

Report on	1. Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22 2. Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 3. 4C Ur Future Live Careers Event 4. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 5. NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request
Date of Meeting	17 June 2021
Reporting Officer	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 below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 21/22 The Rural Micro Business Development Scheme funded through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) will run again in 21/22 subject to approval of a business case and budget within the Department. July 21 has been targeted as a potential opening date for this year's scheme.</p> <p>Approval for Mid Ulster Council to participate in the 2021/22 Scheme was granted at the May 2021 Council meeting.</p>
2.2	<p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP) The Department for Communities (DfC) is working with all NI Councils in the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). There will be one regional LMP, supported by local LMPs within each Council area. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The Labour Market Partnership (LMP) provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council's priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future.</p>

<p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event 4C Ur Future is a not-for-profit community interest company who exists to inspire, inform and help young people become the best version of themselves. The organisation aims to roll out a series of 4C Ur Future Live regional careers events during June 2022 to enable as many 13 year old children as possible to gain insights into their future career opportunities before making GCSE choices. Interactive games and work-based simulations will draw out and identify key strengths with a view to helping make better informed subject choices. Each pupil will receive a profile highlighting their strengths identified on the day and will be connected to suitable coaching and development activities. The event will be free to participating schools including transport.</p> <p>Members will recall Council previously agreed to host a pilot 4C Ur Future Live event in June 2020 in the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. One of the key actions identified within the Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan is addressing the need to improve and enhance careers education, information, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Mid Ulster's third Enterprise Week is scheduled to take place between Monday 8th and Friday 12th November 2021. This year's event will follow a similar format as in 2020, being all virtual events due to ongoing Covid-19 uncertainties.</p> <p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request The NOW Group has submitted correspondence to Council, dated 12 May 2021, (Appendix 3), indicating their intention to make a bid to the Community Renewal Fund by 18 June 2021.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 DAERA has indicated a preference for an earlier opening date of July for the 2021 Rural Business Development Scheme. This is subject to DAERA approval of a business case, which is being jointly prepared by all Councils participating.</p> <p>Subject to DAERA approving the business case, a contract will be issued to each participating Council. Council acceptance of the contract will be needed before the Scheme can be opened.</p> <p>As the contract from DAERA will not be received in time for issue with the June Development Committee papers, approval to accept the contract requires to be delegated to the Chief Executive to facilitate a July 2021 opening of the scheme.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Council, in February 2021, agreed to participate as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs), which will coordinate activities relating to skills development, training and employability</p>

programmes in Mid Ulster. It was also agreed that when the new partnership is set up that a strong worker focus be included with a strategic input from the trade union movement.

In summary, Interim LMPs are required to:-

- Undertake a Strategic Assessment;
- Consult on a regular basis with local communities, statutory, voluntary and private sectors;
- Confirm priority issues of concern;
- Develop and implement an annual Action Plan.

Proposed Delivery Vehicle and Membership of LMP in Mid Ulster

Council established the Mid Ulster Skills Forum in 2017, which has delivered on a number of initiatives and programmes including the establishment of the MEGA collaborative network. As a body representative of key partners and stakeholders in the employability and skills field, DFC have accepted that the existing Mid Ulster Skills Forum would be an appropriate vehicle to operate a local LMP through. The Forum reports directly to its parent committee from which it was established, in this case the Development Committee. It is now an opportunity to refresh and revamp the membership of the Skills Forum to align with the guidance set out by DFC in terms of the local LMP approach. It is recommended that the revised membership will comprise the following partners:-

Business Sector	The Forum shall have broad business representation from within Mid Ulster's key local sectors, with membership also from; Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership MEGA Network
Trade Union	The Forum shall have Trade union representation.
Public Sector	Department for Communities, Local Jobs & Benefits Offices, Local Careers Service, Health Trust, Department for Economy (Skills Branch), Invest NI
Education Providers	South West College, Northern Regional College, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Cookstown & Dungannon Area Learning Partnership and Magherafelt Area Learning Partnership
Council	The Forum's Council representation shall comprise of 5 members drawn from the membership of the Council's Development Committee and using D'Hondt this would result in the following membership from political parties; 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP and 1 SDLP. Should any Member not be able to attend, they may nominate another representative from their party.
Community Sector	The Forum shall have VCS representation.

Indicative Budget Allocation

DfC have confirmed the undernoted indicative budget allocation for the local LMP in Mid Ulster for the Interim period 2021-22 (please note that this does not constitute a guarantee of any funding allocation, but to assist in the development

of interim Action Plans by providing an indication of the anticipated maximum budget for the area):-

	2021-22	2022-23*
Dept. for Communities	£468,088.68	£468,088.68
Dept. for the Economy (Skills)	£50,000.00	TBC
TOTAL:	£518,08.68	£464,088.68

* DfC anticipate that the indicative budget allocation for the period 2022-23 will remain the same as the current year.

Council will have the administrative lead for the operation of the local LMP. Therefore, DfC have allocated a portion of budget expenditure to appoint staff resources to provide secretariat support to the Partnership and manage the implementation of the agreed LMP Action Plan. A separate report on this issue will be brought to the Council's Policy & Resources Committee in due course.

Interim LMP Action Plan (2021-23)

A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop a two year Interim LMP Action Plan (2021-23) which will be locally focused and aligned to key strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, Community Plan, Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan and LMP member organisations' corporate plans. DfC will be issuing further information to Councils in respect of planning guidance for developing the Interim LMP Action Plan, including relevant templates to be completed.

It is intended to use the good work already completed through the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to formulate the Mid Ulster Interim Labour Market Action Plan. This is a fantastic platform from which to build and co-align Mid Ulster's Interim LMP Action Plan, whilst alongside carrying out some further data collection and consultation with local stakeholders to identify priorities and actions.

The costs of producing the Interim LMP Action Plan will be borne out of Council's budget allocation from the funders, which provides for both administrative (20%) and operational (80%) expenditure.

It is therefore recommended to Members to procure external professional support to assist preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan 2021-23. A budget of £15,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in DfC's budget allocation to Council in the current financial year.

4C Ur Future Live Careers Event

- 3.3 4C UR Future aims to run a series of regional "live" events in June 2022 across Northern Ireland to enable approx. 7,500 13-year-olds gain insights into their future career opportunities before they make their GCSE choices, and to provide career inspiration based on each young person's natural attributes and interests. Interactive games and work-based simulations will draw out and identify key strengths with a view to helping make better informed subject choices. Each pupil will receive a profile highlighting their strengths identified on the day and will be connected to suitable coaching and development activities following the event.

Council officers met with Rachel Doherty (4C Ur Future) on Tuesday 18th May 2021 to discuss the company's proposal for Council to host one of the 4C Ur Future Live Career events during June 2022. The project was successfully piloted in 2019 at Ulster University but plans for future events in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, 4C Ur Future now hope to roll out the 2021/22 campaign which will commence with PR in June 2021, with registrations going live in Sep/Oct 2021, and a digital engagement campaign commencing in Nov 2021, before the "live" events take place in June 2022.

The "live" event aims to:

- Inspire, inform and enable young people to make the most of their opportunities
- Encourage them to take the right path for them
- Boost society and the economy
- Help business share the existing and potential job opportunities within their organisations to young people at an early age

4C UR Future have identified the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown as the most suitable venue in Mid Ulster. The event capacity is 750 and will cater for up to 7 schools in Mid Ulster. Based on an analysis of post primary school free school meals (*Source: Dept. for Education*) it is proposed that Officers engage with the undernoted schools to determine their interest in participating in this pilot project. *Please note that Cookstown High School has been added to ensure an even representation of post primary schools across the district:-

1. St. Joseph's College, Coalisland
2. St. Patrick's College, Dungannon
3. Integrated College, Dungannon
4. Sperrin Integrated College, Magherafelt
5. Magherafelt High School
6. Holy Trinity College, Cookstown
7. Cookstown High School*

The event will be fully managed by 4C Ur Future staff and volunteers, with local assistance provided by the economic development team.

The company has requested that Council host the event by providing the venue, catering (for volunteers and teachers), PA system and hire of tables and chairs. A briefing/proposal paper from 4C Ur Future and Partnership Agreement is attached in Appendices 1 and 2.

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021

3.4

Due to the pandemic and the ongoing uncertainty that exists, it is recommended that this year's Enterprise Week (8th – 12th November 2021) will be delivered virtually via a series of online, interactive webinars funded by Council with oversight from Council's economic development team. We propose to deliver a minimum of 10 virtual webinars throughout the week. Council is keen to build on

3.5	<p>the success of previous Enterprise Weeks' and deliver a high quality and impactful programme of business focused events.</p> <p>The aim of Council's 2021 Enterprise Week programme is to provide a week of opportunity for local businesses and entrepreneurs to avail of advice and gather insights into what it takes to create, develop and sustain a business during a pandemic.</p> <p>A wide range of relevant business topics will be offered to ensure all sectors of industry are supported through specific webinars. Feedback from last year's event was very positive with many attendees supporting the virtual format as this enabled them to attend with limited time away from their work commitments and without the need to travel to and from a venue along with the opportunity to access the event recording at a later date.</p> <p>To build upon the success of the last two year's events, it is proposed to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Partner who will report to Council throughout the organisation, co-ordination and delivery of a comprehensive range of actions to ensure the smooth delivery of Enterprise Week 2021.</p> <p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p> <p>The NOW Group focuses on supporting disadvantaged people who often slip through the net and become either long term unemployed or economically inactive and helps them explore and re-enter the labour market. To date, they do so through individualised and sector specific academies which ensures inclusivity for those who may struggle to attain either theory or experienced based qualifications.</p> <p>This new proposal (on Appendix 3) seeks to operate across all 11 Council areas in NI with a significant focus on areas of multiple and high deprivation and will help over 33% of those most disadvantaged people within our society.</p> <p>If successful in their bid, they will work in partnership with each Council to provide solutions to reduce skills gap, increase employability and map areas of labour market need to vocational training. The project will provide relevant data and research to increase preparation for entering into the post ESF funding era. The Programme Manager has indicated that they desire to establish new academies across NI, linked to where job opportunities exist, and propose these are aligned to digital and tourism/hospitality sectors.</p> <p>The NOW Group are inviting all 11 Councils to engage in collaborative support with their application and if successful, promotion of the programme to achieve outcomes within the Council area.</p> <p>There is no financial support requested from Council as part of this bid.</p> <p>It is therefore, recommended that Council provide a letter of support towards the NOW Group's project and permit the letter to be released to the NOW Group on</p>
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	18 June 2021, as this is the closing date for all submissions to the Community Renewal Fund.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Grant aid to be provided by DAERA subject to approval of business case. An administration budget of 10% of the funding allocation will be available to Council.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Subject to Members approval, £15,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in DfC's budget allocation to Council to prepare a two year Interim LMP Action Plan for the period 2021-23.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event A budget of up to £3,500 has been allocated within the Economic Development budget.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 An estimated budget of £28,000 has been set aside for Enterprise Week 2021 from Council's economic development budget. A proportion of these costs will be used to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Agent to co-ordinate, manage and organise all virtual events and promotion of Enterprise Week 2021.</p> <p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request No financial costs to Council.</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Officers time</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Officers time</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event Officers time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Officers time will be required to work with a Management / Delivery Partner in the development of a suite of events and to ensure the smooth running of Enterprise Week 2021.</p>

	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme 21/22 Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this plan</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme Equality and Good Relations screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships To be considered.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event To be considered.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships To be considered.</p> <p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event To be considered.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:-</p> <p>TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme</p> <p>5.1.1 Approve delegated authority to the Chief Executive to accept the contract from DAERA for the 2021/22 TRPSI Rural Business Development Scheme.</p> <p>5.1.2 Approve delegated authority to the Chief Executive to issue individual letters of offer under the Scheme, with maximum grant awards up to £4,999, in order to have funding issued to successful businesses as soon as possible after assessment.</p>
5.2	<p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</p> <p>5.2.1 Approve the Mid Ulster Skills Forum as the delivery vehicle to operate the local Interim Labour Market Partnership (LMP).</p> <p>5.2.2 Approve proposed revised membership as detailed in the report which</p>

	<p>includes 5 Councillors drawn from Council's Development Committee using the D'Hondt calculation which provides the following political member breakdown; 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 SDLP.</p> <p>5.2.3 Approve a budget of £15,000 towards the preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan for Mid Ulster for the period 2021-23. Proceed to seek competitive quotations from suitably qualified organisations to undertake this work and delegate authority to the Council's Chief Executive to appoint the successful organisation to allow work to be progressed over the summer months.</p>
5.3	<p>4C Ur Future Live Careers Event</p> <p>5.3.1 Approve funding support up to a maximum of £3,500 from Council's economic development budget, to host the pilot event in the Mid Ulster area and formally accept and sign the Partnership Agreement on Appendix 2, subject to legal team's review.</p> <p>5.3.2 Approve that officers engage with the following schools to determine their interest in participating in this pilot project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. Joseph's College, Coalisland, - St. Patrick's College, Dungannon, - Integrated College, Dungannon, - Sperrin Integrated College, Magherafelt, - Magherafelt High School, - Holy Trinity College, Cookstown and - Cookstown High School.
5.4	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021</p> <p>5.4.1 Approve a budget of £28,000 for the entire delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2021/22.</p> <p>5.4.2 Approve Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed at 5.4.1. Approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer months.</p>
5.5	<p>NOW Group – Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p> <p>Approve that Council provide a letter of support to the NOW Group to accompany their bid to the Community Renewal Fund, and to release the letter on 18 June</p>

	2021, as this is the closing date for all submissions to the Community Renewal Fund. (Note, no financial support is requested from Council).
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Briefing Proposal 4C Ur Future</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Partnership Agreement 4C Ur Future</p> <p>Appendix 3 – NOW Group Community Renewal Collaboration Request</p>