards the International Study Tour to Mid Ulster in March 2018, financed by Council's economic development budget 2017/18.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screens A tender notice was published on e-tendering website to appoint a company to lease or contract hire LED Outdoor Mobile Screens for key MUDC events over the next three years. The tender notice was published on Wednesday 7 March 2018 and closed at 3pm Wednesday 21 March 2018.</p> <p>By the deadline of 3pm Wednesday 21 March 2018 one company had submitted a response. This was assessed on Thursday 22 March 2018 by a panel consisting of Procurement Officer, Economic Strategies Manager and Regeneration Manager.</p> <p>Following assessment of the Stage 1 Pre-Qualification Eligibility Criteria, the submission met the criteria and proceeded to the next Stage of Financial Section carrying a weighting of 100%. This was duly assessed by the panel, with "AJC Electrical" contracted to hire LED Outdoor Mobile Screens for key MUDC events over the next three years up to the value of £50,000 (including expenses, excluding VAT).</p>

3.2

NI Women's Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018- 21

Compared to the rest of the UK average of 5.5%, Northern Ireland's female entrepreneurial activity rate is lagging behind, at a rate of just over 3%. The NI Women's Enterprise Challenge (NIWEC) proposal outlines a range of interventions to grow the numbers of females who are exploring enterprise and also actively considering starting their own business. It is anticipated that this should therefore stimulate an increase participants to the NI Business Start Up Programme and also Council's business support programmes.

Women in Business have agreed to work closely with the 11 Councils in the delivery and promotion of the Enterprise Challenge in each area, with each Council being able to 'opt-in/out' of some of the activities where required. It is anticipated that the 'Challenge' year will commence in September 2018.

The Proposal on Appendix 1 shows an average cost for each Council estimated at £6060 per year, with potentially slightly higher costs in year 1 - £6162, reducing in years 2 and 3. The estimated cost for each Council is £110 per person, supporting an estimated 55 women in their area (page 14 of Appendix 1).

3.3

Maghera Town Centre Forum

It is proposed that Maghera Town Centre Forum is established along similar lines to the Forums / Partnerships already operating in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. The forum will meet on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum will be serviced by Council's Economic Development staff.

It is proposed that the Carntogher DEA members sit on the forum as well as statutory, business and community members (as detailed below). A draft Terms of Reference for Maghera Town Centre Forum is attached on Appendix 2.

The proposed membership of Maghera Town Centre Forum is as follows:

- Carntogher DEA Members (5)
- Maghera Development Association Representative (1)
- Maghera Traders Association Representative (1)
- Transport NI (1)
- Department for Communities (1)
- MUDC Community Development Representative (1)
- MUDC Planning Service (1)
- Translink (1)
- PSNI (1)
- Maghera Town Centre Traders (4)
- Mid Ulster Disability Forum (1)
- Maghera Community Groups Representative (2)

Following an initial meeting with Carntogher DEA members on 21 March 2018, and subject to Council approval, invitations will be issued to the aforementioned groups, inviting them to submit nominations as outlined above.

3.4 **Village Renewal Project**

A number of Village projects are currently in the procurement process to appoint construction companies as outlined below -

Maghera – ITT stage (for appointment of Contractor) closed on 12th February 2018.

Ballygawley – Letter of Offer received and Contractor appointed, Works ongoing.

Upperlands – Letter of Offer received for MUGA.

Playparks – Caledon, Granville, Augher and Tobermore – Letter of offer received and Contractor appointed, works ongoing.

Newmills, Castlecaulfield, Benburb & Gulladuff – Currently finalising Concept designs and community sign off.

Ardboe – Finalising Concept Designs to be submitted for Planning.

Legal agreements are being processed through the Council's legal team.

Economic Development staff are currently compiling all the leases and completing the application forms and business cases to be submitted to the LAG.

Economic Development staff are also currently working on the next phase of Villages which indicatively at this stage includes – Upperlands Playpark, Swatragh, Churchtown & Lissan, Moortown, The Loup, Desertmartin, Clonoe, Ballinderry & Ballylifford, Orritor and Broughderg, Killyman and Eglis.

3.5 **Coalisland Public Realm**

The revised programmed was issued for acceptance on the 11th January 2018 which was updated to include an extended period for the VISSUM Traffic Modelling which is ongoing. The outcome of the VISSUM Traffic Modelling survey will support options identified in the economic appraisal for sourcing funding.

3.6 **Hong Kong Trade Visit**

Officers have been working with representatives from Invest NI to develop a programme whereby senior buyers from the agri-food sector in Hong Kong would travel to Mid Ulster for a Meet the Buyer event with local agri-food companies.

Six senior buyers from the agri-food sector in Hong Kong will visit Mid Ulster on 18th and 19th April 2018. The following activities have been arranged:

Wednesday 18th April 2018

- Site visits to 5 major food producers in Mid Ulster.

- Networking Dinner in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown at 7pm, using local produce.
-

Thursday 19th April 2018

- Meet The Buyer event at Loughry Campus from 12noon-4pm.

Over 20 local food producers have been invited to attend the Networking Dinner and Meet The Buyer Event to showcase their products to the Hong Kong buyers.

It was agreed previously that Council would co-finance this event, making provision of £10,000 funding from Council's economic development budget.

3.7

Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund

A Wave 3 call for full applications to the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund was expected to open in Spring 2018, putting the call back 2 months. Officers are working up an application to submit and if successful, will bring high-speed broadband mostly to and from Council owned facilities that will drive up-take and transform the delivery of public services to improve quality and reduce costs. It is recommended that Council go out to public tender to offer network operators the opportunity to build and operate an open access network for our proposed projects, subject to being successful in obtaining funding.

Council has appointed "Smart LED" to assist and complete this application, which is heavily reliant on specialist technical expertise. This company has the specific experience of engaging with the Telecoms sector and are knowledgeable with the LFFN call.

Since MUDC submitted a draft project proposal in September 2017, Cookstown Enterprise Centre have progressed with implementing a Gigabit network at Derryloran Industrial Estate, Cookstown which was contained in our initial proposal. They decided to progress this opportunity now because there is no guarantee of success in any funding bids. There will now be a proposed voucher connection scheme around Derryloran Industrial Estate that can benefit the surrounding area. Therefore, MUDC will not include Cookstown Enterprise Centre within its application.

MUDC's revised application is seeking 100% funding for the provision of gigabit infrastructure for the 2 areas initially proposed, plus a new proposal in Cookstown. This proposal will include a build, design and operate concept for:

1. The establishment of a full fibre network from the existing BT exchange in Maghera to Council's opportunity site located at the former High School grounds in Maghera.
2. The establishment of a full fibre network from Mid Ulster District Council offices Circular Road to the new Coalisland Recreation Centre
3. Mid Ulster Council Offices, Cookstown to Moneymore Recreation Centre.

Estimated cost of MUDC project is in excess £1 million. Costs are still being finalised at the time of writing this report.

Under the same funding challenge MUDC were also part of project being led by Belfast City Council on a regional gigabit voucher scheme for businesses. It was announced on 13 March 2018 that Belfast City Council will not be delivering this scheme as the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (**DCMS**) has now decided to deliver the voucher scheme themselves. The voucher scheme will provide up to £3,000 per business and up to £500 per domestic premise to upgrade their telecoms provision.

3.8 **International Women's Events 2018**

The events to celebrate International Women's Day were extremely successful and well attended, with over 170 women attending the two events.

The first event was held in Dungannon at the Hill of The O'Neill on Monday 5th March 2018. Guest speakers were Karen Farquhar and Billy Dixon.

The second event was held in the Bridewell, Magherafelt on Wednesday 7th March 2018. Guest speakers were Dr Janet Gray, MBE and Hannah Shields.

All proceeds from ticket and raffle sales amounting to **£1634** will be donated by the Council Chair to the Air Ambulance Northern Ireland to which Karen Farquhar is patron. An overview of the two events, is provided at Appendix 3.

3.9 **World Butchers Challenge Event**

Butchers from across the globe arrived in Northern Ireland on 15th March 2018 to take part in the World Butchers' Challenge (WBC). This is the first-time in the competition's history that the event travelled to Ireland, with Belfast playing host to competitors from 13 countries. The main competitions were held at Titanic, Belfast, with an International Study Tour to Mid Ulster, financed by Mid Ulster District Council. Council took part in the following WBC events;

- **Soiree Event, Titanic, Belfast - Thursday 15th March 2018**

The Soiree event gave the opportunity for competitors to taste local Irish produce and local craft beers and ciders followed with the opportunity to meet top meat industry stakeholders and sponsors. Six elected members and an officer from Mid Ulster District Council attended the Soiree evening at Titanic, Belfast, to welcome the competitors. The Chair of Mid Ulster District Council was selected to draw the countries to compete in Heat 1 and Heat 2 at Meat @IFEX.

- **International Study Tour to Mid Ulster - Friday 16th March 2018 (Funded by Mid Ulster District Council)**

A full day of activities was organised for 120 butchers from across the globe to visit Mid Ulster. This included a site visit to Linden Foods, visits to award winning butchers MacMahon's, Cookstown and Lowe Brothers, Stewartstown, followed by a tour of the Innovation Centre, CAFRE's Loughry Campus. At Loughry all competitors and delegates enjoyed lunch

	<p>showcasing the best local artisan producers, mainly from Mid Ulster. After lunch a ‘nose to tail’ live butchery demonstration took place and an Irish Charcuterie Session by Artisan Master Dave Land from Butchery Excellence Ireland and 3 Star Great Taste Award Winner Charcutier Jonny Cuddy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Butchers Challenge - Gala Dinner, Titanic Belfast - Wednesday 21st March 2018 <p>Six elected members and an officer from Mid Ulster District Council attended Celebratory Gala Dinner in Titanic Belfast. This evening was the platform to announce the World Butchers Challenge Overall Winning Team for 2018. Each team of six had just three hours and fifteen minutes to turn a side of beef, a side of pork and a whole lamb and five chickens into a themed display of value-added cuts. This year’s contest was won by Team Ireland, gaining the title for world’s top butchers, and congratulations are given to Mr C Donnelly from MacMahon’s Butchers, Cookstown, who formed part of the winning team.</p> <p>An overview of the WBC events are contained in Appendix 4.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screens £50,000 available from with the economic development budget.</p> <p>NI Women’s Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018/21 Up to £6,162 (year 1 costs) is available from the economic development budget in 2018/19. Funding for subsequent years will be reviewed upon receipt of regular reports from Women in Business on performance and outputs.</p> <p>Hong Kong Trade Visit Council previously agreed to co-finance a Hong Kong Trade visit to Mid Ulster, where senior buyers from the agri-food sector would travel to Mid Ulster for a Meet the Buyer event. Project is financed to the value of £10,000 from Council’s economic development budget.</p> <p>World Butchers Challenge Event Council previously agreed to fund the World Butchers Challenge International Study Tour to Mid Ulster, bringing 120 butchers from across the globe to Mid Ulster to showcase local produce and meet local companies. Project is financed to the value of £10,000 from Council’s economic development budget.</p> <p>Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund “Smart LED” won a quotation exercise to assist complete the LFFN application for £4,995.</p> <p>Human: Officer time.</p>

4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> n/a
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> n/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	LED Outdoor Mobile Screens Members are asked to consider approving the recommendation to award “AJC Electrical” the contract to hire large LED Outdoor Mobile Screens for key MUDC events over the next three years for a cost of up to £50,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) from Council’s economic development budget.
5.2	NI Women’s Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018/21 Members are requested to consider funding the Women’s Enterprise Challenge for a one year period (2018/19) initially, at an estimated cost of £6060 per Challenge Year, with potentially slightly higher costs in year 1 - £6162, reducing in years 2 and 3. Provision for future years to be reviewed upon receipt of regular reports from Women in Business, detailing the performance and outputs of the initiative in the Mid Ulster District Council area.
5.3	Maghera Town Centre Forum Members are requested to approve the establishment of Maghera Town Centre Forum as set out in the attached Terms of Reference on Appendix 2.
5.4	Village Renewal Project Members to note progress
5.5	Coalisland Public Realm Members to note progress
5.6	Hong Kong Trade Visit Members to note progress.
5.7	Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund Members to note progress
5.8	International Women’s Day Events 2018 Members to note Report on International Women’s Day Events
5.9	World Butchers Challenge Event Members to note Report on the World Butchers Challenge Event.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – NI Women’s Enterprise Challenge Proposal 2018/21</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Maghera Town Centre Forum Terms of Reference</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Report on International Women’s Day Events</p> <p>Appendix 4 – World Butchers Challenge Event</p>