

Report on	Mid Ulster District Council's First Term 2015-2019: Review Report
Date of Meeting	Thursday 4 April 2019
Reporting Officer	Head of Marketing & Communications
Contact Officer	Head of Marketing & Communications

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 present members with a review report documenting the achievements of the Council in its first 4-year term.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council became operational on the 1 April 2015, merging 3 councils and becoming responsible for new areas of work and new powers.
2.2	As the Council reaches the end of its first term, it is timely to consider how the Council's performance, success and progress in its first 4 years has contributed to its vision and to the achievement of its priorities.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The review report details the Council's progress in terms of its new powers, including the high performance of the planning service and the significant work to develop the first Mid Ulster Local Draft Plan Strategy, as well as the introduction of community planning, including the 10-year Mid Ulster Community Plan.
3.2	The protection and enhancement of the environment is featured, highlighting the Council's strategic investment in waste infrastructure, its position at the top of the recycling table since 2015 and its status as the first council to reach the 50% recycling target, several years ahead of the 2020 target.
3.3	How the Council has addressed the region's rurality is also profiled, from the £10M rural development programme, including the £2.1M which to date has supported 21 village programmes to the village spruce-up scheme which saw a total of 109 properties across 46 villages benefit from funding.
3.4	The Council's role as a leader in rural tourism, notably through the success of Seamus Heaney HomePlace and latterly with the development of the dark sky observatory and visitor centre at Davagh Forest, is also included.

3.5	A section of the report focusses specifically on the Council's investment to grow the local economy: the launch of the economic development strategy in 2015 valued at £30M and its subsequent annual impact; regeneration work in town centres, including £10M in public realm schemes and the delivery of a £500K shop improvement scheme; the strategic planning for the district via development plans for significant opportunity sites and the ambitious plan for a 3-council Growth Deal.
3.6	The Council has also been investing to grow vibrant, active and healthy communities in Mid Ulster, most visibly in its programme of capital works, which has been steadily enhancing its leisure facilities with allocated investment to date of over £3M.
3.7	More than 20 local and national awards are also documented, from blue flags and green flags for marinas and parks to UK-wide recognition for planning and tourism.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee notes the Mid Ulster District Council Review Report: 2015-2019.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Review Report: 2015-2019