

Report on	Update on Match Funding Requests
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0 Purpose of Report	
1.1	To provide an update to Members on match funding requests under European Social Fund (ESF) Programme Phase 2 (2018-22) and to consider financially supporting a new match funding request from Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd towards a Coalisland Great Places Project.

2.0 Background	
2.1	In September 2017, the second call for grant funding under the NI ESF Programme 2014-2020 opened to applications and closed at noon on 13 October 2017. The application assessment process concluded in December 2017 with a total of 61 project applications being recommended for funding subject to a number of pre-Letter of Offer due diligence checks. An appeals process is available which will be concluded in January 2018.
2.2	In September 2017, Council agreed to consider a number of match funding requests from lead partners under ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) and this report will update members on the outcome of their submissions.
2.3	In December 2017, Council received a presentation from Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd requesting match funding to support their application to Heritage Lottery Fund for a Coalisland Great Place Heritage Project. It was agreed that Council support the project in principle and that officers consider the funding request and bring a report back to Council to include information on the geographical area covered by the project.

3.0 Main Report	
3.1	European Social Fund (ESF) Programme 2014-2020 The strategic aim of the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme 2014-2020 in Northern Ireland is to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and to increase the skills base of those currently in work and future potential participants in the workforce.
3.2	As part of the delivery of ESF support for employability development, the Council is currently committed to supporting four programmes under Phase 1 over a 3 year period:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step Up to Sustainable Programme (SUSE+ Programme) 2. Exploring Enterprise 3 Programme (EE3P) 3. Up for Work Programme (UFWP)

4. Job Match Programme (JMP)

The lead organisations responsible for the delivery of the current four programmes requested match funding from Council to submit proposals for ESF funding under the second call (ESF Phase 2 - 2018-22). In addition Council received matching funding requests for two additional programmes to be considered:

1. Community Family Support Programme
2. Workforce IV

3.3 In September 2017, Council agreed the undernoted match funding requests under ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) subject to a successful bid. Projects are funded in the following way ESF 40%, DfE 25% and 35% Public or Private Match Funding. It is important to note that the contributions were based on current budget constraints and pro-rata annual contribution levels to the current programmes:-

SUSE+

A financial contribution of £40,000 per annum to SWC for the period 2018-2022.

Exploring Enterprise 4 Programme

A financial contribution of £9,452 per annum to Enterprise NI for the period 2018-2022.

Up for Work Programme

A financial contribution of £9,512 per annum to Network Personnel for the period 2018-2022.

Job Match Programme

A financial contribution of £10,332 per annum to Network Personnel for the period 2018-2022.

The Council did not approve match funding requests under ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) for the Community Family Support Programme and Workforce IV Programme.

Therefore, the total aggregate annual contribution agreed was £69,296 which amounts to a total financial contribution of £277,184 over the 4 year period (2018-22).

3.4 In December 2017, the Department for the Economy (DfE) concluded the application assessment process and the lead organisations have informed council officers of their funding status:-

Programme	Lead Organisation	Funding Status	Approved MUDC Contribution
SUSE+	South West College	Successful	£40,000 p.a.
Exploring Enterprise 4	Enterprise NI	Unsuccessful*	£9,452 p.a.
Up for Work Programme	Network Personnel	Successful	£9,512 p.a.
Job Match Programme	Network Personnel	Successful	£10,332 p.a.

* Enterprise NI have advised Council that they will be appealing the decision.

3.5 **Workforce IV (Lead organisation: NOW Group)**

As noted earlier, Council did not approve a match funding request (£25,000 p.a. over 4 years) from NOW Group for a Workforce IV Programme. NOW Group have confirmed that their application was successful and have submitted a further appeal to Council to

reconsider its decision. It is important to highlight that Workforce IV Programme proposes similar activities to the Up For Work and Job Match Programmes which have been successful securing ESF Phase 2 funding. In consideration of this and current budget constraints, it is recommended to restate the Council's previous decision not to support the Workforce IV Programme.

3.6 STRIDE (Lead organisation: Ulster Supported Employment Ltd)

A further request has been received from Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) to provide match funding for their STRIDE Programme.

STRIDE (Support, Training to Realise Individual Development and Employment) programme offers people with disabilities who are unemployed or economically inactive the opportunity to gain employability skills and qualifications required by employers. STRIDE will work to assist those participants with low or no employability or vocational skills and/or educational achievement to effectively remove barriers to employment over the course of the project, enabling them to move into and within sustainable employment or to progress into further/higher education/training or mainstream employment programmes.

Under the Programme, participants may spend up to one year on the project receiving tailored supports, accredited/non-accredited training in areas such as Essential Skills Training, Vocational Skills up to level 2 (Retail, Customer Service, Food Safety, Health & Safety in the Workplace, Manual Handling, Environmental Sustainability etc.), work experience and subsidised employment before progressing into positive outcomes, such as employment, further/higher education/training or mainstream employment programmes. Delivery will take place in locations and venues accessible and local to the participants.

Projected Outcomes

	Total per annum (Programme)	Total over 4 years (Programme)	Total per annum (MUDC)	Total over 4 years (MUDC)
Participants	200	800	20	80
Into paid employment	60 (30%)	240 (30%)	6 (30%)	24 (30%)
Non accredited courses	20	80	2	8
Accredited courses	180	720	18	72
Into further education/training	30 (15%)	120 (15%)	3 (15%)	12(15%)
Work Placement Training	100 (50%)	400 (50%)	10 (50%)	40 (50%)
Subsidised Employment Opportunities	20 (10%)	80 (10%)	2 (10%)	8 (10%)

Total project costs over a 4 year period (2018-22):-

	Cost (£)	Percentage (%)
ESF Funding	£2,613,226	65%
Mid Ulster District Council	£100,000	2.5%
Other match funders	£1,307,121	32.5%
TOTAL	£4,020,347	100%

USEL's application was successful and they have requested Council match funding of £25,000 p.a. over 4 years. It would appear that elements of STRIDE cut across the three

programmes which council have previously agreed to support. In consideration of this and current budget constraints it is recommended not to support the STRIDE Programme.

3.7

Coalisland Great Places Project

In December 2017, Council received a presentation from Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd (LNP) requesting match funding of £50k over 3 years (£16,666 p.a.) to support their Great Places project entitled *Coalisland and East Tyrone: The Historical Manufacturing Base of Mid Ulster*. LNP is through to final round of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) competition along with five other applicants.

The Council agreed to support the project in principle and asked officers to consider the funding request and provide further information on the geographical area covered by the project. A map of the project boundary area is Appendix 1, which is based on the 1609 Bodley Map for the ancient districts of Munterevlin Owtra and Clonagherie. The selection of Bodley for defining the area is based on his use of local people's knowledge to identify and profile townlands and the area has strong ancient and medieval references to local craft production and artisan manufacturing.

The proposed project aims to celebrate the rich historic manufacturing legacy of Coalisland and East Tyrone. It will tell the story of past resource extraction and manufacturing, how place names, songs, stories and poetry were derived from the natural resources in the landscape and how the area became a focus of the industrial revolution in Ireland. The project will join forces with local arts and cultural heritage bodies as well as local businesses to build a new skills capacity, revive lost artisan and manufacturing working skills and celebrate the area's great industrial manufacturing heritage through the medium of arts and culture. The project will help local groups and communities become more resilient by providing them with the necessary skills to ensure heritage, arts and culture becomes an important and integral aspect of regenerating the town and area. The private sector will also be encouraged to examine the potential of arts and culture to fit into their workplace and some of the plays, seminars, lectures and talks will take place in the local factories and workshops.

Project Vision:-

To use the natural resources and rich manufacturing legacy of Coalisland and East Tyrone to place culture and arts at the forefront of a new dynamic future by forging new partnerships with the community, public and in particular the private manufacturing sector."

Project Activity:-

- Assist study for a new heritage walking trail including signage
- A Community Archaeology Programme
- Heritage Skills Workshops
- 'The story of manufacturing' publication
- Heritage Guides Training Programme
- Provide new Public Realm Sculpture
- Provide 10 new craft/manufacturing apprenticeships
- Business Training Initiatives in crafts and manufacturing sector
- Museum exhibiting the area's industrial past
- Heritage and Culture Events Programme
- Place names, Poetry, Songs and Stories
- Community Heritage Education Programme
- A sustainable Heritage Plan
- A dedicated Project Officer based in Craic Theatre.

Linkages to Council Strategic Plans

The proposed project contributes to the achievement of key Council Plans including:

Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan 2015-20

Theme 1: Economic Growth	Supporting local traditional industries including local crafts and manufacturing to prioritise job creation and investment.
Theme 2: Enabling Employability & Skills	Explore initiatives to increase uptake of training and employment opportunities in skilled trades / professions.

Coalisland Development Framework Plan 2016-30

Theme 3: Improving the Coalisland experience	Create a Heritage trail and related signage. Maximisation of the Coalisland Museum. Brand Coalisland on its rich industrial heritage. Organisation of local cultural events.
--	---

Mid Ulster Arts and Cultural Strategy 2017-21

Strategic Aim 4: To make Mid Ulster's arts, heritage and culture sector more visible locally, regionally and internationally	Link with local heritage and history groups to further enhance the heritage product. Encourage and support groups to apply for external heritage resources. Promote increased opportunities for volunteering in the arts and culture sector in MUDC area through the development of a volunteering in the arts, culture and heritage sector.
--	--

Mid Ulster Tourism Plan 2016-21

Theme 2: Archaeology, History and Heritage	To position Mid Ulster as a centre of excellence for history and heritage. Developing a compelling heritage tourism proposition for visitors.
--	--

Project Costs:-

	£
Total Project Cost	394,152
<i>Funding Breakdown</i>	£
Heritage Lottery Fund	312,100
Private sector	10,052
Other source	1,000
MUDC	50,000
In-kind contribution	21,000
	394,152

Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd (LNP) have requested match funding of £50,000 over 3 years (£16,666 p.a.). However, based on current budget restrictions it is recommended to approve a financial commitment of £10,000 per annum over 3 years (2018-21) subject to a successful application to Heritage Lottery Fund.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial and Human Resources Implications

Financial:-

Step Up to Sustainable Programme +

Council has agreed a financial commitment is £40,000 per annum for the period 2018-2022 (already approved over 4 years from Council's LED Budget).

	<p>Up for Work Programme Council has agreed a financial commitment is £9,512 per annum for the period 2018-2022 (already approved over 4 years from Council's LED Budget).</p> <p>Job Match Programme Council has agreed a financial commitment is £10,332 per annum for the period 2018-2022 (already approved over 4 years from Council's LED Budget).</p> <p>Coalisland Great Places Project A financial commitment of £10,000 per annum for the period 2018-21 (over 3 years from Council's LED Budget).</p> <p>The total aggregate financial contribution is £269,376 over the 4 year period (2018-22).</p> <p>Human:- Commitment of officer time on the Programme Management Partnerships.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> Officers are not aware of any equality or good relations implications.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> Risk level is mitigated as Council contributions will be subject to written confirmation of funding from other sources.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	That Members note the contents of the report.
5.2	That Members note the current funding status of Programmes under the ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) and financial commitments previously agreed by Council in September 2017.
5.3	That Members do not approve the match funding request under ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) for the Workforce IV Programme for the reasons outlined in the report.
5.4	That Members do not approve the match funding request under ESF Phase 2 (2018-22) for the STRIDE Programme for the reasons outlined in the report.
5.5	That Members approve a financial commitment of £10,000 per annum (over a 3 year period) to Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd towards the Coalisland Great Places project.
5.6	That Members note map of the Coalisland Great Places Project boundary
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Map of Coalisland Great Places Project boundary