



Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Translink Cookstown Depot Weekend Opening Consultation2) Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes3) Magherafelt Never Felt Better Days' Evaluation Report4) Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions; Consultation Response5) World Butchers Challenge6) Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK7) New Project Proposals (<i>from Existing Economic Development Budget</i>)
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>Translink Cookstown Depot Weekend Opening Consultation Translink is seeking public feedback on weekend closure of facilities within Cookstown Bus Station.</p>
2.2	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.3	<p>Magherafelt Never Felt Better Days' Evaluation Report Magherafelt Town Centre hosted two "Never Felt Better" Days over the summer to enhance the atmosphere in the town centre. In the absence of a large event in Magherafelt in the summer of 2017 it was agreed with the Chamber of Commerce that two smaller scale events would be held instead. The first event took place on Saturday 17 June 2017 and had an arts based theme, the second event took place on Saturday 23 September 2017 and had a music theme.</p>
2.4	<p>Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Consultation Response The Department for Communities held a statutory consultation in relation to its Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the planned abolition of Class 2 National Insurance contributions (NICs) and the reform of Class 4 NICs to introduce a new contributory benefit test for self-employed people.</p>
2.5	<p>World Butchers Challenge At last month's Committee meeting a presentation was made by representatives from the World Butchers' Challenge which is coming to Northern Ireland in March 2018, when local Irish butchers will be competing against 14 other countries around the world. Due to the significance of the agri-food sector in Mid Ulster, the organisers are keen to hold a Mid Ulster Event at Loughry Campus on 16 March 2017 during WBC week to allow Mid Ulster to showcase and visit a number of award winning local butchers and producers. The group have sought funding towards the Mid Ulster Event/Tour of £12,500.</p>
2.6	<p>Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK At the October meeting of the Development Committee, it was agreed that any interested member attend the Joint Delegation Visit to one/two Catapult Centres in the UK as long as funding comes out of their own individual budget and not the economic development budget.</p> <p>Nominations received at the meeting included Councillors McPeake, Molloy and Wilson. Subsequently Councillor Wilson has withdrawn from the visit.</p> <p>Further correspondence has been received from Councillor McFlynn, expressing an interest in attending the visit.</p>
2.7	<p>New Project Proposals (from Existing Economic Development Budget) The economic development budget is kept under continual review. A few projects that had budgets assigned to them this financial year will not occur in year, due to circumstances beyond the control of Council. Approval is therefore sought to reallocate these funds as set out in section 3.7.</p>

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3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Translink Cookstown Depot Weekend Opening Consultation Translink have opened a consultation on Cookstown Depot Weekend Opening requesting public feedback. Posters and leaflets are within Cookstown Depot highlighting the consultation. The survey is available online at http://www.translink.co.uk/COOKSTOWN/ . Translink have issued information and a public notice regarding a public engagement session on Saturday 4 November 2017 10.00am-12Noon, Cookstown Depot Molesworth Street Cookstown. Consultation closes for responses on Sunday 10 December 2017.</p> <p>Translink’s Area Manager and Service Delivery Manager has agreed to meet with Members of Council on Saturday 4 November 9am – 10am at Cookstown Bus Station.</p>
3.2	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 30 August 2017 are attached on Appendix 1.</p>
3.3	<p>Magherafelt Never Felt Better Days’ Evaluation Report An Evaluation Report on Magherafelt’s Never Felt Better Day’s on 17 June 2017 and 23 September 2017 is attached on Appendix 2.</p>
3.4	<p>Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Consultation Response Mid Ulster District Council circulated a draft response to members for comment as the consultation was only affording respondents a short timeframe to reply. The consultation only afforded the opportunity to comment in relation to the Department’s Equality Impact Assessment. The actual policy changes that were proposed were not up for comment. Mid Ulster District Council submitted a response in principle before the consultation deadline of 3 November 2017 and approval is sought retrospectively for this submission. Consultation response is attached on Appendix 3.</p>
3.5	<p>World Butchers Challenge At the October 2017 Development Committee meeting, Members heard a proposal (attached on Appendix 4) with regard to the World Butchers Challenge event in March 2018 and were supportive of the event. The Head of Economic Development was tasked with reviewing the economic development budget to determine whether funds were available to financially support the Mid Ulster element of the event which includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Local Food Demo with Master Butcher Showcase at Loughry Campus on 16 March 2018 • Co-Fund Lunch at CAFRE’s Loughry Campus for delegates on 16 March 2018 • Mid Ulster Tour with Delegates to Local Butchers and Producers on 16 March 2018 • 6 seats for Mid Ulster Council at WBC Dinner on 21 March 2018 at Titanic, Belfast (at the main WBC event).

- Inclusion of Mid Ulster Council branding on all event materials, signage etc throughout the WBC event.

It is proposed that Mid Ulster District Council provide sponsorship of £10,000 from the economic development budget for 2017/18, towards costs associated with the aforementioned actions, as this will provide a good opportunity to showcase Mid Ulster to a national and international audience.

3.6 **Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK**

To allow final arrangements to be made for the visit to the Catapult Centres in the UK, agreement is sought to book places for Councillors McPeake, Molloy and McFlynn, with associated costs coming from their own individual budgets, accompanied by up to two officers to co-ordinate the activities on the visit whose costs will be covered by the economic development budget.

3.7 **New Project Proposals (from Existing Economic Development Budget)**

A few projects that had budgets assigned to them this financial year will not occur in-year, due to circumstances beyond the control of Council. Approval is therefore sought to reallocate these funds as follows at no additional cost to Council;

- **ESF Programme**

An additional budget of £15,300 is needed to match fund the delivery of the 4 ESF Programmes for year 2 of 3 (i.e. April 2016-March 2017) due to the timing of Dept for the Economy match funding payments being released, but this will be offset in future years and not exceed the 3 year allocation Council previously approved.

- **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme**

Additional funding of **£46,954** is sought to allocate to a further 15 schemes on the village spruce up scheme reserve list of applicants whose applications were approved, but held on a waiting list until further funding became available.

- **LED Outdoor Mobile Screen**

Approval is sought to make provision of **£50,000** for the procurement of a large LED Mobile Screen for outdoor use which will be used widely at events across the Council area. This large LED screen can be used to play any type of media from images to videos.

It will provide a good platform for Council to visually display live footage and data in an eye-catching way, and has the added benefit of being portable so it can be easily transportable around the district to guarantee greater exposure at events.

For example, Council could use the screen at its outdoor events and venues such Christmas, Halloween, Maghera Walled Garden, Clogher Valley show, Continental Market, Dungannon Park or Hill of the O'Neill and negate the need to hire in such equipment on a regular basis.

It could also be used across all Council Departments throughout the year to stream live video footage and because it's mobile it can go to remote areas such Davagh Forest, Beaghmore Stone Circles, etc as needed.



- Drone**
Approval is sought to make provision of **£12,000** for the purchase and procurement of a drone and dedicated laptop to operate it. Training for 3 staff is also included in the budget for the operators to obtain a pilot's licence to use it.
- Subscription to Grant FINDER UK**
GRANTfinder 4 Local Government provides access to more than 8,000 funding opportunities including grants, loans and awards from local, regional and national UK government, European funding, charitable trusts and corporate sponsors. Includes complete fund details, with background, funding levels, eligibility criteria, previous successful projects, who to contact and links to application forms. Seven of the eleven local authorities in NI subscribe to it. This would provide a very valuable resource for Council staff to use to source funding. Approval is sought to make provision of **£11,305** in Council's economic development budget for the purchase of an unlimited user licence for a two year term.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial & Human Resources Implications

Financial:

Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK
Costs associated with Councillors McPeake, Molloy and McFlynn to be paid from their own individual budget. Costs for up to two officers to attend to be paid from

	<p>Economic Development Budget 2017/18.</p> <p>World Butchers Challenge £10,000 from Economic Development budget 2017/18 to host the Mid Ulster event and tour in March 2018.</p> <p>New Project Proposals (from Existing Economic Development Budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF Programme : £15,300 • Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme : £46,954 • LED Outdoor Mobile Screen: £50,000 • Drone/Laptop/Training: £12,000 • Subscription to Grant FINDER UK: £11,305 (unlimited user licence for a 2 year term).
4.2	Human: Officer Time
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A

5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that;
5.1	Translink Cookstown Depot Weekend Opening Consultation Members note Translink Cookstown Depot - Weekend Opening Consultation.
5.2	Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes Members note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum held on 30 August 2017.
5.3	Magherafelt Never Felt Better Days' Evaluation Report Members note Evaluation Report on Never Felt Better Days' in Magherafelt.
5.4	Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Consultation Response Members to retrospectively approve the Consultation Response on the Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions.
5.5	World Butchers Challenge Members approve sponsorship of £10,000 towards the World Butchers Challenge - Mid Ulster event and tour in March 2018. Sponsorship to be provided from Council's economic development budget 2017/18.
5.6	Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK Members approve places are booked on the Catapult visit for Councillors McPeake, Molloy and McFlynn with associated costs for flights, accommodation etc, being paid from their own individual budgets. That Members approve for up to two officers to attend the visit with costs being met from the Economic Development Budget

5.7	<p>2017/18.</p> <p>New Project Proposals (from Existing Economic Development Budget) Members approve the following projects from within the economic development budget and subsequent procurement of same at no additional cost to Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF Programme : £15,300 • Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme : £46,954 • LED Outdoor Mobile Screen: £50,000 • Drone/Laptop/Training: £12,000 • Subscription to Grant FINDER UK: £11,305 (unlimited user licence for a 2 year term).
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6	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Evaluation Never Felt Better Day's Magherafelt</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Consultation Response</p> <p>Appendix 4 - World Butchers Challenge Proposal</p>