

<b>Report On</b>	<p><b>Economic Development Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Evaluation Report - Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera</li> <li>2) Business Support Programmes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1) Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme</li> <li>2.2) Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme</li> <li>2.3) Mid Ulster Business Breakfast Digital Seminars</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) Heritage Funding Programme</li> <li>4) Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</li> <li>5) Foreign Direct Investment App</li> <li>6) Digital Catapult – Regional LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network) networks Funding Call</li> <li>7) Draperstown Townscape Heritage</li> </ol>
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<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X
	Information relates to an individual	
	Information is likely to reveal identity of an individual	
	Information relates to financial or business affairs of a person (including the council)	
	Information relates to consultations or negotiations, in relation to labour relations matters	
	Information relates to claim which legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings	
	Reveals that council proposes to give a notice by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or make an order or direction under any statutory provision	
	Relates to action taken or to be taken in connection with prevention, investigation or possession of crime	

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
2.0	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<b>Evaluation Report - Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera</b>
	<p>Enchanted Garden Event was held on Saturday 26 August 2017 12pm – 4pm in The Walled Garden, Maghera and was attended by 3,675 people. The event provided a wide range of fun activities with a fairies and elf theme for children, including storytelling, face painting, balloon modelling, a games area, craft making (including fairy wand and elf hat making), and plant your own fairy and elf garden.</p>
2.2	<b>Business Support Programmes</b>
	<p><b>2.2.1 Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme</b> - This Programme will provide a range of interventions including assistance to explore new ideas, establish a new enterprise and help existing enterprises grow and become more sustainable. The Contract is for the period from August 2017 to January 2020 and includes targets such as a minimum of 40 enterprises supported, the creation of 15 new jobs and funding leveraged of £150,000 and following a procurement exercise Workspace Enterprises Ltd were appointed in August 2017 to deliver the Programme at a cost of up to £78,000 (including expenses and excluding vat).</p>
	<p><b>2.2.2 Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme</b> - This Programme seeks to drive innovation activity and increase productivity in the local engineering sector through the provision of intensive bespoke support to help a minimum of 18 engineering businesses develop new products, processes or services and implement business improvement techniques. Targets include a minimum of 15 new jobs created, increase in turnover averaging 5% and all 18 businesses to have developed new products, processes or services. Following a procurement process, in August 2017, the South West College InnoTech Centre were appointed to deliver the Programme completing in January 2019 at a cost of up to £64,570 (including expenses and excluding vat).</p>
	<p><b>2.2.3 Mid Ulster Business Breakfast Digital Seminars</b> - Following the highly popular Digital Seminars delivered earlier this year, in August 2017, quotations were sought for the delivery of three further Digital Seminars (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) during Autumn 2017. 42Digital were appointed to manage and deliver the Seminar Programme at a cost of up to £7,750 (excluding vat).</p>
2.3	<b>Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</b>
	<p>Historically, the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council supported Christmas events in Coalisland and Maghera over and above the Festive Lighting Grants that were offered to villages. These events continued to be funded last year and were organised by CRAIC Theatre in Coalisland and Maghera Traders Association in Maghera and are well established events supported by the local community.</p>
2.4	<b>Digital Catapult – Regional LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network) networks Funding Call</b>

	<p>In June 2017, Digital Catapult was awarded funding from Innovate UK for its bid to expand a project called “Things Connected”. This is intended to develop up to five additional large-scale low power wide area networks (LPWAN) which are emerging as potentially very powerful for business growth. This is a <b>one year pilot</b> providing a free-to-use regional LPWAN network for the use of testing, experimentation, demonstration of products and services.</p> <p>This fund seeks to lower the barrier to access for this new technology and create opportunities for innovative businesses to develop. The fund will focus on:  (i) setting up a regional network; (ii) providing access to the network; (iii) stimulating interest in the business opportunities a network brings;(iv), and educating SME’s on the potential of IoT to their businesses.</p> <p><b>2.5 Foreign Direct Investment App</b>  The existing Foreign Direct Investment app (FDI APP) for Mid Ulster was developed during the local government transition period. At a previous Development Committee meeting, it was agreed that details be provided at a future meeting, outlining the number of users of the existing FDI app and where these enquiries originated from.</p> <p>Previously Council agreed to support the procurement of a suitably qualified organisation to undertake upgrade work on the existing FDI App for Mid Ulster, estimated to cost £10,000. Subsequent to this, further input was sought from Invest NI’s Trade Team on how best to position Mid Ulster’s inward investment proposition.</p> <p><b>2.6 Heritage Funding Programme</b>  At the last Committee meeting, it was agreed that officers research the current funding provision and identify any gaps in such provision, and explore the potential of developing a small funding programme aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural and built heritage in Mid Ulster.</p> <p><b>2.7 Draperstown Townscape Heritage</b>  Correspondence received from The Workspace Group, dated 11 September 2017, inviting Mid Ulster District Council to act as a partner in a Townscape Heritage Scheme for Draperstown Conservation Area which will involve committing financial and partnership support over a five year period.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Evaluation Report - Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera</b>  To receive Evaluation Report on the Enchanted Garden Event held in Maghera on 26 August 2017 where 3,675 people attended (Appendix 1).</p>
3.2	<p><b>Business Support Programmes:</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme</b> - This Programme is now open for applications for support. Any groups seeking support to set up or develop a</p>

Social Enterprise should contact Michelle Clarke at the Workspace on 028 79628113 or email: michelle@theworkspacegroup.org

**3.2.2 Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme** - This Programme is now open for applications from Mid Ulster's engineering businesses. Any business interested in hearing how this Programme could support their innovation ambitions should contact Clodagh O'Neill at the South West College on 028 82 255223 or email: clodagh.o'neill@swc.ac.uk

**3.2.3 Mid Ulster Business Breakfast Digital Seminars** - Three Digital Seminars will be delivered over the next few weeks (see Programme attached Appendix 2). Each Seminar will explore the topic of 'Achieving Online Growth' through a range of methods. They will all commence with an interactive Q&A session with the panel of experts, followed by short presentations, then breaking into workshops where delegates will have the chance to explore the topic with the presenters. Demand is expected to be high and registration for each seminar will only be available once the previous one is over.

3.3

#### **Heritage Funding Programme**

Work is underway to research current heritage funding streams with a view to identifying the need for a small scale Council funding programme to bridge potential gaps in provision. Details will be worked up and a report brought back to Committee next month.

3.4

#### **Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events**

CRAIC Theatre Company and Maghera Traders Association have submitted requests for funding towards the Christmas Lights Switch-on events as per previous years (see Appendices 3 and 4). Officers have requested further information on the proposals and when this is received and if deemed acceptable, it is proposed that Council fund the initiative to the value of £4,200 in Coalisland for a switch-on event on Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 and £3,500 for a switch-on event in Maghera on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 and permit officers to work with CRAIC Theatre Company and Maghera Traders Association to deliver the event. Funding for these events are included in this year's economic development budget.

3.5

#### **Digital Catapult – Regional LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network) Networks Funding Call**

This technology provides a means of inexpensive secure long distance communication between a sensor which is based in the community and the owner of the sensor. The communication requires very little power so a sensor may have a battery attached which is sufficient for the life of a device. The sensor could be measuring temperature, humidity, location, movement, air quality, or many other pieces of data. The data can be passed back to a server via the internet and presented to a decision maker with other similar pieces of data.

This is **not** 3G/4G/Broadband type information but small pieces of information fed from lots of devices. The small data 'packets' can be received from lots of sensors so the collection of data from lots of sensors over a long period of time will build rich decision making information which is currently unavailable.

The Technical Proposal for this project is attached on Appendix 5. Ulster University will lead a bid for funds subject to support of Invest NI, Councils and NI businesses. Ulster University will focus on building a technical network across whole of NI or selected

locations based on business need. The deadline for this funding bid is 29 September 2017 and InvestNI is asking all 11 Councils to support in principle to fund (approx. £10K per council) to launch small scale trials which will utilise the LPWAN network to address challenges such as:

### **Regional**

- Understanding visitor activity across the region (including arrival/departure) and encouraging movement between attractions.
- Better understanding of movement of key waste products – to support circular economy planning.

### **Mid Ulster**

- Predictive analytics for anti-social behaviour in council open spaces (parks, etc.)
- Supporting more effective building management (energy monitoring, public usage of building, etc.)
- Gather data on usage of public services and facilities, particularly new facilities to improve operational efficiency and create new services for users / residents.
- Better tracking of household recycling behaviour
- Better management of street waste bins
- Understanding car parking usage/decision-making by drivers – to maximise use of such spaces.
- Pedestrian flow modelling – e.g. tracking shoppers'/visitors movements to enhance planning of retail experience in city centre.
- Active living – tracking to support update of walking, running, active programmes.

The expectation is that the Councils will come together to define and create opportunities to explore the capability through challenge funds.

**Further Details on the Call** is available at

<https://www.digitalcatapultcentre.org.uk/open-calls/lpwan-open-call/>

3.6

### **Foreign Direct Investment App**

*Existing FDI App User Statistics* - for the period March 2015 to August 2017, Google Analytics recorded 4,964 user sessions of Mid Ulster's FDI app. This equates to approximately 38 user sessions per week. The following capital cities were recorded having user sessions (using android and iOS Traffic); Edinburgh, Cardiff, London, Washington, Paris, Madrid, Stockholm, Moscow, Beijing, New Delhi and Jakarta.

*New FDI Proposition* - Previously the Council agreed to support the procurement of a suitably qualified organisation to undertake upgrade work on the existing FDI App for Mid Ulster. However, subsequent guidance from Invest NI's Trade Team would suggest that an FDI App is not the tool that is required in future to promote an area's unique sales

3.7	<p>proposition. They suggest this has now been superseded and a new approach is required to promote Mid Ulster as an investment location.</p> <p>It is therefore, recommended that Council do not update the existing FDI App, but instead, focus on using the £10,000 budget on other key activities to promote Mid Ulster, aligned to what Invest NI's Investment Managers now require. This may include the development of local business ambassador videos, exploring high profile networking opportunities, developing high quality presentations and imagery tailored to meet the specific needs of investors etc. This change in direction comes at an opportune time and allows Council to focus our budget on getting the best return on investment. It is therefore, recommended that the previously agreed budget of £10,000 be reallocated to support activities and opportunities as identified by Invest NI's Investment Managers.</p> <p><b>Draperstown Townscape Heritage</b> Correspondence received from the Chairman of The Workspace Group, dated 11 September 2017 (Appendix 6), invites Mid Ulster District Council to partner with the Workspace Group in making an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Townscape Heritage Programme for improvements to the built historic environment in Draperstown Conservation Area.</p> <p>To partner in any bid will require financial and partnership support over a five year scheme, should the application be successful. The overall cost of the scheme is estimated at £1.5million. The letter indicates that the financial support from Mid Ulster District Council is unlikely to exceed £100,000 per annum for 5 years. Furthermore the cost of a first round application is estimated at between £10,000 and £15,000 and again a contribution towards these costs are sought.</p> <p>The deadline for submission of a round one application is December 2017, and if successful the scheme would not commence until the 2019/2020 financial year.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Business Breakfast Digital Seminars</b> £7,750 (including expenses and excluding vat) is available from within the economic development budget)</p> <p>4.2 <b>Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</b> Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch on Event - £4,200 Maghera Christmas Lights Switch on Event - £3,500</p> <p>4.3 <b>Digital Catapult – Regional LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network) Networks Funding Call</b> £10,000 support for funding, if the application is successful (approx. £10K per council)</p> <p>4.4 <u>Human Resources Implications</u> Staff time</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b> N/A</p>

4.3	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b> N/A</p>
5.0	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
5.1	<p><b>Members are requested;</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Evaluation Report - Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera</b> To note Evaluation Report on Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera</p> <p><b>5.2 Business Support Programmes</b></p> <p><b>5.2.1 Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme</b> To note progress</p> <p><b>5.2.2 Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme</b> To note progress</p> <p><b>5.2.3 Mid Ulster Digital Seminars</b> To note Digital Seminar dates.</p> <p><b>5.3 Heritage Funding Programme</b> To note progress.</p> <p><b>5.4 Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</b> To financially support CRAIC Theatre to the value of £4,200 to deliver the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-on, on Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 and work in partnership with Maghera Traders Association to deliver the Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-on, on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 to the value of £3,500; all subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.</p> <p><b>5.5 Digital Catapult – Regional LPWAN (Low Power Wide Area Network) networks Funding Call</b> To financially support making provision of £10,000 to support a range of both regional and Mid Ulster specific challenges that utilise the LPWAN network subject to a successful funding bid being submitted by Invest NI.</p> <p><b>5.6 Foreign Direct Investment App</b> To agree the reassignment of £10,000 budget from an FDI App to more specific resources required by inward investors as identified by Invest NI.</p> <p><b>5.7 Draperstown Townscape Heritage</b> To advise the Workspace Group that Council will informally support their group to develop a Regeneration Project via the Heritage Lottery Fund for Draperstown by way of officer attendance at their meetings but decline the request to make a financial contribution towards the project.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>

Appendix 1 – Evaluation Report - Enchanted Garden Event, Maghera

Appendix 2 – Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Programme

Appendix 3 – CRAIC Theatre, Coalisland – Request re Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Appendix 4 – Maghera Traders Association – Request re Christmas Lights Switch on  
Event

Appendix 5 – Digital Catapult – Regional Low Power Wide Area Network

Appendix 6 – Letter from the Workspace Group re Draperstown Townscape Heritage