



11 February 2021

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 11 February 2021 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

In accordance with the spirit of the recent COVID restriction, Members are strongly encouraged to join virtually as the preferred option. Should you need to attend in person then provision will be made at the Council Offices, Dungannon. Please notify Democratic Services in advance if this is the case.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Chair's Business
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Deputation: Parkanaur College

Matters for Decision

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| 5. Sports Representative Grants | 3 - 4 |
| 6. Leisure Pricing 2021/22 | 5 - 22 |
| 7. Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown | 23 - 26 |
| 8. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion
Programme 2020/21 Additional Leisure Projects | 27 - 30 |
| 9. Update on Forest Schools within Council area for 2020/21 | 31 - 34 |
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Matters for Information

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20	Economic Development Report – OBF	305 - 322

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

21. Facility Information and Internal Directional Signage and District Road Name Signage Tender Report

Matters for Information

22. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 January 2021
23. Gearing for Growth Programme

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date of Meeting:	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Margaret McCammon Community Development Officer

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	<p>To present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Representative Grant - Team and Individuals (February 2020 – March 2020 and also April 2020 to January 2021)
2.0	Background
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.
2.2	Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant:</p> <p>Feb 2020 – March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Individual applications were received and were awarded a total of £950. No team applications received during this period. However, due to Covid 19 pandemic, since March 2020, whilst applications have been received, no activity/claims have been submitted to Council. Therefore, February 2020 – March 2020 awards have been accrued into the current financial year. If current Covid restrictions continue and confirmation is obtained that the sports representatives application are still valid, then awards will be accrued into the 2021 – 2022 financial year (based on specific eligibility criteria)

	<p>Apr 2020 – Jan 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Individual applications received but not assessed due to event cancellations and Covid 19 travel restrictions (as to qualify for an Individual or Team Representation Grant, the activity must be held outside of Northern Ireland) • No team applications received during this period. • Due to the current restrictions the events will not be held prior to end March 2021. These applications will be held for assessment in the next financial year 2021 – 2022.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/2020 annual allocation - £16,000 (£14,100 allocated therefore a balance of £1,900 remained at 31.02.2020) • 2020/2021 annual allocation - £15,000
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications – N/A
	Rural Needs Implications – N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and recommendation for sports grant allocations that have been awarded but could not be claimed due to Covid 19 to transfer to 2021/2022.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/A

Report on	Leisure Pricing 2021/22
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Chris Busby, Leisure and Business Development Manager

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 information to Members on the proposed April 2021 – March 2022 Leisure pricing and to seek approval to implement from 1 st April 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in March 2018, Members approved the leisure services pricing policy. This built upon the approach that was previously approved in January 2015 for the harmonised fees, charges and concession prices for leisure for the commencement of the new Mid Ulster District Council in April 2015.
2.2	Also in January 2015, Members approved the leisure approach to groupings that would be eligible for concession pricing (50% discount) along with the mechanism for promotional pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Management have the discretion (agreed by the Director) to apply discounted pricing packages, varied times and activities in order to market less attractive facilities, low usage periods and to promote Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing initiatives.”</i>
2.3	Previously in March 2018, it was noted that prices across the Council's leisure facilities were broadly aligned, with the exception of Greenvale Leisure Centre which has subsequently reverted to the Council's direct management. It was agreed in March 2018 that for certain historical and legacy Council pricing products (significantly higher or lower) that there would be incremental price rises/decreases over a number of financial years until such point as all those relevant pricing products were the same for all leisure facilities.
2.4	Additionally, in December 2019, Members approved a consistent approach for membership packages across the District to include new household, student and corporate membership packages along with aligned approach to administration – ie. monthly direct debit along with 3 month, 6 month or 12 month paid in advance options.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	This report seeks to consolidate all previous Council approvals as outlined in section 2 of this report and all price points that are available within leisure are detailed in appendix A.
3.2	With the exception of a few areas (outlined below), it is proposed to have a price freeze and not to apply any additional inflationary annual price increase to any charges for the period April 2020 – March 2021. Members should note that all pricing points detailed within Appendix A are reflective of what was approved previously as set out in section 2 of this report and the previously approved annual incremental price rise/decrease approach will have reconciled for the incoming financial year commencing on 1 st April 2021.
3.3	Covid 19 has drastically impacted on income from all leisure facilities and activities within the Council. Users had very limited ability to participate in sporting and recreational activity at the facilities and it is highly likely that these restrictions will continue to impact into 2021/22
3.4	<p>Points for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial rates – currently there is an inconsistent approach to the percentage pricing uplift for commercial rates for certain pricing products and this can vary between 42% to 328% additional compared to non-commercial rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal to adopt a consistent 50% uplift on non-commercial pricing for all price products. Classification on how to be eligible for non-commercial pricing is detailed within Appendix A. • Birthday parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal to adopt consistent approach across all facilities and for pricing to exclude food and will be priced separately based on party requirements. Where there is no on-site catering provision, it is permissible for groups to bring in food subject to relevant standards being met. Proposal for alignment of all activity and facility pricing detailed within appendix A. • Swim Lessons (Rookie/Survive and Save): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal for the implementation of an amended course for 45 minute duration and £6.40 per lesson (standard 30 minute child swim lesson is £6.25). • Adult Swim Lessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal for the implementation of an amended session duration (45 minutes) and £9.50 per lesson (standard 30 minute child swim lesson is £6.25) • Pool Hire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal for the implementation of a standard “per lane” price that is consistent across all facilities and pro-rata up/down were necessary • Additional child discounts – for a small selection of pricing products, (soft play, gymnastics, golf) there has been a reduction in fees if more than one child was enrolled. These legacy Council arrangements are not consistent with the approach agreed in January 2015 (outlined in section 2.2 of this report) and also this approach is not applied for other actives such as swimming lessons, dance etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal to remove additional child discounts and apply principles of January 2015 approved concessionary discounts consistently • Corporate Memberships – Previously in December 2019, Members approved a new Corporate Membership package for employers who have five or more employees

3.5	<p>enrolled in the scheme and this was priced at £27 per month. Uptake has been poor and upon review and benchmarking with others, it is proposed to amend the price and terms of the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amended price of £22.50 per month (25% discount from standard adult rate) for employers who have ten or more employees that agree to be enrolled in the scheme. <p>Future Analysis is still required on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Swimming lessons, gymnastics, dance, Tobermore Golf Centre memberships and personal training within fitness suites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decision deferred pending wider consideration of delivery methods; pricing and options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The 2021/2022 budget setting approach for income has been based on the pricing approach outlined in Appendix A – ongoing risk associated with achievement of 2020/21 annual income targets based on the ongoing covid 19 pandemic. The proposed pricing structure for 2021/2022 seeks to balance affordability with cost of providing the service</p> <p>Human: Officer time – to make staff aware of pricing and to update and configure literature and computerised till systems</p> <p>Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach to pricing across Leisure services and facilities.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: The proposal and recommendations tabled for consideration do not fall within an activity subject to Section 1 (1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A: Leisure Pricing April 2021 – March 2022 • The adoption of the proposals outlined in section 3.4 for commercial rates, birthday parties, swim lessons, pool hire, additional child discounts and corporate memberships • Discretionary pricing flexibility to continue to be considered as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to allow scope for sales promotions, official Council supported events, member service issues, site specific usage trends, etc
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Leisure Pricing April 2021 – March 2022

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Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Memberships					
Memberships (DD)					
Adult All Inclusive	£29.95			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£20.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£14.98			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£10.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£22.50			SR	Previously £27 per month. Employers who have ten or more employees that agree to be enrolled in the scheme
Lead Household	£31.67			SR	12 month agreement term. Inclusive of 2 adults (aged 19 or older) and unlimited children aged 18 years old or younger (at the time of registration)
Mid Ulster Swim Academy	£20.40			Ex	
Move More Programme	£14.98			SR	
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£15.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£21.00			SR	
Memberships (Cash Payments, 3 Months)					
Adult All Inclusive	£89.85			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£60.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£44.94			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£30.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£67.50			SR	Previously £81. Employers who have ten or more employees that agree to be enrolled in the scheme
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£45.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£63.00			SR	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Move More All Inclusive	£30.00			SR	12 weeks
PARS All Inclusive	£30.00			SR	12 weeks
Memberships (Cash Payments, 6 Months)					
Adult All Inclusive	£179.70			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£120.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£89.85			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£60.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£135.00			SR	Previously £162. Employers who have ten or more employees that agree to be enrolled in the scheme
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£90.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£126.00			SR	
Memberships (Cash Payments, 12 Months)					
Adult All Inclusive	£359.40			SR	
Adult Gym & Classes Only	£240.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Concession All Inclusive	£179.70			SR	
Concession Gym & Classes Only	£120.00			SR	Available in MLC, MUSA and MSA only
Corporate All Inclusive	£270.00			SR	Previously £324. Employers who have ten or more employees that agree to be enrolled in the scheme
Lead Household	£380.00			SR	Inclusive of 2 adults (aged 19 or older) and unlimited children aged 18 years old or younger (at the time of registration)
Household Additional Adult				SR	
Household Additional Child				SR	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
MUDC Staff All Inclusive	£180.00			SR	
Student All Inclusive	£252.00			SR	
Wetside					
Pools					
Adult Swim	£3.75	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £3.75, Other sites: £3.40, increases as a result of incremental pricing approval.
Family Swim (2 Adults And 2 Children, 1 Adult and 3 Children)	£10.00	N	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £10.00, Other sites: £8.90, increases as a result of incremental pricing approval.
School Swim (Including Instructor)	£1.30	N	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £1.20, Other sites: £1.30, increases as a result of incremental pricing approval.
Swimming Gala (25m, hourly rate) Sites: CLC, DLC	£77.50	N	N	SR SOL Possible	2020-21: DLC: £105 per 2 hours, CLC: £155 per 2 hours: increases as a result of incremental pricing approval.
Swimming Gala (50m, hourly rate) Site: GLC	£133.30	N	N	SR SOL Possible	
Small Pool (Hourly)	£33.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
Local District Clubs: Main Pool	£47.40	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: Main Pool	£160.00	N	Y	SR SOL Possible	New Product following review
Local District Clubs: 25m Lane	£7.90	N	N	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: 25m Lane	£25.00	N	N	SR SOL Possible	New product following review
Local District Clubs: 50m Lane	£15.80	N	N	SR SOL Possible	
All Other Bookings: 50m Lane	£40.00	N	N	SR SOL Possible	New product following review
Health Suite					
Adult (Inc. Swim)	£6.40	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £7.50, Other sites: £5.40, increases/decreases as a result of incremental pricing approval.
Adult (Maghera - No Swim)		Y	N	SR	

School Health Suite (Group Rate)		N	N	SR	
Pool Classes & Courses					
NPLQ	£210.00	N	N	Ex	
Rookie Lifeguard	£6.40	N	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £3.00, CLC: £6.40, DLC £6.00 increases as a result of incremental pricing approval. 45min lesson
Survive and Save	£6.40 & £26.00 certification	N	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £5.00, CLC: £6.40 , increases as a result of incremental pricing approval. 45min lesson
Mid Ulster Swim Academy	£6.25	N	N	Ex	
Adult Swimming Lessons	£9.50	N	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £7.50 (1 hour), CLC: £6.40 (30mins), DLC: £6.40, increases as a result of incremental pricing approval. 45min lesson
1:1 Lesson		N	N	Ex	
2:1 Lesson		N	N	Ex	
Gym & Fitness					
Adult Induction	£25.00	Y	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £50.00, Other sites: £25.00, decrease as a result of incremental pricing approval
Casual Adult	£6.00	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £6.00, Other sites: £5.15, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
Casual School	£2.00	N	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £2.00, Other sites: £1.60, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
Gym and Health Suite	£8.30	Y	N	SR	New Product
Gym and Health Suite (no pool)	£6.30		N	SR	
Personal Trainer (Single)		N	N	Ex	
Personal Trainer (Double)		N	N	Ex	
Gym (Limited Facility)- Gortgonis, MSA, MUSA					
Adult Induction	£25.00	Y	N	Ex	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Casual Adult	£2.60	Y	N	SR	
Discount Card (10 Sessions)	£20.60	Y	N	SR	
Classes					
Classes	£5.00	Y	N	Ex	2020-21: GLC: £5.50, Other sites: £4.00, increase/decrease as a result of incremental pricing approval
Virtual Classes	£3.00	Y	N	Ex	
Schools	£1.10	N	N	Ex	
Indoor Sports					
All Activities: per badminton court (per hour)					
Adult	£7.50	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £7.50, Other sites: £7.00, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
School	£2.60	N	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £3.75, Other sites: £2.30, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
Bowls	£10.30	Y	N	SR SOL Possible	
Martial Arts	£10.30	Y	Y	SR SOL Possible	
All Activities: 4 badminton courts (per hour)					
Adult	£30.00	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £30.00, Other sites: £30.90, decrease as a result of incremental pricing approval
School	£10.40	N	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £15.00, Other sites: £10.30, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
Non Commercial Full Hall	£63.00	N	Y	Ex	
Non Commercial Half Hall	£44.00	N	Y	Ex	
Non Commercial Full Hall Before 6pm	£47.60	N	Y	Ex	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Non Commercial Half Hall Before 6pm	£31.10	N	Y	Ex	
Squash/Handball/Racquetball (Per Hour)					
Squash/Handball/Racquetball Court	£5.70	Y	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £5.00, Other sites: £5.70, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
School	£2.00	N	N	SR	
Table Tennis (Per Hour)					
Adult	£5.70	Y	N	SR	
School	£5.70	N	N	SR	
Ten Pin Bowling (Per 30 Minutes)					
Per Lane	£7.90	Y	N	SR	
School	£5.20	N	N	SR	
Birthday Parties & Soft Play					
Soft Play					
Child	£3.10	N	N	SR	2020-21: GLC: £3.00, Other sites: £3.10, increase as a result of incremental pricing approval
Birthday Parties					
Bouncy Castle Party	£65.00	N	N	SR	New Product. Includes 1 hour in sports hall with birthday party and games and 1 hour party room. Includes staff member for supervision (bouncy castle only)

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Party Room Hire: Cat A	£15.00	N	N	Ex	
Party Room Hire: Cat B	£10.00	N	N	Ex	
Party Room Hire: Cat C	£8.00	N	N	Ex	
Classes/ Courses					
Classes/Courses					
Gymnastics	£2.50	N	N	Ex	
Dance Session	£3.70	N	N	Ex	
Scheme Per Session	£2.60	N	N	Ex	
Scheme Card 10 Sessions	£20.60	N	N	Ex	
Golf					
Driving Range Balls (60)	£4.00	N	N	SR	
Par 3	£2.70	Y	N	SR	
Putting Green	£1.70	Y	N	SR	
Golf Club Hire	£0.70	N	N	SR	
Golf Coaching					
Standard Golf Lesson 30mins	£15.50	N	N	Ex	
Standard Golf Lesson 45mins	£23.20	N	N	Ex	
Standard Golf Lesson 60mins	£31.00	N	N	Ex	
Trackman Golf Lesson 30mins	£18.50	N	N	Ex	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Commercial	VAT	Notes
Trackman Golf Lesson 60mins	£37.10	N	N	Ex	
Golf Coaching Balls	£2.90	N	N	Ex	
Group Lessons					
Group Golf Lesson	£35.00	N	N	Ex	6 x 2 hour lessons.
Junior Golf Academy	£2.60	N	N	Ex	1.5 hours lessons
Academy Golf Ball Pack	£1.60	N	N	Ex	3 x golf balls (resale)
Junior Golf Camp	£41.20	N	N	Ex	3 x day camp (full days)
School/ Youth Group Lessons	£15.50	N	N	Ex	
Misc					
Meeting Rooms					
Meeting Room Hire: Cat A	£15.00	Y	Y	Ex	Moneymore Rec Conference Room and all commercial bookings for all sites
Meeting Room Hire: Cat B	£10.00	Y	N	Ex	All other sites (not available for commercial bookings)
Meeting Room Hire: Cat C	£8.00	Y	N	Ex	Cookstown LC Party Room Only
Spectator					
Spectator (Applied At Management Discretion)	£1.10	Y	N	SR	

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession	VAT
Indoor Pitches					

MINI PITCHES (Indoor, per Hour)

Mini pitch	£30.90	Y	£15.50	N	SR
Badminton Court	£7.10	Y	£3.50	N	SR

MAXI PITCHES (Indoor, per Hour)

Maxi pitch (4 tennis courts)	£51.50	Y	£25.80	N	SR
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FULL PITCH (Indoor, per Hour)

Full pitch (12 tennis courts) - per hour	£154.50	Y	£77.30	N	SR
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INDOOR TENNIS COURT (Indoor, per Hour)

Tennis Court	£15.50	Y	£7.80	N	SR
Birthday Party - inflatable & sports games	£41.20	N			SR
Table Tennis	£5.80	Y			SR
Outdoor Pitches					

3G/4G Pitches**Match Bookings (2 Hours)**

Soccer/Rugby Match Adult	£51.50	Y			SR
Soccer/Rugby Match Adult with lights	£72.10	Y			SR

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession	VAT
Gaelic Match Adult Price	£72.10	Y			SR
Gaelic Match Adult with lights	£92.70	Y			SR

Training Bookings (per Hour)

Soccer/Rugby Training Adult	£30.90	Y			SR
Soccer/Rugby Training Adult with lights	£41.20	Y			SR
Gaelic Training Adult	£41.20	Y			SR
Gaelic Training Adult with lights	£54.10	Y			SR

Multi-Use Games Area

Without Lights	£25.80	Y			SR
With Lights	£31.00	Y			SR

Outdoor Astro Turf

Adult - per hour	£27.50				SR
Priority Group - per hour (up to 6.00pm Monday to Friday)	£13.80				SR

Outdoor Pitches (per match)

Adult Match	£37.10	Y			SR
Adult Match with Lights	£69.00	Y			SR

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession	VAT
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Tennis (per hour)

Adult	£6.20				SR
Priority Group - per hour (up to 6.00pm Monday to Friday)	£3.10				SR
Clubs: Adult (2 tennis courts - coached session)	£6.00		£3.00		Ex
Athletics Track and Field					
Casual Track use Adult	£2.60	Y			SR
Synthetic Full Track: Adult Group / Event	£41.20	Y			SR
Cinder Track (per hour)	£13.40	Y			SR
Cinder Track & Lights Floodlight (per hour)	£19.00	Y			SR
Other Outdoor					

Bowling Green

Casual Adult	£3.60	Y			SR
Season Ticket Adult	£42.20	Y			SR
Club Rent (Season Hire)	£1,442.00	N			Ex

Cricket Wicket – Club Rent

Cricket Wicket – Club Rent (Season Hire)	£530.00				Ex
Senior (grass)	£47.90				SR
Junior (grass)	£26.80				SR
Synthetic wicket	£19.00	Y			SR

Product	2020/21 Pricing	Concession	Off Peak Price M-F before 6pm, Sat & Sun	Concession	VAT
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Pitch Hire: Special Events

Per pitch (up to 8 hours)	£113.00	N			SR
Per pitch (up to 4 hours)	£59.50	N			SR

Car Park Hire

Half Day	£57.20	N			Ex
Full Day	£101.00	N			Ex

Commercial/Non-Commercial Classification

There are a range of variables and differing definitions for Commercial and Non-Commercial organisations and therefore for the purposes of the Leisure Pricing application, the following definitions and criteria will be applied in order to establish the appropriate definition of a group or organisations.

Non-Commercial Organisations - can be part of the public sector, the community and voluntary sector or the charitable sector who aim to provide products and services to the community however they will not make a profit. However, there are some groups, organisations and initiatives that could define themselves as Non-Commercial but nonetheless operate with the intentions of making a profit and therefore a criteria needs be established to ensure adherence to the definition.

To determine any eligibility issues as a Non-Commercial organisation, if required the following documentation should be requested as proof of this:

1. Charitable Organisation Numbers.
2. Vat Registration Numbers.
3. Any membership fee information.
4. Copy of most recent AGM minutes and Committee members.
5. Copy of most recent audited accounts.
6. Any affiliations to relevant governing body.
7. Previous facilities hire information.

Groups or organisations that cannot prove their eligibility for Non Commercial rates based on the above criteria will then be considered Commercial and the Commercial rate options will apply.

Report on	Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Sean Cavlin, Leisure and Business Development Manager

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 information to Members on correspondence from Draperstown Celtic Football Club and to seek approval for Officers to investigate options for Members future consideration.
2.0	Background
2.1	During January 2021, Officers received formal written correspondence from Draperstown Celtic Football Club. Detailed within this correspondence was a request for Council to consider upgrading the facilities at Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown and also for Council to consider leasing arrangements with the club.
2.2	Currently, Mid Ulster District Council leases lands at Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown and there are 1 x GAA and 2 x Soccer pitches along with an onsite changing pavilion. Council administer bookings for the facilities as and when required and invoice the bookers accordingly for use. Council has responsibility for the full cost of facility maintenance, insurance and provides a staffing resource for bookings where relevant. In recent times, the two main users of the facilities are Draperstown Celtic FC and Ballinascreen GAC. Ballinascreen GAC have their own complex approx. 2.5 miles from the Cahore complex containing 3 x grass pitches.
2.3	Workspace Recreation Centre is located approx. 1.5 miles from the Cahore complex and amongst its features is a bookable 3G pitch and indoor 4 court sports hall. Members may recall from a recent report to Development Committee in July 2020 on Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Levels agreements, that Council have an ongoing service level agreement commitment with an annual contribution from Council of £10,000 per annum.
2.4	Council pay an annual rent for use of the Cahore playing fields and Council are responsible for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the facilities.
2.5	Magherafelt District Council carried out extensive drainage works on pitch number one during 2012.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	Following formal written correspondence received during January 2021, Officers met with representatives of Draperstown Celtic FC to discuss a number of items.
3.2	Draperstown Celtic FC have stated they would be open to entering into discussions for a long-term lease if the conditions allowed this to be progressed. If permissible, a leasing arrangement may help assist with the eligibility to leverage potential funding streams if/when they may arise.
3.3	Council approved the Sports Facility Strategy in May 2018 which provided a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at a local level in order to meet identified community need, helping to increase participation, addressing health inequalities, and other local specific factors. With reference to grass pitches, it was noted to Members in September 2018 that it was recognized that the limitations to the strategic planning work undertaken included the fact that every natural grass pitch could not be visited. For this reason, the Strategy focused only on headline issues, with the realisation that natural grass pitches needed to be further examined through a more detailed piece of research.
3.4	Presently, Council do not have a framework for the consideration of specific developmental and/or leasing requests by clubs or groups within leisure or a capital investment programme for pitches (outside of "normal" routine maintenance).
3.5	Therefore, it is proposed that Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a survey of Cahore Playing Fields and ascertain costs for potential works to the grass pitches. • Engage with Council legal services and the landlord of Cahore Playing Fields to ascertain conditions associated with leasing and if permissible, engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain market value for rental/leasing options. • That the above analysis be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration when available.
3.6	In the interim, to ensure a standardised approach is developed for the District for these types of requests, Officers are continuing work to develop proposals for a Mid Ulster District Council Leisure and Sports Leasing Policy. As well as developing a Mid Ulster District Council Pitch Strategy (which is an action reflective of a recommendation from the previously approved Sports Facility Strategy) – updates on progress and proposed options to move forward will be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration when available.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Land and Property Services – assessment costs to be derived from existing revenue budgets. Cahore Playing Fields Potential Works Costs – to be considered within future Development Committee Report – may require additional expenditure that may not be included within current budgets. Development of a Mid Ulster District Council Pitch Strategy – costs to engage and appoint a consultant and develop strategy to be derived from existing revenue budgets.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach across Leisure services and facilities.

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: To be considered when future options are presented.
	Rural Needs Implications: To be considered when future options are presented.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and approve that Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a survey of Cahore Playing Fields and ascertain costs for potential works to the grass pitches • Engage with Council legal services and the landlord of Cahore Playing Fields to ascertain conditions associated with leasing and if permissible, engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain market value for rental/leasing options. <p>That the above be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration when available.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21 additional leisure projects
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Sean Cavlin, Leisure and Business Development Manager

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 the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme.
1.2	To provide members with a list of additional projects approved for funding by Department for Communities.
1.3	To seek approval from Council to accept the letter of offer from Department of Communities for projects identified under section 3 of the report.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in September 2020, Members approved a request from the Department of Communities (DfC) to participate in, and to submit projects for consideration for funding from Culture & Arts, Leisure, Parks, Property and Tourism Services within Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The aim of the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2020/21 is to improve access to and participation in arts and cultural activity, leisure and outdoor recreational activity by people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.
2.3	This Capital programme is designed to support small scale capital investments to improve access to arts and leisure venues and recreational activities for people with disabilities.
2.4	Previously in November 2020, Members may recall that a total of 7 Mid Ulster District Council projects were initially approved by DfC Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2020/21 and then in December 2020, Members approved an additional 4 projects after DfC contacted Council to indicate that additional funding may be made available to support additional projects.

2.5	The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion funding is only eligible for capital expenditure incurred from date of letter of offer until 31st March 2020.
2.6	A report detailing progress of the funded projects will be brought to a future Development Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Council Officers were contacted by the Chief Leisure Officers Association Northern Ireland (CLOA) week commencing 4 th January 2021 as DfC had asked CLOA to engage with all 11 Northern Ireland Councils and their respective leisure departments as additional funding may be made available to support additional projects and to ascertain if the Mid Ulster District Council leisure department would be in a position to submit further applications to the Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21.
3.2	The officer team within Leisure subsequently identified an additional project with a total value of £16,828 to be developed to application stage and submitted this application to DfC for consideration by the closing date of Friday 15 th January 2021.
3.3	<p>This application was assessed by DfC and approved and Council are now in receipt of a letter of offer are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of Hi-Riser Benches at Dungannon, Cookstown and Maghera leisure centres. • Total grant awarded: £16,828 • This project is designed to improve accessibility within leisure centres as Hi-Riser benches are electrically operated wall-mounted changing tables that are suitable for children and adults of up to 200kg. The Hi-Riser has been designed so that it can be used with most mobile or ceiling hoists, streamlining access for transfers from a wheelchair, shower and toileting chair.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Project submitted was not required to provide matched funding as 100% funded through the DfC Access and Inclusion programme.</p>
	<p>Human: Staff time and staff resource allocated to delivering projects can be met from within existing resources.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: This additional projects, along with the 11 projects previously approved by Council and approved for funding by DfC, will be required to be completed by 31st March 2021.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Purpose of the DfC Access and Inclusion funding programme is to provide capital funding to ensure that access to arts, culture, leisure and recreational and outdoor activities is equitable throughout all 11 local authority areas.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs are considered as part of the planned activity undertaken by Council Leisure Services.</p> <p>Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC Access and Inclusion Programme</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval is sought to accept the additional funding allocation (£16,828) from Department for Communities, to deliver the additional project (as detailed under section 3 of the report).
5.2	As with previous applications taken to Council in November and December 2020, approval is sought to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for the project and to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required to deliver the project identified.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Update on Forest Schools within Council area for 2020/21
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 February 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid, Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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 update Members on the current position of Forest Schools for 2020 - 2021 within the Council area and to seek approval for the reallocation and distribution of project resources for the current programme.
2.0	Background
2.1	Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA) is an environmental awareness initiative, facilitated by personnel from NIFSA, which encourages pupils in Mid Ulster schools to visit and take on an ownership of a Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park since April 2017 as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. The programme is supported through annual revenue budgets.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	This year 2020-21 was to see the continuation of the roll-out of this scheme. Unfortunately due to the on-going Covid pandemic the schools have not been able to take part in the outdoor learning activities as planned. With this uncertainty continuing it has been decided not to hold any Forest School sessions this year.
3.2	Officers have been able to attract funding to deliver a Take Learning Outside Programme, funded by Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP), funding received £4,000. It was intended to use this funding to further the Forest School programme on Council sites, however due to increasing uncertainty this is not possible. Instead it is proposed that this funding will be used to purchase materials which will be given to the nine schools, who expressed an interest in the 2020-21 Forest School Programme. This will enable them to deliver the Forest School programme on their own sites/virtually, with support and guidance from Council staff. This action has been approved by the funding body.

3.3	It is hoped that this will allow the continuation of the Forest School programme and will maintain this connection of environmental awareness and citizenship skills within sites, while extending the learning of ecological and conservation skills to even more pupils and teachers in the Mid Ulster District Council area.
3.4	Current budget allocation for 2020/21 (£3,000) proposal is to purchase materials needed to deliver the roll out of the programme for the 2021-22 financial year such as tarpaulins, wet weather equipment/Gazebos, hand washing facilities and sanitisers.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Distribution of £4,000 (100% funded by NHLP) to purchase materials that will be distributed amongst nine registered local schools that expressed an interest in the 2020/21 Forest Schools Programme.</p> <p>Reallocation of £3,000 contribution to purchase equipment and materials that will support future delivery of FSNi activities in council area.</p>
	<p>Human: Staff time and commitment. Parks staff support the programme and have undertaken the required training to deliver the workshops and activities associated to the FSNi Scheme.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In line with Council policy and procedures</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with Council policy and procedures</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members note the postponement of the Forest School Programme for 2020/21 year due to the Covid pandemic.
5.2	Approval for funding received from NHLP will be distributed across nine registered schools, who expressed an interest in the 2020-21 Forest School Programme to enable them to deliver the Forest School programme on their own sites/virtually, with support and guidance from Council staff.

5.3	Approval for the reallocation of current 2020-21 budget of £3,000 to be expended on acquiring course related equipment and materials in preparation for 2021-22 rollout and extension of the Forest Schools Programme.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021
Date of Meeting	Thurs 11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Déaglán Ó Doibhlin

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 seek members' approval to issue a call for Expressions of Interest from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international festival that runs from 1st to 17th March each year.
2.2	The Festival seeks to celebrate and promote the Irish Language throughout this period through various schemes and activities delivered by and within the wider community.
2.3	Subject to Council approval, it is proposed that Mid Ulster District Council will issue a call for Expressions of Interest for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities, advertising on MUDC's website and social media platforms.
2.4	The scheme will be open to applicant community groups or individuals who wish to apply for funding support to carry out an Irish Language activity as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Officer team will advertise the scheme in local press to ensure all groups and individuals who wish to apply, are aware of the funding available.
3.2	The Officer team will seek to encourage a varied range of bilingual and Irish language events across the district in order to encourage maximum participation by the wider Mid Ulster community. To this end an information brochure will be compiled and publicised promoting all the events and activities being delivered.
3.3	£5,000 has been identified within the Irish Language Action Plan, within the Regional and Minority Language budget allocation for 2020/21.

3.4	It is intended that all events will be virtual/online in nature taking into account the difficulties presented by the current Covid-19 pandemic.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Budget of £5,000 currently allocated from within the Regional Minority Languages budget.
	Human: Officer time only
	Risk Management: To avoid risk of groups missing the call for expressions of interest, council's social media channels will be utilised to publicise the project
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Expression of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities across the Mid Ulster District.
	Rural Needs Implications: The Expressions of interest process is open to all groups involved in developing Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 activities across the Mid Ulster District
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that members approve the call for Expressions of Interest to be issued inviting submissions from interested groups and individuals seeking to deliver online/virtual activities and projects designed to encourage and promote use of the Irish Language as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/a

Report on	Sperrins Sculpture Trail Update
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne, Head of Tourism
Contact Officer	Michael Browne, Head of Tourism

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	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress in relation to the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project. The report seeks approval to accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA through its Rural Tourism Scheme for funding towards Phase 2 of the Sculpture Trail project, i.e. capital delivery, together with approval of the Council's financial contribution.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Sperrins Sculpture Trail project is a joint tourism initiative developed by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) acting as the lead partner, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (FODC) and Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC). It has been identified as a key flagship project and economic driver to deliver upon the strategic aims articulated by each of the three partner councils.
2.2	A number of sites were considered within the Sperrins AONB and the entrance of Davagh Forest was selected as the preferred site for the sculpture location within the Mid Ulster district with other sites having been ruled out under an options appraisal process. The other two installations will be located at the summit of Mullaghcarn (Fermanagh & Omagh District Council) and the former Sperrins Heritage Centre (Derry City and Strabane District Council)
3.0	Main Report

3.1	The Sperrins Sculpture Trail project incorporates two phases; Phase 1 relating to the technical study and project competition, while Phase 2 relates to the capital delivery element of the project. Derry City and Strabane District Council acted as lead partner. In respect of Phase 1 which will now be completed with the identification and appointment of a preferred artist team.
3.2	The appointment of the team is subject to the Letters of Offer for funding being accepted by each of the three partner Councils. Both DCSDC and F&O have confirmed their acceptance alongside their respective match funding.
3.3	Members will be aware that approval was granted in September 2018 to develop and make application to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' (DAERA) Rural Tourism Scheme (RTS) for a maximum potential grant of £500k with a potential 25% match funding from the Council for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>The total price of the successful tender is £1,774,581.30 which is within the initial Global Cost Plan estimated for the project. The total cost of Mid Ulster District Council's element of the overall project is £581,987.33, comprised of funding of £ 426702.99 (75% DAERA's Rural Tourism Scheme) and a Council contribution of £142,234.34 (25%) over the next two financial years and an additional £13,050 for professional fees, which can be met from within existing Tourism and Culture & Arts budgets this financial year.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>The required support will be included within the work plans from the Tourism development & Arts and Cultural development Officer Teams.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>All potential risks associated with the project have been identified by the Project Board and are discussed as a standing agenda item at monthly project Board meetings</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:

	Both Tourism services and Culture & Arts services are delivered by the respective officer teams to be fully inclusive, and are designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community and promoting and supporting good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>A key aspect of the proposed Sperrins Sculpture Trail Project addresses Rural needs issues and enhances the unspoilt and rural nature of the Sperrins AONB region as one that has significant potential to increase visitor numbers to this region.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>That the Development Committee adopting the recommendations and recommends that the Council:</p> <p>(1) Authorise the match funding required, being £142,234.34 (25% of the tender cost of the Mid Ulster District Council element of the project) to be expended between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years in accordance with the progression of the project works, the funds having been previously included within the Council's Capital Programme</p> <p>(2) Authorise the officers to fund the relevant professional fees amounting to £13,050 from the Tourism & Culture and Arts 2020/21 budgets</p> <p>(3) Instructs its officers to review the current capital budget and implement such steps as are necessary to ensure that all capital costs associated with capital projects, including legal and other associated costs, are properly incurred and funded from the relevant capital project budget</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	Economic Development Report – OBFD 1) Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) Membership Renewal (Jan-Dec 2021) 2) Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
Date of Meeting	11 February 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	ATCM Membership Renewal ATCM is a respected voice for town and city management and are a not-for-profit organisation with membership from the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and thought leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.
2.2	Labour Market Partnership (LMP) The Department for Communities (DfC) presented to SOLACE NI in February 2020 to update on Employability NI and proposals for introducing Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The LMPs will be focused to achieve regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs of local Council areas.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	ATCM Membership Renewal Council has held ATCM Membership for some years and this provides officers with the following benefits; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events delivered in relation to Town and City Centre Management • Platform for knowledge exchange in Town and City Centre Management • Access to written resources in Town and City Centre Management • Regular Covid-19 updates for each region • Access to virtual webinars

3.2	<p>The annual membership renewal fee invoice (on Appendix 1) of £545 (excluding Vat) is now due for the period of January-December 2021.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</p> <p>The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The LMPs will be focused to achieve regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by the District connecting employers with employees.</p> <p>Council officers met with DfC (Employability NI) officials in December 2020 to discuss the development and implementation of a Local Market Partnership in Mid Ulster. 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. The LMP would complement the Mid Ulster Skills Forum which has delivered on a number of initiatives and programmes including the establishment of the MEGA collaborative network. It is envisaged that at some point in the future, the interim LMP and Mid Ulster Skills Forum would merge/co-align to form an integrated partnership for the delivery of key employability, training and skills programmes in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop an annual Action Plan 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.</p> <p>Council is required to prepare an Interim LMP Action Plan for 2021-22 and approval of such will be sought from the Mid Ulster LMP, Council and DfC and subject to funding will be rolled out during the 2021-22 financial year. It is intended to use the good work already completed through the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to formulate the Mid Ulster Interim Labour Market Plan. Much consultation has already taken place with a wide variety of key local stakeholders, including the private sector, to develop Mid Ulster's Skills Action Plan (2018-2021). 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. Council officers have sought clarification on a Mid Ulster LMP budget but at this juncture DFC are unable to advise of such.</p> <p>After delivery of Mid Ulster's Interim Annual Labour Market Plan (2021-22), a three year Strategic Labour Market Plan needs to be prepared containing annual action plans for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.</p> <p>DfC acknowledge that the implementation of the full LMP model across each Council area will take some time to develop. The Department's programme of proposed actions and timeframe is summarised as follows:</p>
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	<table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Proposed Actions</th></tr><tr><td>2020-2021</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships- Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities- Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members</td></tr><tr><td>2021-2022</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Produce Annual Action Plan- Delivery against Action Plan- Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC- Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance</td></tr><tr><td>2022-2023</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas- Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans- Delivery against Action Plan- Monitoring and evaluation of progress</td></tr></table>	Year	Proposed Actions	2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships- Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities- Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Produce Annual Action Plan- Delivery against Action Plan- Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC- Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance	2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas- Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans- Delivery against Action Plan- Monitoring and evaluation of progress
Year	Proposed Actions								
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships- Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities- Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members								
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Produce Annual Action Plan- Delivery against Action Plan- Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC- Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance								
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas- Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans- Delivery against Action Plan- Monitoring and evaluation of progress								
	Appendices 2A, 2B and 2C contain correspondence from DfC on the LMP process.								
	Other Considerations								
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications								
	Financial: ATCM Membership Renewal - £545 (excl Vat) for the period of Jan-Dec 2021 from within existing economic development budget Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) - There are no financial or resource implications at this time. Human: Officers time Risk Management: N/A								
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments								
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Labour Market Partnerships – to be considered. Rural Needs Implications: Labour Market Partnerships – to be considered.								
5.0	Recommendation(s)								
5.1	It is recommended that Members; ATCM Membership Renewal Approve the renewal of membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December 2021 at a cost of £545 (excluding Vat).								

5.2	Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Approve Mid Ulster Council participates as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of Labour Market Partnerships, which will coordinate activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in Mid Ulster.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – ATCM Membership Renewal Invoice (Jan-Dec 2021)</p> <p>Appendix 2A - Letter from DfC Re Labour Market Partnerships - 9.11.20</p> <p>Appendix 2B – Letter from DfC Re Labour Market Partnerships – 18.12.20</p> <p>Appendix 2C – DfC's Draft Labour Market Partnerships Code of Practice</p>

APPENDIX 1

Association of Town Centre Management
PO Box 242
Westerham
TN16 9EU

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Telephone: 44 (0) 300 330 0980
Email: accounts@atcm.org



Mid Ulster District Council
FAO Mary Mc Cullagh, Town Strategy
Manager
Burn Road
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8DT
VAT Reg No:

Invoice Number:	66052
Invoice Date:	01/01/2021
Order Number:	
Our Ref:	COOKSTO W

Quant Details

1.00 2021 Full Band 1 Membership

Unit Price	Net Amount	VAT Rate	VAT
545.00	545.00	20.00	109.00

Terms: 21 days from invoice date - please ensure invoice number is quoted on payment

BACS Details

Bank: Lloyds TSB
Account Name: Ass Twn Centre Man
Sort Code: 30-92-32
Account Number: 01440295

Total Net Amount (£)	545.00
Total VAT Amount (£)	109.00
Invoice Total (£)	654.00

**Work and Wellbeing
Level 4
Design Centre
39 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3BA
Phone: (028) 9082 3357
Email: deirdre.ward@communities-ni.gov.uk**

Date: 09 November 2020

Dear Chief Executive,

RE: Labour Market Partnerships

You may recall my presentation to SOLACE NI in February 2020 to update on Employability NI and proposals for introducing Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). LMPs aim to improve labour market conditions by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees.

You will be aware of the widespread impact that Covid-19 restrictions have had on the labour market and I would like to assure you that DfC have been working alongside key stakeholders to implement a number of measures to assist in addressing the impact on the labour market. LMPs are one of the measures that could help towards labour market recovery.

You will be aware that Labour Market Partnerships require the establishment of a local multi-agency partnership within each of the 11 Council areas and a regional LMP to oversee the work of the 11 Local LMPs. Implementation of the full LMP model will take some time to develop, however we are now moving towards implementation of interim local LMPs to help test the model, expedite local actions to improve labour market conditions in partnership and to help move towards full implementation in a phased approach.

Some Councils are already working to introducing Interim LMPs in their areas. I am writing to invite you to join us in this process and utilise existing Community Planning structures to enable the establishment of Interim LMPs within your area. The table below provides an overview of the timetable for implementation of the LMP model.

Year	Proposed Actions
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships - Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities - Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce Annual Action Plan - Delivery against Action Plan - Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC - Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas - Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans - Delivery against Action Plan - Monitoring and evaluation of progress

If you would like to discuss establishing an Interim local LMP in your area within the timeframes above or if you would like further information about Employability NI, please contact the Employability NI team on DfC.EmployabilityNI@communities-ni.gov.uk. You will appreciate that we are moving towards introduction of Interim LMPs in the immediate term, therefore if you would like to work with us to implement an Interim LMP in your Council area, please notify us by 30 November 2020.

Kind Regards



Deirdre Ward

Director, Work & Wellbeing

Year	Proposed Actions
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish LMP secretariat, membership and form Interim partnerships - Undertake statistical analysis and identification of priorities - Training/awareness raising for secretariat and members
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce Annual Action Plan - Delivery against Action Plan - Co-commissioning of local projects with DfC - Provide Annual Report/Evaluation of performance
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of final local LMPs in all areas - Produce Strategic Plans and Annual Action Plans - Delivery against Action Plan - Monitoring and evaluation of progress

If you would like to discuss establishing an Interim local LMP in your area within the timeframes above or if you would like further information about Employability NI, please contact the Employability NI team on DfC.EmployabilityNI@communities-ni.gov.uk. You will appreciate that we are moving towards introduction of Interim LMPs in the immediate term, therefore if you would like to work with us to implement an Interim LMP in your Council area, please notify us by 30 November 2020.

Kind Regards



Deirdre Ward

Director, Work & Wellbeing

APPENDIX 2B
LETTER FROM DFC RE LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIPS -
18.12.20



Work and Wellbeing
Level 4
Design Centre
39 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3BA
Phone: (028) 9090 9394 / 07596 892988
Email: andrew.irwin@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 18 December 2020

Dear LMP Secretariat,

RE: Interim Local Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs)

Following on from the letter issued by Deirdre Ward on 9 November 2020 and your interest in establishing an Interim Local LMP in your area, you will be aware that the Department have been progressing plans, through the Employability NI initiative. This includes the development of a regional partnership and 11 local partnerships based within Council areas, utilising existing Council structures for the interim period in 2021-22.

I am writing to establish your proposals for establishing an Interim Local LMP. It is anticipated that this will be part of your existing Community Planning framework, but can sit separately if you feel there is a more appropriate structure within your area.

I would be most appreciative if you would complete the attached forms, outlining your proposals for establishing an interim partnership within the coming months and the key contacts for ongoing correspondence. It would be most helpful if completed forms could be **returned by Wednesday 6th January 2021**.

The Department is willing to assisting wherever possible in establishing Interim local LMPs and should you require any further assistance or information, please do not hesitate in contacting me using the details provided above.

Kind regards

Andrew Irwin

Andrew Irwin
Employability NI

Interim Local LMP Partnership Proposals

Please complete this form to indicate which existing structure you propose to utilise to perform the functions of the interim LMP and information about its operation.

Council Area	
Name of Existing Partnership/Group	
Is there an Overarching Structure that the Partnership/Group is Linked to? Does the Partnership/Group report to/operate under Community Planning, Economic Development etc.	
Main Current Objectives of Partnership/Group Please list the main objectives (e.g. Employment, economic inactivity, skills development, local business expansion etc) and any key achievements. You can provide a progress report if this has been completed.	
Who Currently Provides the Secretariat Function?	
What Governance Arrangements are Currently in Place? Are there Terms of Reference, Standing Orders or other arrangements in place currently? If so please provide a copy.	
Current Chairperson Name and Organisation.	
Current Membership Please list the current members and their organisation.	
Proposed Additional Members Please list any additional members you would like to invite onto the Partnership/Group in forming the Interim Local LMP.	
How Often Will the Group Meet? The Interim Local LMP should meet frequently. It should be noted, when the full LMP model is implemented it is expected that Local LMPs will meet 6 times per annum on a bi-monthly basis as a minimum.	
Current Funding Position Does the Partnership/Group have any current funding in place and if so please list the amounts and the funding providers.	
When do you hope to have an interim Partnership established? Please provide the month and year. It should be noted that the Department aim to establish Interim LMPs in 2020-21, with delivery beginning in 2021-22.	
Any other relevant information	

Interim Local LMP Points of Contact Form

Please complete the form below, indicating who you would like the Department to liaise with as the Interim LMP model develops.

Council Area	
---------------------	--

Main Contact	
Name	
Employer	
Role	
Email	
Telephone	
Mobile	
Address	

Secondary Contact	
Name	
Employer	
Role	
Email	
Telephone	
Mobile	
Address	

APPENDIX 2C

Generic LMP Logo

**Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by
Local Labour Market Partnerships**

Insert date

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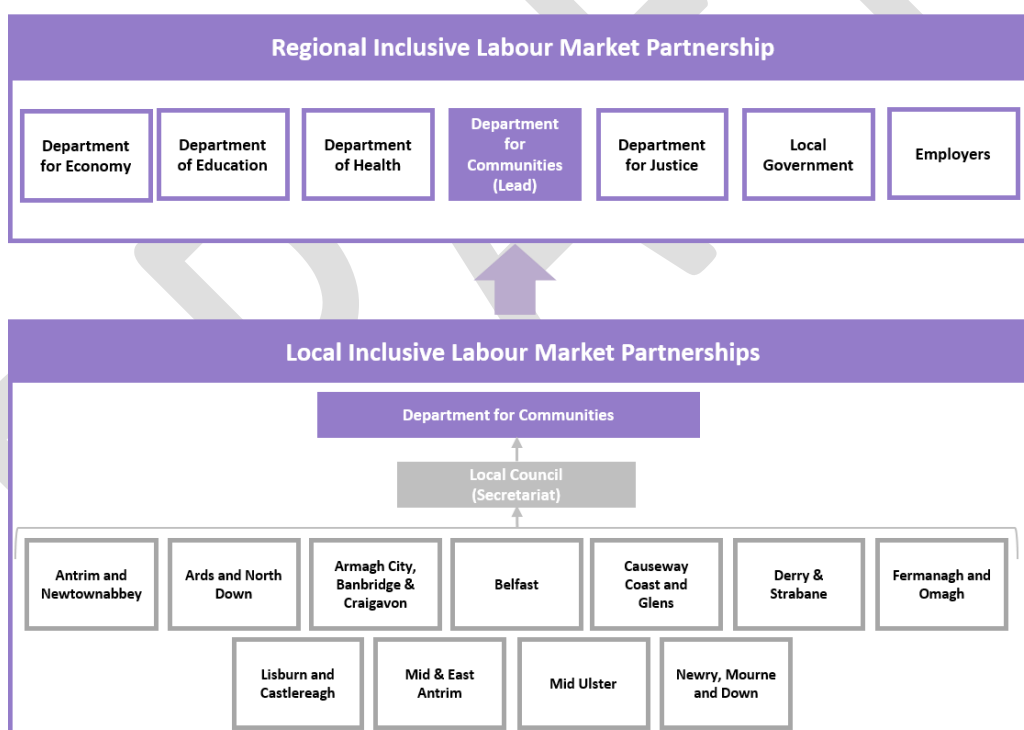
Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) focus on engagement at both the regional level and local Council level to ensure that relevant partners and stakeholders are engaged in addressing employability outcomes, labour market conditions and the provision of employability services.
- 1.2 The LMP approach is two tiered, tier one at the regional/NI level, and tier two at each of the 11 local Councils.
- 1.3 This Code of Practice provides guidance on the exercise of functions by Local Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs).
- 1.4 The purpose of the Code is to provide LMPs with guidance, rather than prescriptive operational requirements, so there is sufficient flexibility to ensure that the requirements of running the Partnership do not detract from the delivery of services and deliver outcomes for the community. However, it is also vital that there are sufficient governance and accountability mechanisms in place so that the public and the Department for Communities (DfC) can be assured of the Partnerships' effectiveness.
- 1.5 The Code is a working document. In the course of operating LMPs, it is likely that issues will emerge that will require further consideration and possible inclusion. The Employability NI Programme Board will, when required, supplement this Code and the LMP member's handbook with detailed guidance to support the development of LMPs.
- 1.6 This Code should be widely disseminated among those involved in the operation of LMPs. Any queries about the content of the Code, or requests for further copies, should be directed as follows:

Secretariat to Labour Market Partnerships
Work and Wellbeing Division
Department for Communities
Design Centre
39 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3BA

Chapter 2: Overview

- 2.1 The aim is to establish a regional LMP with Department for Communities (DfC) as the lead agency and 11 local LMPs (one for each council area in Northern Ireland), with the relevant local Council providing secretariat support to the partnership.
- 2.2 Engagement across central government, local government, business, community and voluntary sectors is key to delivering the best possible outcomes for citizens in each locality. It is vital that Central Government Departments and Local Government collaborative effectively and join up with local business, community and voluntary sectors to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated employability offer is provided to citizens.
- 2.3 The local LMPs are accountable to the regional LMP, as detailed in the high level design diagram below.



Title

- 2.4 The Partnership shall be named the 'Labour Market Partnership' with the corresponding Council area to the fore, providing regional uniformity but retaining a localisation of the corresponding partnership. More detail in respect of naming and use of logos is provided within the branding guidelines. The names of the Local LMPs will be:
 - Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership

- Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Labour Market Partnership
- Belfast Labour Market Partnership
- Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership
- Derry and Strabane Labour Market Partnership
- Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership
- Mind and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership
- Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership

2.3 It is anticipated that the administrative office of the Local LMP secretariat will be within Council Offices and that appropriate contact details will be made publically available.

Status

2.4 The local council has an important role in facilitating the local LMP, however the LMP should have the ability to take decisions independently. The status of the local LMPs should therefore be that of an unincorporated association.

Purpose

2.5 The aim of the Partnership is to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees. The Partnerships will be expected to provide an integrated approach to address labour market challenges by bringing together, in a single body, the necessary local knowledge and expertise to build on existing structures locally, operating in a holistic, streamlined and joined up way.

2.6 The key objectives of the Labour Market Partnership approach is to develop local plans tailored to each area depending on skills, sector, requirements; agree sector/industry needs at local level; review supply and demand levels for skills, expertise, qualifications etc at local level and commission new provision to fill any local gaps.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employability NI (ENI) Programme Board / Regional LMP

2.7 The ENI Programme Board will perform the role of the regional LMP

2.8 Employability NI has the following objectives:

- **Economically Inactive** – To reduce the number of customers who are economically inactive due to a disability and / or health condition or because they have family or caring responsibilities by assisting them to enter into employment or to move them closer to the labour market;
- **Long Term Unemployed** – To reduce the number of customers who are long term unemployed by assisting them to enter employment;
- **Disability** – To provide support to workers with a disability and / or a health condition to prevent them falling out of employment.
- **Skilled Labour Supply** – To put in place a first class service for employers that facilitates their access to a suitable skilled labour supply; and
- **Economic Shock** - To provide support to customers who are in danger of falling out of employment suddenly due to significant labour market changes

2.9 The role and responsibilities of the regional LMP include:

- **To provide strategic direction**
- **To ensure alignment with PfG targets and outcomes**
- **The coordination, pooling and alignment of budgets to support Employability NI provision**
- **To agree a performance framework to guide the setting of performance expectations in the delivery of services**
- **To co-design and commission all centrally contracted provision**
- **To evaluate Employability NI services**
- **To provide oversight and approval of Local LMP Plans**
- **To act as an escalation route for resolving issues in local planning and implementation that could not be resolved by local Partnerships**
- **Responsibility for collating and disseminating all labour market information to inform plans**
- **To support and build capacity and capability at all levels of planning and delivery**
- **To promote and manage an annual Employability NI event.**

Department for Communities (DfC)

2.10 DfC are the lead partner in the ENI Programme Board

2.11 The DfC was established in May 2006 following the restructuring of Northern Ireland Departments. The Work and Health group within the DfC is focused on helping people improve their lives by helping them into work, providing support to those who are unable to work and positively working with those people who won't work.

2.12 The role and responsibilities of the DfC include:

- Securing regional LMP membership
- Providing all secretariat services for the regional LMP including convening meetings, circulating meeting papers and other administrative support as required
- Commissioning professional services as required
- Achievement of relevant Programme for Government targets
- Supporting the development and delivery of local LMPs
- Promoting the work of ENI, Regional LMP and local LMPs

2.13 DfC is responsible for making all payments of eligible expenditure for local LMPs and must ensure that:

- The local LMP acknowledges the role of the Council in providing the administrative and financial management function to the local LMP
- Robust fraud and irregularity prevention activities are undertaken
- The quality of programme implementation is monitored
- Monitoring of financial output is carried out
- The procedures and eligibility of funding requests is checked before payment is authorised
- Effective procedures are in place for identification of priorities and measures against delivery outputs and targets

Council

2.14 The local LMP Secretariat and any associated staff will be appointed directly by the Council and will be responsible for day to day management of strategic and operational issues relating to the LMP. The key to the success of the Local LMPs will be to align with existing and proposed Community Planning themes and structures.

2.15 The role and responsibilities of the Council will be to:

- Provide all local LMP secretariat services including convening meetings, circulating agendas, minutes, preparing papers and other administrative support as required
- Employ any staff required to manage and monitor the local LMP
- Secure membership to the Partnership, brief and support members
- Commission any professional services as agreed / required by the Partnership
- Ensure Standing Orders are in place for the local LMP
- Promoting the work of the local LMP

2.16 The Local LMP secretariat's roles and responsibilities include:

- **Provide advice and support to the LMP members to ensure effective and efficient operation of the partnership.**
- Careful financial stewardship and making best use of public funds
- Provide progress reports on the implementation of plans, where appropriate recommend revisions for consideration and implement any agreed revisions/remedial action to plans
- Co-ordinate and assist the work of the LMP in developing and implementing strategic/operational plans.
- Manage and co-ordinate administrative support service for the LMP, including financial resources relating to the work of the LMP and to report on the extent to which the LMP has achieved its objectives.
- Communicate advice and guidance to the LMP on legislation, policy, commissioning research, statistical reports, publications relating to the work of LMP and local employability/labour market issues.
- Identify, develop and procure interventions to help improve employability outcomes and/or labour Market conditions locally.
- Develop local policies and procedures relating to the work of the LMP, in compliance with statutory requirements, and act as the designated officer for the purposes of complying with Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Equality legislation and monitor their implementation.
- Network with partners, develop and maintain relationships with statutory agencies and other public and private sector organisations, and identify opportunities to market and promote the positive image of the LMP.
- Assist the LMP in identifying priorities arising from statistical information and consultation as a basis for developing Partnership Plans.
- Develop, with Members, a district wide programme of work in order to enhance the public awareness of the LMP.
- Promote the work of the LMP through the media and other communications channels.

2.17 The role and responsibilities of the LMP will be:

- To develop and agree Local Inclusive Labour Market Plans that ensures alignment with Programme for Government and Community Planning targets and outcomes
- To effectively integrate regional contracted provision with local services and programmes
- To provide strategic direction and support to help address local labour market challenges
- To ensure that Employability NI meets local needs and opportunities
- To effectively integrate NI contracted provision with local services and programmes
- To act as an escalation route for resolving issues in local planning and implementation for resolving issues relating to employability and the local labour market
- To set performance expectations for local contracted provision as part of the NI performance framework
- To co-design and commission additional services as required to meet local need
- Ensuring that the proceedings of the meetings are recorded in minutes, to include the declaration of any interests held by LMP members
- To develop and to provide means of collecting and collating all data re: local performance
- To report on progress to the Regional LMP through quarterly monitoring, annual report and when otherwise requested
- To analyse, collect and disseminate labour market information which supports programme delivery
- To ensure capacity and capability across local delivery providers operating on behalf of or in partnership with the local LMP, meets local needs
- To host a minimum of two local public events (i.e. jobs fairs, redundancy clinics, information events) that may be targeted towards specific issues or employment sectors that may have aroused interest or concern to help address local employability and labour market issues
- To input towards the annual Employability NI event
- Promoting the work of the local LMP, Regional LMP and Employability NI
- Ensure that any sub-committees have agreed Terms of Reference in place
- Develop and agree a Communications Strategy for the LMP

LMP Functions

2.18 Each LMP shall host regular partnership meetings to monitor the performance of the local labour market, identify priorities for inclusion in the annual action plan and monitoring performance against these priorities. As a minimum, partnership meetings should occur no less than on 6 occasions per annum, hosted bi-monthly.

2.19 If required, the Partnership can meet more frequently in order to effectively carry out its functions.

2.20 The functions of local LMPs shall include:

- Provide views to the regional LMP on any matter concerning the labour market and/or employability within the local area;
- Make arrangements for obtaining co-operation locally to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally;
- Make arrangements for obtaining statistical information as well as views about labour market matters, and consider fully any information obtained;
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting employability and/or the local labour market;
- Prepare plans for enhancing local employability outcomes;
- Identify targets or other indicators by reference to which it can assess the extent to which those issues are addressed by action taken in accordance with any such plans;
- Deliver targeted interventions such as regional job fairs, employability pipelines, redundancy responses etc;
- Provide appropriate financial or other support as it considers appropriate to projects or programmes designed to enhance employability outcomes or labour market conditions locally;
- In exercising its functions, a LMP shall have regard to the Code of Conduct for LMP Members.

2.21 In summary, LMPs will:

- **Review and Engage** to obtain relevant information and develop an understanding of labour market conditions, employability matters and any issues of concern.
- **Identify and Prioritise** particular issues and prepare plans for how these can be addressed.

- **Deliver** targeted interventions to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally, directly through their own interventions, through the work of their delivery groups or through support for the work of others.
- **Monitor** performance to ensure delivery against Partnership Plans.

Supporting the NI Executive's Strategic Objectives

2.22 Taken together with the strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, these overarching functions will shape the work of the Partnerships. The strategic objectives for LMPs and the proposed OBA approach are intended to help ensure a partnership approach to the successful delivery of the functions of the LMPs.

2.23 The current relevant outcomes (may be subject to change following any revision to the Programme for Government) identified within the Programme for Government are:

- Outcome 3: 'We have a more equal society'
- Outcome 6: 'We have more people working in better jobs'
- Outcome 8: 'We care for others and help those in need'

2.24 The DfC is the lead department for a number of indicators, through which progress on these outcomes will be measured:

- Indicator 17: Economic inactivity rates excluding students
- Indicator 32: Employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile
- Indicator 33: % of people working part-time who would like to work more hours

2.25 Within this framework, however, as much autonomy as possible has been given to individual Partnerships, so that they can develop Partnership Plans and a programme of delivery best suited to the characteristics or needs of their locality.

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Chapter 3: Membership and Structure

Regional LMP Membership

3.1 The function of the regional LMP is performed by the Employability NI programme Board, membership of which is comprised of representation from:

- Department for Communities (Lead)
- Department for the Economy
- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Invest NI
- SOLACE NI
- Belfast City Council (City Deal Representative)
- Derry City & Strabane Council (City Deal Representative)

Local LMP Membership

3.2 Local LMPs are to be comprised of membership from a number of different groups, as a minimum, representation must include:

- Local Council staff
- Local JBO
- Local Careers Service
- Health Trust
- Education Authority
- Area Learning Communities
- Further Education College
- Enterprise Partner

3.3 The local LMP may also wish to locally designate organisations to the partnership, because of the local contribution and expertise that those organisations bring, for a period to be defined by the Partnership. Alternatively the LMP may wish to invite organisations to attend LMP meetings or committees in response to emerging issues. The list below is not exhaustive but LMPs may wish to consider representation from:

- University representation
- NI Housing Executive (if involved in employability)
- Housing Association (if involved in employability)
- Employer representatives (i.e. Town Centre Management, Chamber of Commerce etc)
- Voluntary / Community representatives

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Individual roles and responsibilities

- 3.4 LMP members are personally responsible for all their decisions, for avoiding the risk of damaging confidence in the partnership and must comply with the 'Code of Conduct for LMP Members'.
- 3.5 Each member of the LMP shares a common role in supporting and developing the work of the LMP and all members have equal voting rights
- 3.6 An LMPs members' principal commitment is to deliver the functions of the LMP
- 3.7 Roles and responsibilities of an LMP member include:
- To work collectively with the other Members to successfully carry out the functions of the partnership.
 - To identify priorities to improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally.
 - To deliver an improvement in employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally by putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms through a partnership approach.
 - To attend LMP meetings, training and events and keep up-to-date with issues relevant to the work of the partnership.
 - To prepare partnership plans, in line with guidance.
 - To develop, support and implement projects to enhance the labour market.
 - To monitor and evaluate performance of the LMP and associated projects effectively.
 - To ensure Partnership Plans reflect the statistical information and views / concerns within the local area.
 - To contribute to a general forum for discussion and consultation on all matters relating to employability and the labour market locally.
 - To maintain an up to date knowledge and understanding of the local labour market and employability matters.
 - To raise awareness of the work of the partnership.
 - To adhere to relevant financial and other guidance.
 - To adhere to the Code of Conduct for LMP Members.
 - To adhere to LMP Standing Orders.
- 3.8 LMP members may take on additional duties, including Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the local LMP and/or Chairperson of a sub-committee.
- 3.9 The LMP Chairperson is selected from the LMP membership to the office of Chairperson for a 12 month period.

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3.10 The roles and responsibilities of the LMP Chairperson include:

- Regulate proceedings in accordance with the LMP Code of Practice and Standing Orders
- Encouraging consensus on decisions and a corporate view on any issues that arise as the LMP discharges its functions
- Enabling the LMP to conduct its business in a positive and non-threatening environment by ensuring that those participating are not subjected to unreasonable questioning, inappropriate challenge, verbal abuse or challenging another member's integrity
- Ensure that discussion is relevant to the item on the agenda and that no individual or group either dominates or are excluded and that all members have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion
- Decide if an issue requires to be put to vote and, if it does, if the proposed motion or amendment is in order
- Decide points of order and other incidental questions which require decision at the time
- Adjourn a meeting when circumstances justify or require it as necessary
- Ensure that the LMP delivers against its strategic objectives
- Demonstrate a commitment to the work of the LMP by contributing to LMP meetings, training and other events
- Ensuring that the Vice-Chairperson is briefed appropriately so they may fulfil their role
- Representing the views of the LMP to the general public and speak on behalf of the LMP to the media

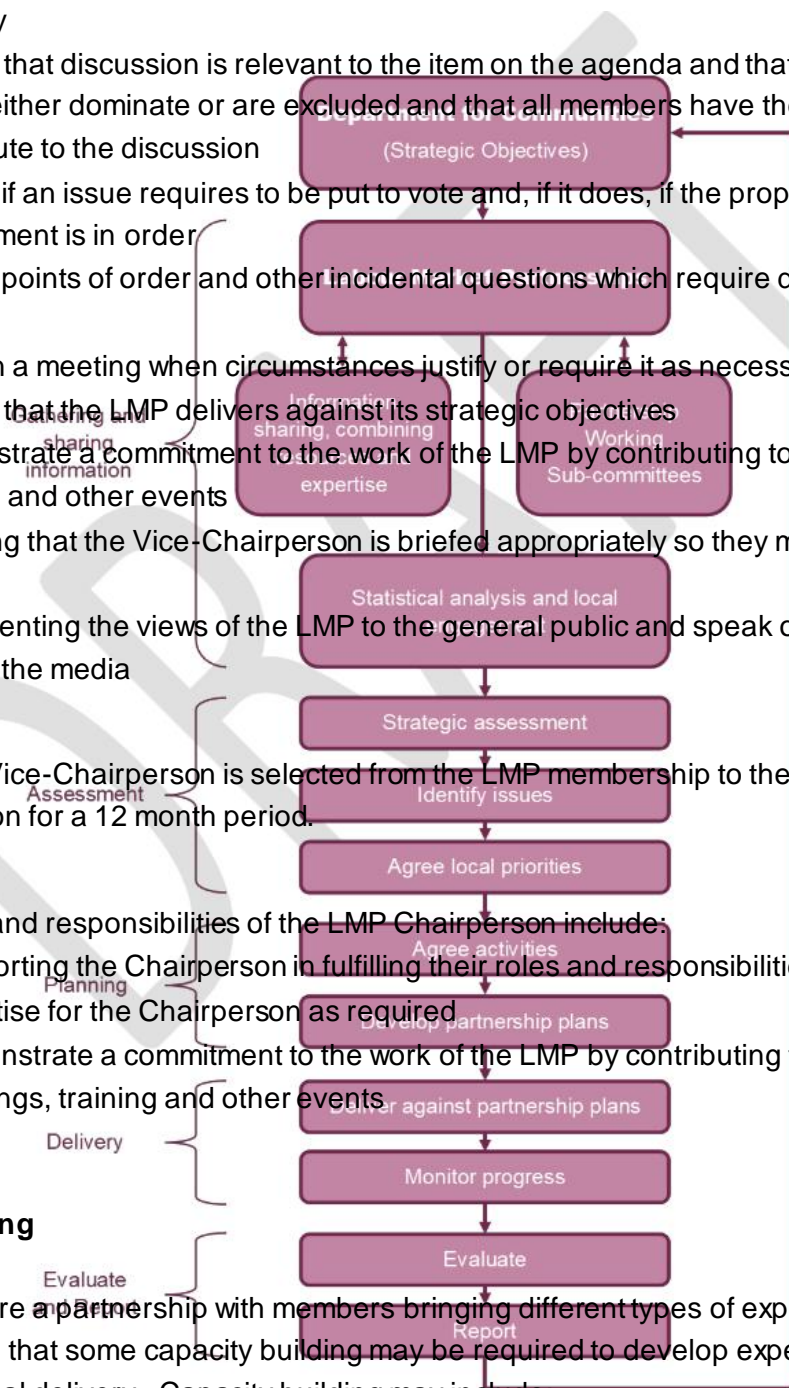
3.11 The LMP Vice-Chairperson is selected from the LMP membership to the office of Chairperson for a 12 month period.

3.12 The roles and responsibilities of the LMP Chairperson include:

- Supporting the Chairperson in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities
- Deputise for the Chairperson as required
- Demonstrate a commitment to the work of the LMP by contributing to LMP meetings, training and other events

Capacity Building

3.13 As LMPs are a partnership with members bringing different types of expertise it is anticipated that some capacity building may be required to develop expertise and support local delivery. Capacity building may include:



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- **Labour Market** - understanding the regional and local labour market, the nature and volumes of flows into and out of work, causes of long-term unemployment, economic inactivity, youth unemployment, NEETs etc
- **Employability and Skills Provision** – building awareness of the full suite of existing provision including central government provision, Local Authority provision and other provision.
- **Best Practice Employability Initiatives:** potentially hosted by guest speakers or study visit
- **Job Shadowing:** time spent shadowing employability experts
- **Project Management Training:** specific to project management skills to facilitate oversight and monitoring of project delivery.

Working in Partnership

3.14 The key to effective partnership working is ensuring that all members of the LMP work together and are committed to achieving the same goal. Each LMP is expected to set out terms of participation to ensure all members fully understand what is expected of them. Issues which are particularly pertinent include:

- **Attendances at meetings** - LMP members are expected to attend all relevant meetings of the LMP including any that occur outside of normal working hours. Arrangements for meetings will be agreed by each LMP.
- **Expected contribution** - LMP members are expected to contribute to the delivery of the partnership plan and by drawing on their own specialist knowledge/expertise. LMP members' organisations are not obliged to make a financial contribution to the LMP rather their contribution will be their wealth of specialised knowledge and experience that will assist the LMP address key issues;
- The LMP should act as a **hub for information and knowledge exchange** and members should ensure that any relevant information coming from the LMP, is disseminated throughout their organisation. Similarly any relevant information from the member's organisation should be disseminated through the local LMP.

Structure

3.15 The LMP should provide a strong and accountable structure for:

- Partnership working between government Departments and agencies, local government and other commissioners of employability support
- Agreeing the priority groups for interventions

- Co-designing employability interventions at a Northern Ireland and local level
- Agreeing the funding of interventions, including the devolution, integration and/or alignment of budgets
- Co-commissioning interventions at the appropriate level
- Monitoring and measuring performance against expected performance levels
- Developing expertise at all levels to co-design and co-commission interventions
- Building capabilities and networking providers of services at the local and NI levels.

3.16 The following sections offer guidance on how this might be achieved.

3.17 It is recognised that LMPs need to take account of, and work closely with, other existing businesses, communities and partnership structures in their areas. LMPs may establish sub-committees that are appropriate to the discharging of its functions and/or enable discussion on localised issues.

3.18 LMP sub-committees must be comprised LMP members but, in addition, may co-opt persons who are not members of the LMP. A person so co-opted may not vote on any matter but otherwise is to be treated as a member of the committee. This process may help the LMP to engage with appropriate local organisations and third sector bodies in identifying and prioritising, delivering and monitoring. All sub-committees should have a 'Terms of Reference' in place and report directly to the LMP.

Chapter 4: Delivery against the Strategic Objectives

Context

- 4.1 It is important that the members of the LMP act together to achieve the strategic objectives and the local priorities captured in Partnership Plans. All members of the LMP are responsible for combining their individual and organisational knowledge in a way that best facilitates the aim of improving employability and labour market conditions locally. A model for how this could be achieved is set out below.

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Review and engage to identify local considerations

- 4.2 The LMP shall review statistical information and other evidence relevant to the local area to obtain an understanding of the current labour market conditions, comparing this with regional information as necessary.
- 4.3 The LMP shall engage with key stakeholders to identify and prioritise, at the earliest possible stage, any emerging labour market issues and/or employability matters that might require local action and resolution. The LMP shall seek local participation and support in developing and delivering an effective response, and to improve co-operation in improving labour market conditions.
- 4.4 The LMP should use all the information gained to:
- Prepare the Partnership Plan, which should incorporate all relevant information;
 - Upon request, provide input to the plans of other organisations represented on the LMP; and
 - Co-ordinate and liaise with other organisations to help ensure that Partnership Plans are delivered in the most effective manner, where possible integrating delivery with existing structures, in particular the Community Plan and working collaboratively with others to avoid duplication of services.
- 4.5 It is important that any engagement is appropriate to the task and audience. This may include consultation, attendance at meetings, facilitating or attending public or stakeholder events and providing guidance on labour market considerations and/or employability matters.

Publicly available information

- 4.6 Local LMPs should be committed to transparency, minutes of meetings and annual reports, demonstrating performance against targets in local Partnership Plans should be readily available and preferably available electronically through associated websites.
- 4.7 Through their work, the LMP must keep the community informed about what the LMP are doing and how to make contact so they can ask questions or obtain further information.
- 4.8 The LMP will develop a communications plan and will produce material for inclusion on the Council websites including contact information and Annual Reports as a minimum.

Branding and Marketing

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- 4.9 It is mandatory for all projects/programmes supported to promote the funding provided, which will include the use of appropriate logos and wording on stationary, literature and promotional material.
- 4.10 The LMP Chairperson is responsible for representing the views of the LMP and may be asked to speak on behalf of the LMP to the media or the public. No other members should speak on behalf of the LMP without the consent of the Chairperson.

Preparing Partnership Plans

- 4.11 The LMP must develop Partnership Plans for its area within a timescale set by the Employability NI Programme Board. This must be informed by the strategic objectives set by the Employability NI Programme Board and the relevant Community Plan, whilst addressing local characteristics or identified needs within the local area. It should take account of regional and local statistical information and other local issues of relevance.
- 4.12 LMPs must provide two main Partnership Plans:
- Strategic Plan – Outlining strategic targets and objectives over a 3 year period.
 - Annual Action Plan – Outlining detailed plans and funding allocation for delivery over the financial year to meet the targets and objectives of the Strategic Plan.
- 4.13 The LMP should ensure that the Partnership Plans contains costed key priorities and outcomes, as well as details of what resources will be required for delivery. It should indicate what outcomes are expected, including details of what services the LMP will deliver in the area. The Partnership Plan should be made widely available to the public.
- 4.14 The LMP should establish systems and processes in order for it to deliver its work plan effectively, supported by the LMP secretariat. Where appropriate, this should include financial or other support for initiatives designed to improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions. Any such initiatives may be delivered by the LMP itself or by working collaboratively to support the activities of others.

Delivering the Partnership Plan

- 4.15 LMPs should consider how their Partnership Plans can help to support efforts to improve employability and labour market conditions in their areas. The priorities of the Partnership Plans should have clear links with the relevant priorities in the organisational plans of LMP Members, with areas of work delivered by other related functions within Councils (e.g. Economic Development and align with the Community Plan) and the NI Executives strategic targets.

- 4.16 In delivering the Partnership Plans opportunities for early intervention or quick response should be identified where possible, in order to reduce the impact of labour market shock within the local economy.
- 4.17 Delivery should also address long standing issues for example building confidence in identified sections of the community where issues are prevalent (e.g. rural communities, neighbourhood renewal areas etc) or with individuals who find difficulty in engaging the labour market (e.g. long term unemployed, people with disabilities etc).
- 4.18 LMPs should involve their members and any other relevant bodies to work together alongside businesses and the wider community, to help address local labour market issues and employability matters. They should also work to give confidence to individuals in moving closer to the labour market, engaging in the labour market for the first time, re-engage with the labour market or to progress in the workplace.

Monitoring LMP Performance

- 4.19 The local LMP is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of its Partnership Plan and will report quarterly to the Employability NI Programme Board on progress in implementing its Plan and associated financial expenditure.
- 4.20 Local LMPs must also publish an Annual Report within 3 months of the end of the financial year (by 1 July each year).
- 4.21 The Annual Report will include an assessment of the LMP's performance against the targets contained in its Plan, achievements and specific information as to how the LMP has carried out its functions. The report will also demonstrate linkages with relevant strategies and how the actions of the LMP have contributed to strategic objectives.

Chapter 5: Governance and Accountability

Regional LMP / ENI Programme Board

- 5.1 The Employability NI Programme Board has been established to set the direction for Employability NI, support decision making and oversees overall progress, providing both challenge and approval on key issues affecting progress.
- 5.2 The work of the local LMPs will be overseen by the Employability NI Programme Board, who will assess the effectiveness of LMPs, providing support and assistance where required in performing their functions.
- 5.3 The Employability NI Programme Board requires each local LMP to prepare Partnership Plans. Upon approving an LMP's Partnership Plan the ENI Programme Board, allocates funding to that LMP, enabling the objectives of the Partnership Plan to be met.
- 5.4 LMPs will report to the DfC quarterly (who will in turn report to ENI Programme Board) against the objectives set out in their Partnership Plans, who in turn will report to the Employability NI Programme Board.

Department for Communities (DfC)

- 5.5 The DfC Work and Health Group is the lead partner in the Employability NI Programme Board and responsible for overseeing LMPs.

Council

- 5.6 The Employability NI Programme Board funds the LMP through the Council, and the Council Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer for the funding provided by the Employability NI Programme Board.

The Council, will:

- Enter into a contract with DfC to deliver an administrative and financial management function to the LMP
- Provide the LMP with administration services and facilities including receipt of payment, disbursement, management and accounting for funds awarded
- Ensure that those involved in delivery of the LMP have the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their functions competently. i.e. eligibility of expenditure, appropriate equality, employment legislation including Section 75
- Ensure appropriate attendance at all training provided/identified as necessary for delivery of the LMP

- Ensure compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998

5.7 As the Partnership Secretariat the Council may accept additional sums of money or deliver additional programmes at the discretion of the LMP in addition to any funding provided by the ENI Programme Board. The ENI Programme Board must be notified if additional funding is received, detailing the amount and purpose of the funding.

Local LMP

5.8 The LMP should ensure that its Partnership Plans take into account other strategic priorities such as those of the Employability NI Programme Board and other related strategies including those of the member organisations.

5.9 The LMP is required to comply with the accountability framework set out by the Employability NI Programme Board in the LMP Financial Guidelines, and any other relevant directives issued by the Employability NI Programme Board.

5.10 The LMP will ensure that its functions are carried out in accordance with the relevant local Council's governance and financial framework.

Reporting Requirements

5.11 Local LMP performance and financial reporting will include the following:

- **Quarterly reports on progress** from the LMP to the Employability NI Programme Board on the implementation of its Partnership Plan.
- **Annual report from the LMP to the Council and the Employability NI Programme Board** – to be submitted within 3 months of the end of the financial year, this report will include general information on the exercise of functions. It is a requirement that LMPs structure the report by setting out their achievements against their Plan, demonstrating linkages with relevant strategies and how the actions of the LMP have met the strategic objectives set by the Employability NI Programme Board. The report will be published on behalf of the LMP by the Council in an appropriate format.
- **Specific Reports from the LMP to the Employability NI Programme Board** – from time to time, the Employability NI Programme Board may request specific reports. The Employability NI Programme Board will specify the requirements for these reports at the time of commissioning. The Employability NI Programme Board will

provide further guidance on the reports as required, however they could relate to any issues that have a particular significance at that time.

Public

- 5.12 It is essential that the LMP is accessible and transparent, the public should have the opportunity to consider and comment on performance and financial reports.
- 5.13 Public events should be attended by as many LMP members as possible to help raise the profile of the LMP and to ensure the partnership is kept informed with up to date information.
- 5.14 The LMP are also required to host events where key stakeholders in the employability arena, including members of the public can attend.

Chapter 6: Administration of the Partnerships

- 6.1 The LMP is responsible for ensuring the effective administration of the Partnership and must agree standing orders (with the support of the secretariat) setting out how their business will be regulated.
- 6.2 The Employability NI Programme Board shall, for each financial year, make to the council grants of such amounts as the Employability NI Programme Board may determine for defraying or contributing towards the expenses of the council in that year in connection with LMPs.
- 6.3 Each Council should provide the relevant staffing to support the operation of the LMP in its area, though this will be subject to an ongoing commitment of financial support from the Employability NI Programme Board. The LMP may ask the Council to ensure the appropriate balance of skills to support the LMP.
- 6.4 As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive of the Council shall also provide the compliance and assurance framework for LMPs and incorporate the financial management of the LMP within the Council's existing processes, including the development of annual estimates (in line with local government schedules) and financial reports.
- 6.5 LMPs should develop and agree standing orders for regulating the transaction of the business of the Partnership. The list below is not exhaustive but standing orders should include:
- Purpose and timeframes for LMP Annual General Meeting
 - Election of Office Bearers, roles of Office Bearers and duration of term
 - The quorum for a LMP meeting
 - Rules for debate
 - Voting rights and procedure in the case of an equal division of votes
 - Procedure if the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent from and LMP meeting
 - Timeframes and agreement for issuing meeting papers
 - Establishment of LMP sub-committees
- 6.6 Efforts should be made to find agreement within the Partnership without the need for voting. However, where necessary, proposals shall be determined by a majority of the votes of those members present and who are entitled to vote.

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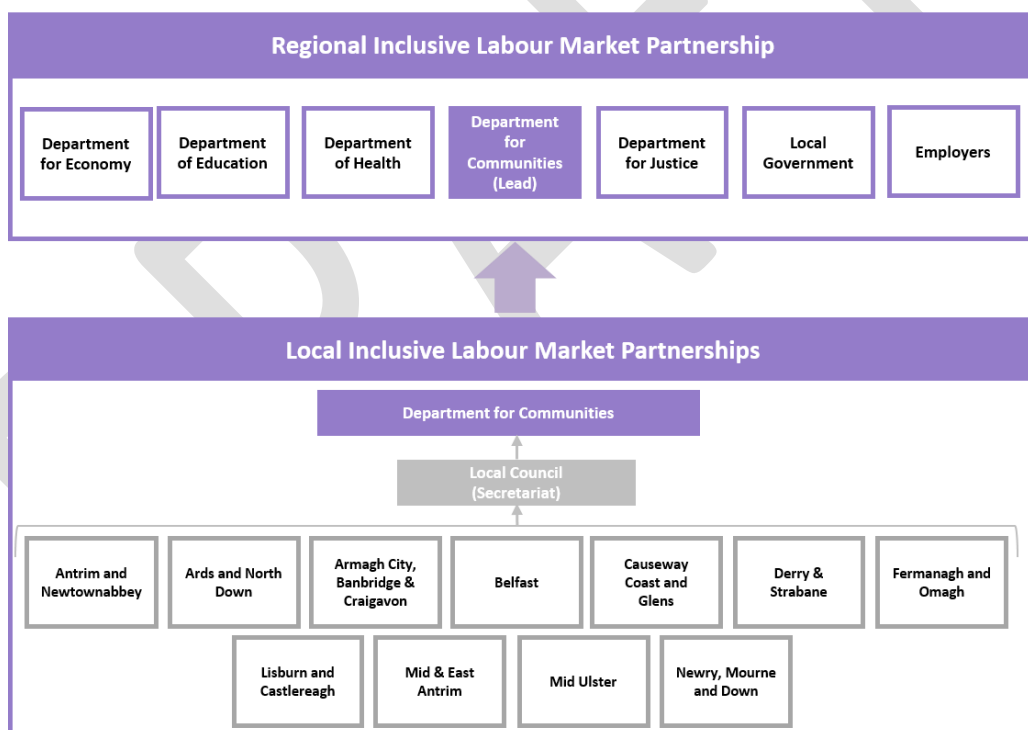
Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) focus on engagement at both the regional level and local Council level to ensure that relevant partners and stakeholders are engaged in addressing employability outcomes, labour market conditions and the provision of employability services.
- 1.2 The LMP approach is two tiered, tier one at the regional/NI level, and tier two at each of the 11 local Councils.
- 1.3 This Code of Practice provides guidance on the exercise of functions by Local Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs).
- 1.4 The purpose of the Code is to provide LMPs with guidance, rather than prescriptive operational requirements, so there is sufficient flexibility to ensure that the requirements of running the Partnership do not detract from the delivery of services and deliver outcomes for the community. However, it is also vital that there are sufficient governance and accountability mechanisms in place so that the public and the Department for Communities (DfC) can be assured of the Partnerships' effectiveness.
- 1.5 The Code is a working document. In the course of operating LMPs, it is likely that issues will emerge that will require further consideration and possible inclusion. The Employability NI Programme Board will, when required, supplement this Code and the LMP member's handbook with detailed guidance to support the development of LMPs.
- 1.6 This Code should be widely disseminated among those involved in the operation of LMPs. Any queries about the content of the Code, or requests for further copies, should be directed as follows:

Secretariat to Labour Market Partnerships
Work and Wellbeing Division
Department for Communities
Design Centre
39 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3BA

Chapter 2: Overview

- 2.1 The aim is to establish a regional LMP with Department for Communities (DfC) as the lead agency and 11 local LMPs (one for each council area in Northern Ireland), with the relevant local Council providing secretariat support to the partnership.
- 2.2 Engagement across central government, local government, business, community and voluntary sectors is key to delivering the best possible outcomes for citizens in each locality. It is vital that Central Government Departments and Local Government collaborative effectively and join up with local business, community and voluntary sectors to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated employability offer is provided to citizens.
- 2.3 The local LMPs are accountable to the regional LMP, as detailed in the high level design diagram below.



Title

- 2.4 The Partnership shall be named the 'Labour Market Partnership' with the corresponding Council area to the fore, providing regional uniformity but retaining a localisation of the corresponding partnership. More detail in respect of naming and use of logos is provided within the branding guidelines. The names of the Local LMPs will be:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership

- Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Labour Market Partnership
- Belfast Labour Market Partnership
- Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership
- Derry and Strabane Labour Market Partnership
- Fermanagh and Omagh Labour Market Partnership
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership
- Mind and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership
- Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership

2.3 It is anticipated that the administrative office of the Local LMP secretariat will be within Council Offices and that appropriate contact details will be made publically available.

Status

2.4 The local council has an important role in facilitating the local LMP, however the LMP should have the ability to take decisions independently. The status of the local LMPs should therefore be that of an unincorporated association.

Purpose

2.5 The aim of the Partnership is to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees. The Partnerships will be expected to provide an integrated approach to address labour market challenges by bringing together, in a single body, the necessary local knowledge and expertise to build on existing structures locally, operating in a holistic, streamlined and joined up way.

2.6 The key objectives of the Labour Market Partnership approach is to develop local plans tailored to each area depending on skills, sector, requirements; agree sector/industry needs at local level; review supply and demand levels for skills, expertise, qualifications etc at local level and commission new provision to fill any local gaps.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employability NI (ENI) Programme Board / Regional LMP

2.7 The ENI Programme Board will perform the role of the regional LMP

2.8 Employability NI has the following objectives:

- **Economically Inactive** – To reduce the number of customers who are economically inactive due to a disability and / or health condition or because they have family or caring responsibilities by assisting them to enter into employment or to move them closer to the labour market;
- **Long Term Unemployed** – To reduce the number of customers who are long term unemployed by assisting them to enter employment;
- **Disability** – To provide support to workers with a disability and / or a health condition to prevent them falling out of employment.
- **Skilled Labour Supply** – To put in place a first class service for employers that facilitates their access to a suitable skilled labour supply; and
- **Economic Shock** - To provide support to customers who are in danger of falling out of employment suddenly due to significant labour market changes

2.9 The role and responsibilities of the regional LMP include:

- **To provide strategic direction**
- **To ensure alignment with PfG targets and outcomes**
- **The coordination, pooling and alignment of budgets to support Employability NI provision**
- **To agree a performance framework to guide the setting of performance expectations in the delivery of services**
- **To co-design and commission all centrally contracted provision**
- **To evaluate Employability NI services**
- **To provide oversight and approval of Local LMP Plans**
- **To act as an escalation route for resolving issues in local planning and implementation that could not be resolved by local Partnerships**
- **Responsibility for collating and disseminating all labour market information to inform plans**
- **To support and build capacity and capability at all levels of planning and delivery**
- **To promote and manage an annual Employability NI event.**

Department for Communities (DfC)

2.10 DfC are the lead partner in the ENI Programme Board

2.11 The DfC was established in May 2006 following the restructuring of Northern Ireland Departments. The Work and Health group within the DfC is focused on helping people improve their lives by helping them into work, providing support to those who are unable to work and positively working with those people who won't work.

2.12 The role and responsibilities of the DfC include:

- Securing regional LMP membership
- Providing all secretariat services for the regional LMP including convening meetings, circulating meeting papers and other administrative support as required
- Commissioning professional services as required
- Achievement of relevant Programme for Government targets
- Supporting the development and delivery of local LMPs
- Promoting the work of ENI, Regional LMP and local LMPs

2.13 DfC is responsible for making all payments of eligible expenditure for local LMPs and must ensure that:

- The local LMP acknowledges the role of the Council in providing the administrative and financial management function to the local LMP
- Robust fraud and irregularity prevention activities are undertaken
- The quality of programme implementation is monitored
- Monitoring of financial output is carried out
- The procedures and eligibility of funding requests is checked before payment is authorised
- Effective procedures are in place for identification of priorities and measures against delivery outputs and targets

Council

2.14 The local LMP Secretariat and any associated staff will be appointed directly by the Council and will be responsible for day to day management of strategic and operational issues relating to the LMP. The key to the success of the Local LMPs will be to align with existing and proposed Community Planning themes and structures.

2.15 The role and responsibilities of the Council will be to:

- Provide all local LMP secretariat services including convening meetings, circulating agendas, minutes, preparing papers and other administrative support as required
- Employ any staff required to manage and monitor the local LMP
- Secure membership to the Partnership, brief and support members
- Commission any professional services as agreed / required by the Partnership
- Ensure Standing Orders are in place for the local LMP
- Promoting the work of the local LMP

2.16 The Local LMP secretariat's roles and responsibilities include:

- **Provide advice and support to the LMP members to ensure effective and efficient operation of the partnership.**
- Careful financial stewardship and making best use of public funds
- Provide progress reports on the implementation of plans, where appropriate recommend revisions for consideration and implement any agreed revisions/remedial action to plans
- Co-ordinate and assist the work of the LMP in developing and implementing strategic/operational plans.
- Manage and co-ordinate administrative support service for the LMP, including financial resources relating to the work of the LMP and to report on the extent to which the LMP has achieved its objectives.
- Communicate advice and guidance to the LMP on legislation, policy, commissioning research, statistical reports, publications relating to the work of LMP and local employability/labour market issues.
- Identify, develop and procure interventions to help improve employability outcomes and/or labour Market conditions locally.
- Develop local policies and procedures relating to the work of the LMP, in compliance with statutory requirements, and act as the designated officer for the purposes of complying with Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Equality legislation and monitor their implementation.
- Network with partners, develop and maintain relationships with statutory agencies and other public and private sector organisations, and identify opportunities to market and promote the positive image of the LMP.
- Assist the LMP in identifying priorities arising from statistical information and consultation as a basis for developing Partnership Plans.
- Develop, with Members, a district wide programme of work in order to enhance the public awareness of the LMP.
- Promote the work of the LMP through the media and other communications channels.

2.17 The role and responsibilities of the LMP will be:

- To develop and agree Local Inclusive Labour Market Plans that ensures alignment with Programme for Government and Community Planning targets and outcomes
- To effectively integrate regional contracted provision with local services and programmes
- To provide strategic direction and support to help address local labour market challenges
- To ensure that Employability NI meets local needs and opportunities
- To effectively integrate NI contracted provision with local services and programmes
- To act as an escalation route for resolving issues in local planning and implementation for resolving issues relating to employability and the local labour market
- To set performance expectations for local contracted provision as part of the NI performance framework
- To co-design and commission additional services as required to meet local need
- Ensuring that the proceedings of the meetings are recorded in minutes, to include the declaration of any interests held by LMP members
- To develop and to provide means of collecting and collating all data re: local performance
- To report on progress to the Regional LMP through quarterly monitoring, annual report and when otherwise requested
- To analyse, collect and disseminate labour market information which supports programme delivery
- To ensure capacity and capability across local delivery providers operating on behalf of or in partnership with the local LMP, meets local needs
- To host a minimum of two local public events (i.e. jobs fairs, redundancy clinics, information events) that may be targeted towards specific issues or employment sectors that may have aroused interest or concern to help address local employability and labour market issues
- To input towards the annual Employability NI event
- Promoting the work of the local LMP, Regional LMP and Employability NI
- Ensure that any sub-committees have agreed Terms of Reference in place
- Develop and agree a Communications Strategy for the LMP

LMP Functions

2.18 Each LMP shall host regular partnership meetings to monitor the performance of the local labour market, identify priorities for inclusion in the annual action plan and monitoring performance against these priorities. As a minimum, partnership meetings should occur no less than on 6 occasions per annum, hosted bi-monthly.

2.19 If required, the Partnership can meet more frequently in order to effectively carry out its functions.

2.20 The functions of local LMPs shall include:

- Provide views to the regional LMP on any matter concerning the labour market and/or employability within the local area;
- Make arrangements for obtaining co-operation locally to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally;
- Make arrangements for obtaining statistical information as well as views about labour market matters, and consider fully any information obtained;
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting employability and/or the local labour market;
- Prepare plans for enhancing local employability outcomes;
- Identify targets or other indicators by reference to which it can assess the extent to which those issues are addressed by action taken in accordance with any such plans;
- Deliver targeted interventions such as regional job fairs, employability pipelines, redundancy responses etc;
- Provide appropriate financial or other support as it considers appropriate to projects or programmes designed to enhance employability outcomes or labour market conditions locally;
- In exercising its functions, a LMP shall have regard to the Code of Conduct for LMP Members.

2.21 In summary, LMPs will:

- **Review and Engage** to obtain relevant information and develop an understanding of labour market conditions, employability matters and any issues of concern.
- **Identify and Prioritise** particular issues and prepare plans for how these can be addressed.

- **Deliver** targeted interventions to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally, directly through their own interventions, through the work of their delivery groups or through support for the work of others.
- **Monitor** performance to ensure delivery against Partnership Plans.

Supporting the NI Executive's Strategic Objectives

2.22 Taken together with the strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, these overarching functions will shape the work of the Partnerships. The strategic objectives for LMPs and the proposed OBA approach are intended to help ensure a partnership approach to the successful delivery of the functions of the LMPs.

2.23 The current relevant outcomes (may be subject to change following any revision to the Programme for Government) identified within the Programme for Government are:

- Outcome 3: 'We have a more equal society'
- Outcome 6: 'We have more people working in better jobs'
- Outcome 8: 'We care for others and help those in need'

2.24 The DfC is the lead department for a number of indicators, through which progress on these outcomes will be measured:

- Indicator 17: Economic inactivity rates excluding students
- Indicator 32: Employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile
- Indicator 33: % of people working part-time who would like to work more hours

2.25 Within this framework, however, as much autonomy as possible has been given to individual Partnerships, so that they can develop Partnership Plans and a programme of delivery best suited to the characteristics or needs of their locality.

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Chapter 3: Membership and Structure

Regional LMP Membership

3.1 The function of the regional LMP is performed by the Employability NI programme Board, membership of which is comprised of representation from:

- Department for Communities (Lead)
- Department for the Economy
- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Invest NI
- SOLACE NI
- Belfast City Council (City Deal Representative)
- Derry City & Strabane Council (City Deal Representative)

Local LMP Membership

3.2 Local LMPs are to be comprised of membership from a number of different groups, as a minimum, representation must include:

- Local Council staff
- Local JBO
- Local Careers Service
- Health Trust
- Education Authority
- Area Learning Communities
- Further Education College
- Enterprise Partner

3.3 The local LMP may also wish to locally designate organisations to the partnership, because of the local contribution and expertise that those organisations bring, for a period to be defined by the Partnership. Alternatively the LMP may wish to invite organisations to attend LMP meetings or committees in response to emerging issues. The list below is not exhaustive but LMPs may wish to consider representation from:

- University representation
- NI Housing Executive (if involved in employability)
- Housing Association (if involved in employability)
- Employer representatives (i.e. Town Centre Management, Chamber of Commerce etc)
- Voluntary / Community representatives

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Individual roles and responsibilities

- 3.4 LMP members are personally responsible for all their decisions, for avoiding the risk of damaging confidence in the partnership and must comply with the 'Code of Conduct for LMP Members'.
- 3.5 Each member of the LMP shares a common role in supporting and developing the work of the LMP and all members have equal voting rights
- 3.6 An LMPs members' principal commitment is to deliver the functions of the LMP
- 3.7 Roles and responsibilities of an LMP member include:
- To work collectively with the other Members to successfully carry out the functions of the partnership.
 - To identify priorities to improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally.
 - To deliver an improvement in employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally by putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms through a partnership approach.
 - To attend LMP meetings, training and events and keep up-to-date with issues relevant to the work of the partnership.
 - To prepare partnership plans, in line with guidance.
 - To develop, support and implement projects to enhance the labour market.
 - To monitor and evaluate performance of the LMP and associated projects effectively.
 - To ensure Partnership Plans reflect the statistical information and views / concerns within the local area.
 - To contribute to a general forum for discussion and consultation on all matters relating to employability and the labour market locally.
 - To maintain an up to date knowledge and understanding of the local labour market and employability matters.
 - To raise awareness of the work of the partnership.
 - To adhere to relevant financial and other guidance.
 - To adhere to the Code of Conduct for LMP Members.
 - To adhere to LMP Standing Orders.
- 3.8 LMP members may take on additional duties, including Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the local LMP and/or Chairperson of a sub-committee.
- 3.9 The LMP Chairperson is selected from the LMP membership to the office of Chairperson for a 12 month period.

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3.10 The roles and responsibilities of the LMP Chairperson include:

- Regulate proceedings in accordance with the LMP Code of Practice and Standing Orders
- Encouraging consensus on decisions and a corporate view on any issues that arise as the LMP discharges its functions
- Enabling the LMP to conduct its business in a positive and non-threatening environment by ensuring that those participating are not subjected to unreasonable questioning, inappropriate challenge, verbal abuse or challenging another member's integrity
- Ensure that discussion is relevant to the item on the agenda and that no individual or group either dominates or are excluded and that all members have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion
- Decide if an issue requires to be put to vote and, if it does, if the proposed motion or amendment is in order
- Decide points of order and other incidental questions which require decision at the time
- Adjourn a meeting when circumstances justify or require it as necessary
- Ensure that the LMP delivers against its strategic objectives
- Demonstrate a commitment to the work of the LMP by contributing to LMP meetings, training and other events
- Ensuring that the Vice-Chairperson is briefed appropriately so they may fulfil their role
- Representing the views of the LMP to the general public and speak on behalf of the LMP to the media

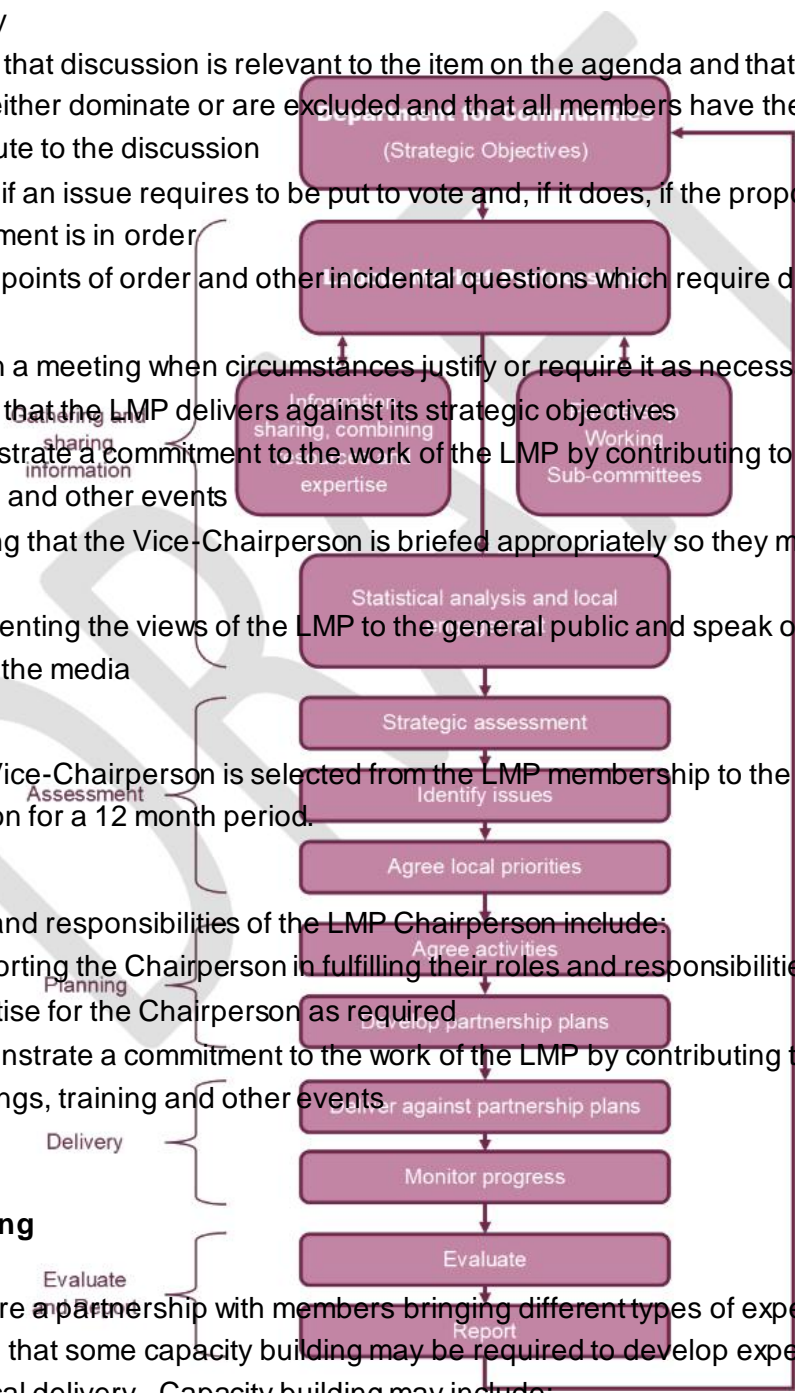
3.11 The LMP Vice-Chairperson is selected from the LMP membership to the office of the Chairperson for a 12 month period.

3.12 The roles and responsibilities of the LMP Chairperson include:

- Supporting the Chairperson in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities
- Deputise for the Chairperson as required
- Demonstrate a commitment to the work of the LMP by contributing to LMP meetings, training and other events

Capacity Building

3.13 As LMPs are a partnership with members bringing different types of expertise it is anticipated that some capacity building may be required to develop expertise and support local delivery. Capacity building may include:



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- **Labour Market** - understanding the regional and local labour market, the nature and volumes of flows into and out of work, causes of long-term unemployment, economic inactivity, youth unemployment, NEETs etc
- **Employability and Skills Provision** – building awareness of the full suite of existing provision including central government provision, Local Authority provision and other provision.
- **Best Practice Employability Initiatives:** potentially hosted by guest speakers or study visit
- **Job Shadowing:** time spent shadowing employability experts
- **Project Management Training:** specific to project management skills to facilitate oversight and monitoring of project delivery.

Working in Partnership

3.14 The key to effective partnership working is ensuring that all members of the LMP work together and are committed to achieving the same goal. Each LMP is expected to set out terms of participation to ensure all members fully understand what is expected of them. Issues which are particularly pertinent include:

- **Attendances at meetings** - LMP members are expected to attend all relevant meetings of the LMP including any that occur outside of normal working hours. Arrangements for meetings will be agreed by each LMP.
- **Expected contribution** - LMP members are expected to contribute to the delivery of the partnership plan and by drawing on their own specialist knowledge/expertise. LMP members' organisations are not obliged to make a financial contribution to the LMP rather their contribution will be their wealth of specialised knowledge and experience that will assist the LMP address key issues;
- The LMP should act as a **hub for information and knowledge exchange** and members should ensure that any relevant information coming from the LMP, is disseminated throughout their organisation. Similarly any relevant information from the member's organisation should be disseminated through the local LMP.

Structure

3.15 The LMP should provide a strong and accountable structure for:

- Partnership working between government Departments and agencies, local government and other commissioners of employability support
- Agreeing the priority groups for interventions

- Co-designing employability interventions at a Northern Ireland and local level
- Agreeing the funding of interventions, including the devolution, integration and/or alignment of budgets
- Co-commissioning interventions at the appropriate level
- Monitoring and measuring performance against expected performance levels
- Developing expertise at all levels to co-design and co-commission interventions
- Building capabilities and networking providers of services at the local and NI levels.

3.16 The following sections offer guidance on how this might be achieved.

3.17 It is recognised that LMPs need to take account of, and work closely with, other existing businesses, communities and partnership structures in their areas. LMPs may establish sub-committees that are appropriate to the discharging of its functions and/or enable discussion on localised issues.

3.18 LMP sub-committees must be comprised LMP members but, in addition, may co-opt persons who are not members of the LMP. A person so co-opted may not vote on any matter but otherwise is to be treated as a member of the committee. This process may help the LMP to engage with appropriate local organisations and third sector bodies in identifying and prioritising, delivering and monitoring. All sub-committees should have a 'Terms of Reference' in place and report directly to the LMP.

Chapter 4: Delivery against the Strategic Objectives

Context

- 4.1 It is important that the members of the LMP act together to achieve the strategic objectives and the local priorities captured in Partnership Plans. All members of the LMP are responsible for combining their individual and organisational knowledge in a way that best facilitates the aim of improving employability and labour market conditions locally. A model for how this could be achieved is set out below.

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Review and engage to identify local considerations

- 4.2 The LMP shall review statistical information and other evidence relevant to the local area to obtain an understanding of the current labour market conditions, comparing this with regional information as necessary.
- 4.3 The LMP shall engage with key stakeholders to identify and prioritise, at the earliest possible stage, any emerging labour market issues and/or employability matters that might require local action and resolution. The LMP shall seek local participation and support in developing and delivering an effective response, and to improve co-operation in improving labour market conditions.
- 4.4 The LMP should use all the information gained to:
- Prepare the Partnership Plan, which should incorporate all relevant information;
 - Upon request, provide input to the plans of other organisations represented on the LMP; and
 - Co-ordinate and liaise with other organisations to help ensure that Partnership Plans are delivered in the most effective manner, where possible integrating delivery with existing structures, in particular the Community Plan and working collaboratively with others to avoid duplication of services.
- 4.5 It is important that any engagement is appropriate to the task and audience. This may include consultation, attendance at meetings, facilitating or attending public or stakeholder events and providing guidance on labour market considerations and/or employability matters.

Publicly available information

- 4.6 Local LMPs should be committed to transparency, minutes of meetings and annual reports, demonstrating performance against targets in local Partnership Plans should be readily available and preferably available electronically through associated websites.
- 4.7 Through their work, the LMP must keep the community informed about what the LMP are doing and how to make contact so they can ask questions or obtain further information.
- 4.8 The LMP will develop a communications plan and will produce material for inclusion on the Council websites including contact information and Annual Reports as a minimum.

Branding and Marketing

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- 4.9 It is mandatory for all projects/programmes supported to promote the funding provided, which will include the use of appropriate logos and wording on stationary, literature and promotional material.
- 4.10 The LMP Chairperson is responsible for representing the views of the LMP and may be asked to speak on behalf of the LMP to the media or the public. No other members should speak on behalf of the LMP without the consent of the Chairperson.

Preparing Partnership Plans

- 4.11 The LMP must develop Partnership Plans for its area within a timescale set by the Employability NI Programme Board. This must be informed by the strategic objectives set by the Employability NI Programme Board and the relevant Community Plan, whilst addressing local characteristics or identified needs within the local area. It should take account of regional and local statistical information and other local issues of relevance.
- 4.12 LMPs must provide two main Partnership Plans:
- Strategic Plan – Outlining strategic targets and objectives over a 3 year period.
 - Annual Action Plan – Outlining detailed plans and funding allocation for delivery over the financial year to meet the targets and objectives of the Strategic Plan.
- 4.13 The LMP should ensure that the Partnership Plans contains costed key priorities and outcomes, as well as details of what resources will be required for delivery. It should indicate what outcomes are expected, including details of what services the LMP will deliver in the area. The Partnership Plan should be made widely available to the public.
- 4.14 The LMP should establish systems and processes in order for it to deliver its work plan effectively, supported by the LMP secretariat. Where appropriate, this should include financial or other support for initiatives designed to improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions. Any such initiatives may be delivered by the LMP itself or by working collaboratively to support the activities of others.

Delivering the Partnership Plan

- 4.15 LMPs should consider how their Partnership Plans can help to support efforts to improve employability and labour market conditions in their areas. The priorities of the Partnership Plans should have clear links with the relevant priorities in the organisational plans of LMP Members, with areas of work delivered by other related functions within Councils (e.g. Economic Development and align with the Community Plan) and the NI Executives strategic targets.

- 4.16 In delivering the Partnership Plans opportunities for early intervention or quick response should be identified where possible, in order to reduce the impact of labour market shock within the local economy.
- 4.17 Delivery should also address long standing issues for example building confidence in identified sections of the community where issues are prevalent (e.g. rural communities, neighbourhood renewal areas etc) or with individuals who find difficulty in engaging the labour market (e.g. long term unemployed, people with disabilities etc).
- 4.18 LMPs should involve their members and any other relevant bodies to work together alongside businesses and the wider community, to help address local labour market issues and employability matters. They should also work to give confidence to individuals in moving closer to the labour market, engaging in the labour market for the first time, re-engage with the labour market or to progress in the workplace.

Monitoring LMP Performance

- 4.19 The local LMP is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of its Partnership Plan and will report quarterly to the Employability NI Programme Board on progress in implementing its Plan and associated financial expenditure.
- 4.20 Local LMPs must also publish an Annual Report within 3 months of the end of the financial year (by 1 July each year).
- 4.21 The Annual Report will include an assessment of the LMP's performance against the targets contained in its Plan, achievements and specific information as to how the LMP has carried out its functions. The report will also demonstrate linkages with relevant strategies and how the actions of the LMP have contributed to strategic objectives.

Chapter 5: Governance and Accountability

Regional LMP / ENI Programme Board

- 5.1 The Employability NI Programme Board has been established to set the direction for Employability NI, support decision making and oversees overall progress, providing both challenge and approval on key issues affecting progress.
- 5.2 The work of the local LMPs will be overseen by the Employability NI Programme Board, who will assess the effectiveness of LMPs, providing support and assistance where required in performing their functions.
- 5.3 The Employability NI Programme Board requires each local LMP to prepare Partnership Plans. Upon approving an LMP's Partnership Plan the ENI Programme Board, allocates funding to that LMP, enabling the objectives of the Partnership Plan to be met.
- 5.4 LMPs will report to the DfC quarterly (who will in turn report to ENI Programme Board) against the objectives set out in their Partnership Plans, who in turn will report to the Employability NI Programme Board.

Department for Communities (DfC)

- 5.5 The DfC Work and Health Group is the lead partner in the Employability NI Programme Board and responsible for overseeing LMPs.

Council

- 5.6 The Employability NI Programme Board funds the LMP through the Council, and the Council Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer for the funding provided by the Employability NI Programme Board.

The Council, will:

- Enter into a contract with DfC to deliver an administrative and financial management function to the LMP
- Provide the LMP with administration services and facilities including receipt of payment, disbursement, management and accounting for funds awarded
- Ensure that those involved in delivery of the LMP have the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out their functions competently. i.e. eligibility of expenditure, appropriate equality, employment legislation including Section 75
- Ensure appropriate attendance at all training provided/identified as necessary for delivery of the LMP

- Ensure compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998

5.7 As the Partnership Secretariat the Council may accept additional sums of money or deliver additional programmes at the discretion of the LMP in addition to any funding provided by the ENI Programme Board. The ENI Programme Board must be notified if additional funding is received, detailing the amount and purpose of the funding.

Local LMP

5.8 The LMP should ensure that its Partnership Plans take into account other strategic priorities such as those of the Employability NI Programme Board and other related strategies including those of the member organisations.

5.9 The LMP is required to comply with the accountability framework set out by the Employability NI Programme Board in the LMP Financial Guidelines, and any other relevant directives issued by the Employability NI Programme Board.

5.10 The LMP will ensure that its functions are carried out in accordance with the relevant local Council's governance and financial framework.

Reporting Requirements

5.11 Local LMP performance and financial reporting will include the following:

- **Quarterly reports on progress** from the LMP to the Employability NI Programme Board on the implementation of its Partnership Plan.
- **Annual report from the LMP to the Council and the Employability NI Programme Board** – to be submitted within 3 months of the end of the financial year, this report will include general information on the exercise of functions. It is a requirement that LMPs structure the report by setting out their achievements against their Plan, demonstrating linkages with relevant strategies and how the actions of the LMP have met the strategic objectives set by the Employability NI Programme Board. The report will be published on behalf of the LMP by the Council in an appropriate format.
- **Specific Reports from the LMP to the Employability NI Programme Board** – from time to time, the Employability NI Programme Board may request specific reports. The Employability NI Programme Board will specify the requirements for these reports at the time of commissioning. The Employability NI Programme Board will

provide further guidance on the reports as required, however they could relate to any issues that have a particular significance at that time.

Public

- 5.12 It is essential that the LMP is accessible and transparent, the public should have the opportunity to consider and comment on performance and financial reports.
- 5.13 Public events should be attended by as many LMP members as possible to help raise the profile of the LMP and to ensure the partnership is kept informed with up to date information.
- 5.14 The LMP are also required to host events where key stakeholders in the employability arena, including members of the public can attend.

Chapter 6: Administration of the Partnerships

- 6.1 The LMP is responsible for ensuring the effective administration of the Partnership and must agree standing orders (with the support of the secretariat) setting out how their business will be regulated.
- 6.2 The Employability NI Programme Board shall, for each financial year, make to the council grants of such amounts as the Employability NI Programme Board may determine for defraying or contributing towards the expenses of the council in that year in connection with LMPs.
- 6.3 Each Council should provide the relevant staffing to support the operation of the LMP in its area, though this will be subject to an ongoing commitment of financial support from the Employability NI Programme Board. The LMP may ask the Council to ensure the appropriate balance of skills to support the LMP.
- 6.4 As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive of the Council shall also provide the compliance and assurance framework for LMPs and incorporate the financial management of the LMP within the Council's existing processes, including the development of annual estimates (in line with local government schedules) and financial reports.
- 6.5 LMPs should develop and agree standing orders for regulating the transaction of the business of the Partnership. The list below is not exhaustive but standing orders should include:
- Purpose and timeframes for LMP Annual General Meeting
 - Election of Office Bearers, roles of Office Bearers and duration of term
 - The quorum for a LMP meeting
 - Rules for debate
 - Voting rights and procedure in the case of an equal division of votes
 - Procedure if the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent from and LMP meeting
 - Timeframes and agreement for issuing meeting papers
 - Establishment of LMP sub-committees
- 6.6 Efforts should be made to find agreement within the Partnership without the need for voting. However, where necessary, proposals shall be determined by a majority of the votes of those members present and who are entitled to vote.

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan – Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator

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	Community Grants; to agree the rolling grants for Good Relations.
1.2	Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan – to agree the plan.
1.3	Timorese Association Inclusive Group Engagement – to note the update report.
1.4	Community Development – to note the community development update.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – the Good Relations Grant remains a rolling programme for delivery.
2.2	Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan – A draft plan was presented previously to members and an update working group held to develop a Poverty Plan for Mid Ulster. Meetings were also held with community planning stakeholders who are partners in the delivery of the Plan.
2.3	Members of The Timorese Association Inclusive Support group (TAIS) met with Councillors on a three occasions to discuss issues relating to their community. Officers have been working with the TAIS group to seek to address these issues.
2.4	Community Development includes the following areas: Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Community Grants – A recommendation for 4 grants are proposed for approval at a total value of £3480. Please refer to Appendix 1.

3.2.	<p>Mid Ulster Community Planning Poverty Plan – See attached the draft plan for discussion and way forward in Appendix 2. Engagement on the draft poverty plan has taken place with community planning partners; however final sign off is required from all partners. Council facilitates local anti-poverty networks in the three towns; however they are local networking and include: foodbanks, advice service, community support networks, social services, and NIHE. It is proposed to establish a Mid Ulster District Poverty Network, under the Community Planning process to oversee a Mid Ulster Poverty Plan and to continue to liaise with the DFC led poverty plan for the region.</p>
3.3	<p>The Timorese Association Inclusive Support group (TAIS) – the key issues identified for the group were:</p> <p>3.3.1 The potential impact of the Brexit transition on their status and residency.</p> <p>Following engagement with the Consulate General of Portugal, The Consul General and his staff are committed to continuing to develop links with Mid Ulster, and continuing to support their Portuguese community through their annual visits and via the Honorary Consulate.</p> <p>They recognize a large percentage of the Portuguese community in Northern Ireland is based in Mid Ulster and are aware of the current issues of the East Timor Leste community who are entitled to Portuguese citizenship documentation and the importance of this to their EUSS application. Whilst this documentation is dealt with from East Timor Leste, the Portuguese Consul is continuing to support as required.</p> <p>They are currently liaising with the EU delegation in London re issues such as settlement status and required documentation, and the protection of persons with expired documentation or no finalized settlement status, under the withdrawal agreement.</p> <p>They have stated that they will facilitate a session with the Council and advice sector supporting the EUSS process regarding how East Timor Leste residents who would be entitled to Portuguese citizenship documentation, but cannot currently access, to be able to progress their settlement status through a paper application that allows for presenting of further information and clarity on their circumstances re documentation.</p> <p>This session is to be planned in February which still allows time for residents to receive the support required in registration to the EUSS scheme up to 30th June 2021; caveated by lawful residence in the UK has to be proven as of 31st December 2020.</p> <p>GR officers are facilitating this meeting with STEP, Advice Northern Ireland, Law Centre and TAIS.</p> <p>Following engagement with the Embassy of Timor Leste, they have responded to Council that they are not mandated to issue any citizenship documents such as passports. Passports are issued directly from Timor Leste, though the embassy can facilitate applications. The embassy can also issue single temporary travel documents upon application.</p>

<p>3.4</p>	<p>In December 2019, passport applications were facilitated by the embassy during a visit to Mid Ulster. These applications were then processed in Timor Leste and passports were intended to be issued during a second visit to Mid Ulster. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic the second visit could not take place.</p> <p>Council will also continue to liaise with the Consulate of East Timor Leste regarding the potential of a visit to Northern Ireland to seek to address the documentation issue to allow registration through the main EU settlement process prior to June 2021.</p> <p>Following correspondence with the Home Office, European Migration and Citizens' Rights Unit – They have provided an update letter, see attached at Appendix 3. This is confirming the commitment of the UK Government regarding the rights of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have made the UK their home through the EUSS, and confirming those who are resident here by 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply.</p> <p>Officers will also seek to get communications to local businesses to let them know that settlement status is 30th June and not 31st December 2020; as there has been feedback that there was some confusion with companies.</p> <p>Current statistics provided by the STEP Stronger Together Network on EUSS -</p> <p>11,620 people in total applied to the scheme from Mid-Ulster Council Area until 30th September 2020. Statistics up to 31st December 2020 will be published in mid-February 2021.</p> <p>Current Mid Ulster migrant community residents -</p> <p>690 Latvians /3110 Lithuanians /2210 Poles /3310 Portuguese citizens (many of them will be from East Timor, but impossible to say how many) /460 Romanians /360 Slovaks / 520 non-EU citizens (majority considered to be East Timorese citizens – seeking documentation)</p> <p>3.3.2 TAIS and support for the development of their Group.</p> <p>GR Officers are actively exploring options that would offer the TAIS group suitable premises in Dungannon to meet, hold their meetings and host events.</p> <p>Officers also contacted local credit unions and banks regarding the issue that the group and other new groups could not get access to a community bank account. One of the banks did come back to say would take applications however there is ongoing liaison with them re new group formation and charity number requirement.</p> <p>GR Officers hosted a 'virtual' East Timor Christmas music event at The Hill of The O'Neill. The event was recorded and shared online with the East Timor community in Mid Ulster and in East Timor.</p> <p>Community Development Update</p> <p>Community Support</p>
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	<p>The Community Support team continues to work with groups regarding the delivery of grants to respond to their communities.</p> <p>The DEA meetings will take place as per the previous schedule. Update diary dates will be provided to members along with groups from the DEA areas who have confirmed they wish to participate in the discussions.</p> <p>Good Relations</p> <p>Good Relations is currently monitoring the delivery of the current plan and is developing the new Plan for 2021 – 2022, in line with the 3 year plan submission previously to Northern Ireland Executive Office.</p> <p>Peace IV Local Action Plan – Further information and cross community engagement was required to support the delivery of the Towns Shared Space project (awnings and equipment to support outdoor events). As part of this a proposal to run a youth programme (virtual pending social distancing) alongside the proposal for the Towns Shared Space project. To allow the project above to deliver an extension to the Peace IV programme has been requested to December 2021, all project activity to complete September 2021 with claims and monitoring in the last quarter.</p> <p>The teams are continuing to support in the development and delivery of Mid Ulster poverty plan and initiatives, in particular the emergency support funding.</p> <p>The PCSP team is currently monitoring the delivery of their plan to the PCSP partnership and have commenced development of their new plan under DOJ and NIPB.</p> <p>All of the partnership meetings are continuing via Zoom to accommodate members and external partners.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Community Grants – Budget £3480</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Grants - To agree the Good Relations Grants

5.2	Community Development – to note the update report
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Community Grants Appendix 2 Mid Ulster Poverty Plan draft Appendix 3 Home Office Letter

Appendix 1

Good Relations February 2021 (Maximum £1,200)

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Ren Bu Kan Judo Club	Community	Online tutoring	1	£1,200.00	£960.00
2	Pomeroy Men's Shed	Community	Shared Space & Places	3	£1,200.00	£840.00
3	Stewartstown & District Village Forum	Community	Outdoor Living Project	3	£1,200.00	£840.00
4	Sporting Hearts	Community	Shared online poetry	3	£1200.00	£840.00
Total						<u>£3,480.00</u>

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%



Our Community Plan

10 year plan for Mid Ulster

Towards Alleviating Poverty in Mid Ulster: Poverty Paper

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Introduction

The overall purpose of this Paper is to work in partnership to reduce poverty and the impact of poverty on individuals and communities within Mid Ulster, through the development of a Community Plan led Poverty Plan for the District. To seek to reduce inequalities between areas over time and move towards a better quality of life for everyone.

The document is based on the following three key statements:

- Poverty is real: it exists within our District
- Poverty is not a lifestyle choice
- Poverty is not inevitable: we can do something about it

In 2019 Mid Ulster Community Planning partners came together from statutory agencies, business and community to look at a range of priorities impacting on poverty; with the aim to create a Poverty Plan that seeks:

1. To identify issues of poverty
2. To identify partner agency commitments to addressing poverty
3. To identify good practice in addressing poverty –what works well and could be developed further
4. To identify key issues of poverty for Mid Ulster and gaps in provision
5. To identify strategic actions for partner delivery

To date the following steps have been taken to develop this paper:

Step 1 – Desk based data analysis and research of the main/key determinants of poverty in the district (see appendix 1)

Step 2 – Community Planning Cross Thematic Workshop with Community Planning partners and other relevant statutory and community/voluntary sector organisations to identify issues, current provision, gaps and potential actions. A update paper was issued to all for further comment.

Step 3 – Working group was held with elected members for input based on needs and local issues.

Step 4- Virtual workshop was held with Community Planning Partners for comment.

Introduction

Whilst there are a range of poverty implications across a number of themes, the three most prominent and what we have chosen to focus our paper on, are Economic Growth, Education & Skills; and Health and Wellbeing.

Economic Growth

- Mid Ulster District has greater levels of absolute poverty than the NI average, whilst there shows to be a small percentage reduction in poverty across the region, mainly attributed to the uplift in the economy and job opportunities Mid Ulster does remain higher than the NI average.
- Children in absolute poverty also remains higher than the NI average. A key issue remains for Mid Ulster is high level rental costs greater than other parts of the region that impacts on disposable income for families and particularly contributes to the working poor.
- The cost of living also contributes to poverty due to high levels of expenditure on basic needs such as oil, coal etc., again these are high West of the Bann.
- Similarly childcare and access to good quality childcare, this is an expenditure item that is a barrier on a lower disposable income but also impacts on entering the employment market in the first instance.

Education

- Pupils from poorer backgrounds have much lower attainment on average than those from better-off backgrounds.
- Key stage levels would highlight this differential; where those in lower income and in poverty have lower levels of attainment in Maths and English.
- At all key stage levels and GCSE's show that there can be up to 20% differential between pupils on free school meals and other pupils.
- There is a greater chance of a young person from a more affluent area attending university than those from areas of disadvantage.
- People who have higher qualifications and higher level training have higher paid jobs.
- Young people from areas of disadvantage do not have the same opportunities as those from more affluent communities as often there is a cost to support greater

Introduction

achievements in education.

- Charities involved in supporting people in poverty would state that children and young people in poverty are also not participating to the same level in school due to cost of additional activities e.g. school trips, visits etc. and often have higher levels of non-attendance.

Health and Wellbeing

- There are greater instances of mental health issues in areas of deprivation and for people living in poverty. There is shown to be a correlation between those in poverty and who have greater issues of mental health including depression.
- One in 10 young people are at risk of presenting with mental health issues at the age of 15 years, this increases to 29% for young people from a deprived background.
- Suicide is 3 times more likely in areas of disadvantage.
- There is a greater risk of a lifestyle related illness if you live in an area of deprivation or low income.
- People from areas of disadvantage can die up to 5-7 years earlier than those from more affluent areas.
- People living in deprived areas are more likely to be in a house that is of a lower standard of quality living e.g. house standard and heat etc.
- There is a higher possibility of people in deprived areas turning to drugs and alcohol and this links to the earlier issue on mental health.

Key Objectives:

In terms of moving towards alleviating the main causes of poverty, the key objectives are to:

1. Maximise the number of people in better paid jobs; through secured living wage employment, and through training and education.
2. Increase disposable income; through reducing housing/rental costs, reducing debt and maximising available income support.
3. Improve health and wellbeing; through increasing support to those in poverty to engage in better health and wellbeing activities and lifestyle choices.

Introduction

4. Increase the level of quality of life and wellbeing opportunities; through targeting early years intervention and development.
5. Reduce levels of social exclusion; through greater access to services, support and opportunities.

This paper does not seek to provide solutions or programmes for all agencies with a remit for addressing poverty but to provide priority issues where agencies can work together to develop localised initiatives and solutions, as well as strategic guidance and lobbying as required.

Strategic Context

Programme for Government

Aim:

“to tackle and reduce poverty at source”

Along with the targets of the The Draft NI Programme for Government (PfG) introduced 15 outcomes (opposite) with three particularly relevant:

We have a more equal society

We care for others and help those in need

We have more people working in better jobs



Due to the suspension of the Executive for a period of time, there has been a delay in progressing these outcomes. In the absence of a regional poverty strategy, Mid Ulster Community Planning has commenced discussion on the priorities identified in its Community Plan relating to poverty and a plan to move towards localised solutions.

Strategic Context

DFC Anti-Poverty Strategy

Currently DFC are developing an Anti- Poverty Strategy using a co-design process. Mid Ulster District Council Community Planning will be involved with this process and Council look forward to contributing to this Strategy. It is hoped that the action plan will be developed for the end of 2021.

Community Planning

The Mid Ulster Community Plan has identified poverty and disadvantage as priorities across all its thematic areas. The Plan outlines a number of outcomes with some more focused on targeting poverty than others, as referenced below:



All agencies on the Mid Ulster Community Planning Partnership have made a commitment to seek to work together to address the strategic identified actions. Community Planning partnership is essential to work to reduce the impacts of poverty across Mid Ulster. The list is not exhaustive but key partners will include:

- The Executive Office
- Department for Communities (Social Services, Neighbourhood Renewal, Regeneration Arts Council)
- Sports Council
- Education Authority, CCMS, Youth Service, Libraries NI

Strategic Context

- Department for the Economy; and Invest N
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
- Health Board, PHA and two Health Trusts
- Council
- Other Agencies
- Community and Business Partners

Neighbourhood Renewal Area Based Deprivation Programme

Neighbourhood Renewal areas were based on 2001 deprivation statistics as revised by 2005 NI MDM data. NR areas were defined as the top 10% deprived wards in NI at that time. The two areas identified for support were Dungannon West and Coalisland. These programmes are continuing in partnership with DFC. Coalisland has moved from the top 10% to sit with the 11-15% while Dungannon West has move to within the top 25% but remain the top areas for Mid Ulster.

An evaluation of the NI wide Neighbourhood Renewal programme in 2015 found that it had led to improvements in areas and mainly physical infrastructure. However, overall the programme “was limited in delivery” on its aim of closing the gap between Neighbourhood Renewal areas & other areas. Although the areas have got better with regard to the statistics the issues of deprivation and disadvantage still remain the bottom 30% areas for Mid Ulster.

Learnings for Future Projects

The evaluation outlined key learnings and recommendations as follows:

- Need for larger areas for targeted initiatives
- Need for more strategic funding delivery – larger initiatives
- **Evidence based** programmes and projects
- Need for **effective monitoring** and evaluation programmes
- Need for **longer term funding** cycles for planning
- Need for **flexibility** in targeting areas for support as require
- Need for increased focus on **sustaining** intervention rather than project led short term initiatives

Strategic Context

- Need for engagement of all statutory representatives and for intervention to be part of their delivery not just project led.

Children and Young Peoples Strategy (2019- 2029)

This Strategy has been designed to improve the well-being of all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Currently a Delivery Plan is being developed which will set out the actions which will be taken to achieve the outcomes. This will be developed and delivered by all 9 Government Departments.

Outcomes:

1. Children and young people are physically and mentally fit
2. Children and young people enjoy play and leisure
3. Children and young people learn to achieve
4. Children and young people live in safety and stability
5. Children and young people experience economic and environmental wellbeing
6. Children and young people make a positive contribution to society
7. Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights
8. Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted

Child Poverty Strategy

The Executive's Child Poverty Strategy, published in March 2016, sets out the vision to eradicate child poverty in the future. The aims of the strategy are to: reduce the number of children in poverty; and reduce the impact living in poverty on children (their lives and life chances). The Strategy sets out our goals to ensure programmes and policies provide extra support for children in poverty, improve outcomes for children in low-income families and take children out of poverty.

The Strategy has 4 outcomes:

1. That families experience economic wellbeing
2. That children in poverty learn and achieve
3. That children in poverty are healthy
4. That children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environment

Strategic Context

Health Inequalities, Department of Health- Annual report 2020

In the Mid Ulster District Council area, male life expectancy in the most deprived areas was 77.3 years, 2.0 years less than the Local Government District (LGD) average 79.3. Female life expectancy in the most deprived areas in the District was 82.5 years, 0.2 years less than the LGD average 82.7 years.

The largest inequality gaps in the Mid Ulster District Council area are:

- SDR Drug Related (108%)
- SAR Alcohol Related (73%)
- Teenage Birth Rate (U20) (63%)
- Crude Suicide Rate (61%)
- Smoking During Pregnancy (57%)

The most notable widened gaps are U75 Circulatory Admissions, Primary 1 Obesity and U75 Cancer Mortality.

The PHA reports that health inequalities is a complex issue that involves many different and interwoven factors, are influenced by lifestyle choices and factors, which can be linked to environment, income, education and health decisions.

Current Poverty Programmes

Theme 1 Economic Growth

Income/ Benefits

Mid Ulster Advice Service (MIDAS)

Mid Ulster Advice Service (MIDAS)

STEP will be delivering this new integrated advice service across Mid-Ulster from 01 April 2019. Our service is free, confidential, independent and provided by qualified, experienced and empathetic advisors.

If you live in Mid-Ulster and need advice you can contact us as follows:
Tel: (028) 87750211 (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm) Email: advice@stepni.org

Dungannon	The Junction, 12 Beechvalley Way, Dungannon, BT70 1BS Mon-Fri: (9am – 5pm) and Sat: (9.30am – 12.30pm)
Cookstown	14 Union Street, BT80 8NN Mon – Friday (9am – 5pm)
Magherafelt	13 Queen St, BT45 5AJ Mon – Friday (9am – 5pm)


Or call in at one of our Community Advice & Support Centres below.

We will also be providing outreach advice across the Mid Ulster area, including weekly face-face clinics in Augher, Coalisland and Maghera. There will also be an additional outreach service for the scattered rural community.

We will be providing both generalist and specialist advice.

Generalist Advice:	Specialist Advice:
This general service is delivered on behalf of and financed by Mid-Ulster Council and will provide information & advice on general rights and entitlement to public support services; social benefit & consumer rights and support in securing them, including help in understanding and completing forms and referral to appropriate specialist expertise.	Welfare Reform Universal Credit PIP - Assessments, Challenges & Appeals Money and Debt Homelessness Immigration Equality of Access & Opportunity

Specialist services are part-funded by public grant-aid; STEP, and other charitable funds.

Make the Call

support for people maximise benefits and income



Are you getting all the money, supports and services you're entitled to?

With just one simple call, text or email you can find out.

make the call
0800 232 1271

text: CHECK to 67300*
email: makethecall@dfcnl.gov.uk
visit: nidirect.gov.uk/makethecall

disability

Department for Communities
www.communities.gov.uk

benefits

Employment

Jobs and benefits office

Jobs and benefits office support services for people to come back off long unemployment. To find out your closest office please visit:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/jobs-benefits-offices>

Up for Work

All parts of Up for Work Programme are free for anyone aged 16-24 and not in employment, education or training or working under 16 hours per week in the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Range of FREE training courses, Help to find work, Beauty Workshops, Outdoor Team Days & Creative Workshops.

For more information please ring 028 7962 8113 or email

info@networkpersonnel.org.uk



Job Match

JOBMATCH

COVERING: MAGHERAFELT COOKSTOWN DMAGH DUNGANNON, BALLYMENA ANTRIM LARNE AND CARRICKFERGUS AREAS

We Offer:

- Help To Find A Job
- Self-Employment Support
- Accredited Training
- Confidence Building & Personal Development
- Employability Skills

Who Qualifies?

- 18 + And Unemployed

Network Personnel Ltd., 80-82 Warray Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ
T: 028 796 31032 E: info@networkpersonnel.org.uk
www.networkpersonnel.org.uk

Department for Employment and Learning
network personnel
European Union
European Regional Development Fund
This project is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme (2014 – 2020) and the Department for Employment and Learning.

Helping to access education, training and employment opportunities for those aged 18-65 years old, unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week and not in education/training.

For more information please ring 028 7963 1032 or email:

info@networkpersonnel.org.uk

Theme 1 Economic Growth



Step Up to Sustainable Employment+ (SUSE+)

Step Up to Sustainable Employment+ (SUSE+) is delivered by South West College. It is aimed at people aged 16 to 65 who are unemployed or economically inactive.

SUSE+ seeks to address barriers to progression into education, training and sustained employment through one-to-one mentoring support, guidance, specialist training and obtaining Level 1 qualifications in a range of vocational areas and a variety of short accredited qualifications.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.swc.ac.uk/learn/alternative-programmes/step-up-to-sustainable-employment>

The MEGA Network

Created with the support of Invest NI and Mid Ulster District Council to address the immediate and medium term skills shortages in the manufacturing and Engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area.

MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network of businesses who are working together towards a common goal.

NI Business Start Programme / Go For It

This Programme is to provide those wanting to start a business with a detailed Business Plan. The Programme seeks to encourage those from underrepresented groups to consider availing of support but it is really for those who are at the stage of being ready to get a Plan.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.goforitni.com/>



Exploring Enterprise Programme

(delivered by Enterprise Agencies across NI)

It provides an insight into starting a business or allows participants to take the first steps to gaining employment. EEP is for those who are unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week; it offers free one to one advice, group training and group/ individual mentoring to individuals who want to explore the possibility of starting their own business.

For more information please ring 028 7776 3555 or visit

<https://www.enterpriseni.com/>

Childcare & Support

Department for Communities annual funding for free childcare & support to women back to work – Kidz Lodge Magherafelt, Positive Steps Cookstown, STEP Dungannon, First Steps Women's Centre Dungannon.

Theme 2 Education and Skills

Young People Mental Health & Resilience

Schools for Hope Programme

Pilot Schools for Hope Model led by schools is being developed – looking at best practice with the UUJ to develop a programme of resilience for children and young people in the school environment.

South West College health hub

On site Hub which tackles a range of issues including physical health, mental health, sexual health and refers onto services if needed.

For more information please ring:
08456031881

Northern Regional College Health Hub

Have a health hub in site which tackles a range of issues including Inspire counselling onsite.

For more information please ring:
02894463916

Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing- A Guide for Schools

This is a framework for schools to encourage and implement the take 5 steps to wellbeing- connect, keep learning, be active, take notice and give. This is available in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust Area. For more information please contact Selena Ramsey, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, 02825635575 or email Selena.ramsey@northerntrust.hscni.net

Skills & Educational Development

Neighbourhood Renewal activity Dungannon and Coalisland areas

An Tearmann – Homework Club

This project provides a homework club and additional learning skills for members of the travelling community and links this activity with improved attendance and achievement in school.

STEP Numeracy and Literacy Programme

The STEP numeracy and literacy programme aims to improve young people's (age 7 to 14) communication skills in English.

OGRAS – Disengaged Youth Programme

This project engages vulnerable young people from Coalisland in youth development and social activity led by OGRAS Youth Club.

For more information please ring:
02887747514

St Joseph's Vocational Project

The aim of the programme is to improve attendance among those participating. Pupils selected if they had an attendance record at 90% or below for the previous year.

Going Places with South West College – Coalisland / Dungannon NRA

This project involves the provision of dedicated services of three Mentors, who work together as a team, covering Neighbourhood renewal areas in Dungannon and Coalisland. For more information please visit: <https://www.swc.ac.uk>



Coalisland Training Services – Community Education Programme

CTS provide training for a wide age range. Pupils aged 14-16 attend as part of collaboration work with local colleges in the area. School leavers attend for NVQ courses and help with getting into the world of work. Adults attend who have decided they want to return to education or just want to change their career path.



Theme 2 Education and Skills

DELTA / Family Learning Programme & St Patricks Primary School Programme

This programme is aimed at parents and skills development within the family at St. Patrick's primary school. The focus of the programme in 2018-19 was a school based language programme for pupils in Primary 1 and 2 classes displaying difficulties in communication.

Schools 2019/2021 Mentoring programmes in schools.

Student to student Paired Reading to support young people in English and Math and general development/confidence.

UUJ Tutoring programme for schools with disadvantage

The Tutoring in Schools programme places UU students within targeted schools to volunteer on any project the school / teachers may need assistance with during Semester 2 (Feb – May/June) and are there for a minimum of 32 hours over the Semester, i.e. students volunteer 3/4 hours per week at the school for 10-12 weeks.

Targeted schools include Primary and Post-Primary schools with 40% + free school meals entitlement; Post-Primary schools with less than 50% Post-GCSE pupil returners; any Special Educational Needs school and any Integrated school.

Developing linkages/forum between all skills providers

In each of the 3 main towns in the Mid Ulster District there are Anti Poverty Networks in Cookstown Dungannon and Magherafelt.

At each of these meetings the skills providers in the Mid Ulster area as well as a range of other statutory and community and voluntary sector agencies are present.

Educational Affordability

Authority further education grants

The Education Authority offers a limited number of Further Education Grants each year for full and part-time courses for students undertaking courses up to and including Level 3 for living costs & free childcare. For more information please visit:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/fegrants>

NI Direct

If a student finds themselves in hardship and need extra financial support, universities and colleges in Northern Ireland can provide it through their support funds.

This fund can provide help with living costs, childcare costs, and support over summer vacation, emergency payments to cover unexpected financial crises or exceptional costs.

Colleges

Colleges offer student finance support through support officers who can advise on support loans, bursaries, scholarships as well as helping to access benefits which the student may be entitled to.

Libraries NI

Libraries provide access to book borrowing, free computer use, Wi-Fi and low cost printing facilities. For more information and contact for your local library please visit:

www.librariesni.org.uk

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Early Years

Home Safety Scheme

Our home safety scheme helps those over 65, families with children under the age of five and vulnerable adults/children. These days we are spending so much more time in our homes and we all need to work together to help reduce the number of avoidable home accidents. The scheme offers safety advice and information during virtual visits. Equipment such as carbon monoxide alarms can be provided. For more information contact the Health and Wellbeing team on 03000 132 132 or email:

environmentalhealth@midulstercouncil.org

Nurse led support for new teenage mothers

A specially trained family nurse regularly visits the mum in the home to improve health, social and educational outcomes in the short, medium and long term, while also providing positive economic returns. Southern area please contact:

02837564632 or

mairead.donnelly@southerntrust.hscni.net

Northern area please contact:

joanne.mccann@northerntrust.hscni.net

Family Support hub model

Multi-agency network of statutory, community and voluntary organisations that either provide early intervention services or work with families who need early intervention services.

Northern Outcomes Area: Claire Larkin,

Tel: 028 9446 7345 or 079 2149 2138

Southern Outcomes Area: Pat McGeough,

Tel: 02837 522380 or email:

familysupporthub@barnardos.org.uk

Surestart

Surestart is a government funded initiative specifically for families with children under 4 who live in the top 25% disadvantaged wards in NI. This service is present in the Mid Ulster District in Ardboe, Dungannon,

Maghera, Coalisland and Pomeroy. For more information please contact:

goldpartnership@btinternet.com

Baby Basics

Baby Basics provides a "Moses Basket" full of useful items for mum and baby to families struggling to meet the financial and practical challenges of looking after a new baby. These items are donated from the community. For more information please visit: <https://baby-basics.org.uk/other-locations/>

Parenting NI

Odyssey parenting your teen 8 week programme. Can be self-referred or referred by another organisation or health professional. Advertised through community and statutory contacts.

For more information contact:

Office: +44 (0)28 9031 0891

Email: info@odysseyparenting.org

Aware

Mood Matters Parent and Baby programme. A one-off mental health awareness programme lasting between 1-1.5 hours. Can be self-referred or referred by another organisation or health professional. For more information contact: CAITLIN@AWARE-NI.ORG or Tel: 028 9035 7820

Leisure & Wellbeing

Leisure Concession rates

The following Priority Groups can avail of concession rates across our leisure facilities, including swim. Seniors: Any person over 60 years of age and People with Disabilities.

Everybody Active 2020

Aimed at getting people more active more often through sport and physical activity.

Target groups:

Women and girls aged 14-25; people with

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

a disability; and those living in areas of greatest social need (living within the top 25% of wards designated by NI Multiple Deprivation Measure Index 2010)

For more information please contact Mid Ulster District Councils Sport Development Officer on: 03000 132 132.

Make a Change

Make A Change offers one-to-one support to help you 'make a change'. This service is confidential and FREE of charge.

Are you?

Aged 50 or over?

Do you live in the Mid Ulster area?

Are you interested in making a small change for your health and getting support to do so?

Whether you want to improve your diet or get more active, Make A Change could be for you. The dedicated Health and Wellbeing Officer will work closely with you over a period of weeks or months, to help you along the way. You don't have to do it alone!

You decide what you want to change.

We provide you with help and support to change it.

Health and Wellbeing team on 03000 132 132 or email:

health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org

Social Prescribing Model

Support vulnerable people with Health Promotion, Mental health, fitness, Drugs & Alcohol.

Supporting people to engage focusing on what matters to them and their health.

Referrals into this service is through health professionals.

For the Southern Trust area of the District (Dungannon) please contact Sinead Donnelly from Connected Health on 077 7843 2972 or email:

Sinead.Donnelly@connected-health.co.uk

For the Northern Trust area of the District please contact CWSAN on 028 8773 8845

or email: socialpre@cwsan.org



GP - PARS (Physical Activity Referral Service)

This is delivered in Cookstown, Dungannon and Maghera Leisure Centres and referrals can be received by a wide range of health professionals.

The scheme helps to increase participant's physical activity levels.

To find out more, contact Cookstown

Leisure Centre on 028 8676 3853,

Dungannon Leisure Centre on 028 8772

0370 or Maghera Leisure Centre on 028

7954 7400 or visit:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/>

Condition management programme by Jobs and Benefits Office

CMP is a voluntary programme facilitated by Healthcare Professionals with the aim to help the person to manage their health condition and enable the person to progress towards and move into and stay in employment. CMP is for people who receive Universal Credit, Employer Support Allowance (ESA) or Jobseekers Allowance.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/condition-management-programme>

Macmillan Move More

Partnership between MUDC and Macmillan to help people living with cancer improve their health and well-being through physical activity.

For more information contact Conor Fox on 03000 132 132 or email

movemore@midulstercouncil.org



Closing the Gap Mid Ulster Health programme

Health and Wellbeing programme that targets areas of deprivation. Can organise and deliver specific projects to the



ARMAGH | DUNGANNON

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

community on various health promotion messages:

- Take 5
- Fitness and recreation
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Health clinics

For more information please contact Mark Doran: Mark.Doran@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

PHA Z Cards

A-Z Directory of services to help with mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Can be downloaded from

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/directory-services-help-improve-mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing>

Drugs and Alcohol NI

The Public Health Agency, Drug and Alcohol Coordination Teams, Connections services and local service delivery partners have produced a wide range of Trust-wide or Northern Ireland-wide resources which can be downloaded from:

<https://drugsandalcoholni.info/self-help-resources/>

Northern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team

For more information please visit:

<https://drugsandalcoholni.info/the-ni-dacts/ndact/> Or alternatively email: connections@ndact.info

Southern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team

For more information please visit:

<https://drugsandalcoholni.info/the-ni-dacts/sdact/> Or alternatively email: connections@ndact.info

Job & Benefits Office Wellbeing Hub

Pilot programme in Dungannon office offering clinics with a range of services to claimants e.g. health & wellbeing, SW College etc. Contact your local Grants Office on 03448 920 90

Health and Social Care Trust Physical Activity contacts

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Clare Drummy, Physical Activity

Coordinator, Tel. 028 3756 3971

clare.drummy@southerntrust.hscni.net

Rhonda Richardson, Fit for You Project

Coordinator (programmes for adults with physical, sensory or learning disabilities), Tel. 028 3756 4490

rhonda.richardson@southerntrust.hscni.net

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Nicola Arbuckle - Physical Activities

Coordinator for NHSCT

Nicola.Arbuckle@northerntrust.hscni.net

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Housing Welfare

Affordable Warmth

The Affordable Warmth Scheme tackles fuel poverty in the private sector by providing funding to improve energy efficiency of homes. It is primarily a targeted scheme aimed at those areas where levels of fuel poverty are highest. The scheme is available to eligible home owners, those who have their day / life interest in the house and those who privately rent their home. It is not available for tenants living in the social (Housing Executive or housing association) sector. Assessments are carried by Council staff to determine eligibility and surveys are completed through verification checks and by obtaining supporting documentation. NIHE then complete a technical survey to determine works required. For more information contact Health and Well-being officers on 03000 132 132 or email: affordablewarmth@midulstercouncil.org

Council Energy Efficiency Guidance

The Energy Efficiency Advice scheme offers everyone a personal one to one approach to help manage the energy efficiency of their homes. The Energy Efficiency Advisor can make onward referrals to support schemes and grants if applicable. With the cold winter months and with people expected to be in their homes more, now is the time to ensure that homes are as energy efficient as possible. Energy Efficiency Adviser on: 03000 132132 or email: Health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org

Grants for disability adaptations to home

You may be able to get help adapting your home if you, or someone living with you is having difficulty with every day activities around the home, and has been assessed by Health & Social Services Trust Occupational Therapists. Anyone can apply for this service.

The aim of the grants system is to provide financial help for those who cannot afford to pay for home improvements. The amount of Disabled Facilities or Home Repair Assistance Grant you get will depend upon the cost of adaptations and your ability to pay for them. Contact your local Grants Office on 03448 920 900

Fuel Stamp Saving Scheme

The fuel stamp scheme is designed to help householders spread the cost of their central heating oil and solid fuel. Fuels stamp collection cards can be collected from any participating retailer. For more information contact the Environmental Health Service on 03000 132 132 or email: environmentalhealth@midulstercouncil.org

Home Fire Safety Checks

Homes safety checks carried out by NIFRS Officers. During the visit they will either fit a smoke alarm or show you how to test your existing smoke alarm, explain the potential fire risks in your home, provide fire safety advice and explain the importance of having a night time fire safety routine and a fire escape plan.

Accessibility for vulnerable groups

Mid Ulster Loneliness Network

Recently established by the NHSCOT to which the SHSCOT are involved. For more information please contact Doreen Bolton: Doreen.Bolton@northerntrust.hscni.net

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Good Morning Neighbour

The Good Neighbour scheme was set up to promote the involvement of volunteers to befriend isolated and vulnerable older people living in Armagh and Dungannon & area. For more information please contact:
Tel: 07843 478433
Email: youcanhelp@live.co.uk or visit
www.youcanhelp.org

Mid Ulster Agewell



Agewell provide a range of services including a Good Morning Call and a Handyman Service. Social events and provide advice and information.

Available to those aged over 65 years and over, and vulnerable people aged 50 to 65 years.

For more information please contact:
02879632170 or email
Marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Support Hub

Support hubs are designed to help vulnerable people get access to the right support, at the right time, from the right organisation in their local area. Individual support is planned and designed by a range of statutory professionals. For more information please visit:
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/support-hubs>

Emergency Support

Poverty Network

There are Anti- Poverty Networks in each of the 3 main towns in the Mid Ulster. Each network is made up of a range of statutory and community, voluntary agencies working in the area to combat poverty.

Emergency Support Guide

Guide detailing contact details for support organisations operating in the district in a range of services. This has been

distributed throughout the Mid Ulster District Council Area.

Mid Ulster Crisis Support

Guide detailing support services regarding income, community led emergency food support, housing, mental health (community counselling) and abuse.

Mental Health/ Suicide prevention

PHA supported mental health services/ programmes

- <https://covidwellbeingni.info/>
- <https://www.mindingyourhead.info/>
- <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/directory-services-help-improve-mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing>
- <http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net/services/bereaved-by-suicide/>
- <https://helplinesni.com/>
- <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/resources-councils-and-community-responses-covid-19>

Lifeline

Lifeline is the Northern Ireland crisis response helpline service for people who are experiencing distress or despair. People living in Northern Ireland can call Lifeline on 0808 808 8000. Deaf and hard of hearing Textphone users can call Lifeline on 18001 0808 808 8000.

Samaritan

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. We're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 or also you can email jo@smartians.org

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Self-Harm Intervention Programme (SHIP)

Community based psychological intervention and support service for people who self-harm. Service provided by Zest: www.zestni.org. For more information contact: Conor McCaffertyconor@zestni.co.uk

CWSAN Suicide Prevention and Development Officer

Can support communities and individuals with up to date information on what support is available surrounding Mental health / Emotional wellbeing support and suicide prevention. For more information please contact Denise O'Doherty Tel: 07540969623 Email: denise@cwsan.org

FLARE - Facilitating Life And Resilience Education for Young People age 11-25 years / EANI Youth service

The youth service has a targeted programme to support young people who experience mental health difficulties. The senior manager responsible for this service is Caroline Karayiannis (caroline.karayiannis@eani.org.uk). <https://www.eani.org.uk/youth-services-support>

Fresh Minds Education

Connections - Suicide awareness Programme. For more information please contact Aine Wallace via email aine@freshmindseducation.com

Children & Young People Bereavement by Suicide Support (Service offered by Barnardos Child Bereavement service, funded by PHA) For more information please email: michelle.scullion@barnardos.org.uk

AWARE NI

For resources, videos and information online programmes including:

- Mood Matter Young People
- Living Life to the Full
- Mental Health First Aid
- Mood Matters Adults

Please visit: <https://www.aware-ni.org/>

Towards alleviating poverty through partner Action

Whilst there are a range of poverty implications across a number of themes, the three most prominent and what we have chosen to focus our paper on are, Economic Growth, Education & Skills; and Health and Wellbeing which will all interlink.

It would seem evident that the issue for the differential in health is interlinked with pressures of money in a home, not having access to the higher quality foods and lifestyle activities. Other issues include not having work or work that is lower paid with regard to reward.

The issue for the differential in education is associated with the amount of time or support that is given to learning particularly at a young age. As other pressures at home take priority such as money worries, poor mental health, addiction etc. parents may struggle regarding their ability to support their child/ children in learning and this can have an impact throughout all stages of education. The issue can then transform into working life and ability to get a higher paid job and income to allow an increase in living standards.

An action plan has been developed to seek to alleviate issues of poverty for individuals, area based poverty and those socially excluded.

Theme 1 Economic Growth

Immediate Priorities

1. 'Return to Work' support
2. Improved working conditions for the lowest paid sectors
3. Affordable and accessible childcare
4. Housing & housing welfare
5. Welfare support to address poverty

Income / Benefits

- Partners to review use of zero-hours contracts, casual contracts and living wage implementation.
- Lobby for implementation of living wage, to include those in training/reskilling programmes.
- Promote and provide benefit advice and debt support to maximise income and reduce debt.
- Lobby to continue mitigating and increase support by Northern Ireland Executive to universal credit claimants.
- Encourage financial lenders (particularly local credit unions) to provide low or no interest loans for those on low income/benefits.

Partners

- Department for the Economy
- Department for Finance and Financial lenders
- Department for Communities
- Community (CAP Debt /Mid Ulster Advice Services)

Theme 1 Economic Growth

Employment & Skills

- Review 'Return to Employment' models (e.g ACE, Jobs Guarantee Scheme, GEMS etc.) to advocate for local implementation of best practice model.
- Lobby Public Procurement to consider social clause for public monies linked to working conditions and zero hours contract.
- Review initiatives and investments to take account of social clause conditions.
- Develop affordable and flexible childcare models and afterschool's programmes.
- Lobby for provision of 30 hours per week free childcare for 3 years plus, in line with other UK regions.
- Lobby for an employer tax incentive to support onsite childcare provision.

Community Planning Actions

- ✓ Grow high value and sustainable employment opportunities
- ✓ Provide Economic Development land zonings
- ✓ Business Start mentoring Programmes targeted at hard to reach
- ✓ Mid Ulster Skills Forum to target initiatives to address hard to reach groups - students, carers, long term sick, women returners

Partners

- Department for Economy
- Department for Health
- Department for Education
- Business Sector
- Mid Ulster District Council
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- Invest NI

Theme 1 Economic Growth

Housing & Housing Welfare

- An independent body, potentially established under NIHE, to set local rental values (both social and private), in line with affordability.
- Review the statutory asset land base for social & affordable housing provision.
- Greater enforcement for Environmental Health to ensure quality housing for living conditions, alongside home improvement and energy grant schemes.
- Extend criteria for the affordable warmth scheme making it accessible to all on low income.

Partners

- NI Housing Executive
- Department for Communities
- MUDC Planning & Public Health

Community Planning Actions

- ✓ Provide an adequate supply of social and affordable homes for life and supported living through area plan policy and direct public provision (quality design)
- ✓ Introduce rent controls to make sure housing is affordable
- ✓ Facilitate the delivery of strategic Infrastructure schemes such as sewerage/ water upgrades to meet social housing need
- ✓ Implement an Investment Programme targeting the '20% most deprived' areas in Mid Ulster

Theme 2 Education and Skills

Immediate Priorities

- 1. Education Affordability**
- 2. Extend the Area Learning Support model and intervention programmes targeting low attainment**
- 3. Mental Health & Resilience in Children and Young People**

Education Affordability

- Review good practice models addressing school education costs (branded uniforms, extracurricular activities, trips etc.).
- Promote uniform grants and recycling initiatives.
- Promote Free School Meals and lobby for increased threshold.
- Promote breakfast clubs in schools and look at potential to link to social economy cafes, youth programmes etc.

Partners

- Education Authority
- Schools
- Community

Skills & Educational Development

- Lobby for the review of the school funding formula to ensure all young people can avail of the most appropriate educational pathway for their needs.
- To work in partnership with Mid Ulster Skills Forum to develop apprenticeship programmes across the district, targeted at areas of disadvantage.
- Link the Steps to Success training and support programme to the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, for a local industry led approach.

Theme 2 Education and Skills

- Extend the Area Learning Support model and intervention programmes targeting low attainment.
- Develop a Primary School Homework Club model in areas of disadvantage.
- Consider a libraries engagement programme for vulnerable groups including migrant women, and children in areas of disadvantage.

Partners

- Education Authority
- Schools
- Libraries NI
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum

Young People's Mental Health & Resilience

- Identify the causes of mental health in children taking account of the first thousand days research and coordinate a holistic approach to mental health.
- Develop 'Education for Life' courses for young people to include money management, driving, positive relationships, mental health and wellbeing etc.
- Collate all existing mental health programmes available to primary and post primary schools and ensure quality provision and support e.g. Nurture Model, Routes of Empathy, Take 5, Schools for Hope.

Partners

- Education Authority
- Health Trusts
- Schools
- PCSP

Community Planning Actions

- ✓ Mid Ulster Skills Forum to bring together employers, entrepreneurs, enterprise agencies, schools and colleges to plan and improve future employability.
- ✓ Extend the provision and access to part time education for adult returners
- ✓ Work to ensure every 18-year-old has a positive 'learning, work and life destination
- ✓ Provide a family support centre in primary schools providing for disadvantaged communities to improve educational attainment
- ✓ Develop and roll out mentoring programmes for children and young people

Community Planning Actions

- ✓ Review preschool nursery provision to ensure it is accessible for all children in poverty (benefit support)
- ✓ Schools based mental health support programme to improve resilience of children and young people - Roll out Schools for Hope model across district.

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Immediate Priorities

1. Early Years development and intervention
2. Affordability of Leisure Services
3. Mental Health
4. Availability to right health service, in the right place at the right time

Early Years

- Extend early years intervention models and programmes (parental support, oral health initiatives etc.) beyond current geographical boundaries to target those most vulnerable across the district.
- Encourage and promote recycling schemes for high cost family items e.g. baby items, IT equipment.

Partners

- Health Trusts
- Community

➤ Leisure & Wellbeing

- Review reduced rates for leisure activities, with support to engage, people in poverty.
- Provide free leisure during set times in the summer for children/young people on FSM/ low income.
- Encourage sports clubs to offer greater informal sporting opportunities (e.g. walking clubs, over 50's games) for hard to reach groups, through targeting sports grant funding.
- Review existing provision of addiction services for an integrated and targeted approach on drugs, alcohol and gambling.

Community Planning Actions

- ✓ Deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities
- ✓ Develop and deliver a 'Healthy Towns and Villages' initiative
- ✓ A targeted Healthy Living Initiative for disadvantaged communities

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

- Lobby for continued review of the regulatory laws on gambling industry regarding access, particularly for young people.
- Council to consider developing Household checks in partnership statutory agencies (targeted at those in poverty and most vulnerable).
- Encourage/support play development in disadvantaged communities to support wellbeing of children.
- Work towards the development of Health Hub in every area of disadvantage (Gortgonis Health Hub model).
- Support local community mental health organisations in the district, including low cost/no cost counselling, which contributes to people waiting statutory provision.
- To review and develop a pathway model (for different levels of intervention) for addressing mental health.

Partners

- MUDC Leisure & Public Health, Parks, Arts & Culture
- Department for Communities
- Health Trusts, PHA, HSCB
- Sport NI
- Community

Vulnerable groups

- Target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty.
- Partner organisations to ensure facilities and services are accessible to the most vulnerable e.g Age Friendly, Dementia Friendly, Autism Friendly and Financially Accessible.
- Partner delivery to assist people experiencing domestic violence; including access to supported housing.

Community Planning Actions

- Develop adult learning initiatives across Mid Ulster
- Deliver an 'Ageing Well' Initiative
- Lobby for an integrated transport plan to address rural access to services

Partners

- MUDC
- PHA, Trusts, HSCB
- PCSP
- NIHE
- Community

Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing

Food Poverty

- Coordinate support for front line poverty charities including financial support and development of Anti- poverty networks.
- Partners to ensure coordinated approach on food poverty programme delivery.
- Encourage Social Supermarkets and Community Food Cupboards in the district.
- Lobby for continued summer food support for those on free school meals.

Partners

- Department for Communities
- MUDC Community Development
- Community

Delivery Model

A Strategic Plan needs to be developed towards alleviating poverty based on the issues that have been identified within this document. This will require discussion with all community planning representatives and other relevant organisations to identify partner solutions.

The solutions will be actioned based on the identified priorities as agreed with all partners. It is anticipated that a Poverty Plan, with direction and actions, would be provided by December for all partners to agree.

Some policy areas are longer-term impact, however these have been included in the action plan to allow for lobbying and guidance on these to commence for further consideration and development.

Alongside this engagement, communication will take place regarding existing provision that is in place to seek to alleviate poverty. There are many initiatives that have been identified that requires a coordinated and shared approach to maximise delivery and impact.

The actions for delivery will be led by the relevant partner. Some are already in place and require monitoring in terms of effectiveness and developing greater linkages with other complementary programmes. Others will require further development and support via all partners.

Delivery of a poverty plan for Mid Ulster will require a working group, as identified by the Community Planning Board, to oversee its actions. The Board will oversee the direction and review of delivery. The Board and Working Group will also need to react to emergency situations that occur outside of the Plan and respond with maximum impact, to be initiated or led by any partner.



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
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Mr Cathal Mallaghan
Chair, Mid Ulster District Council
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Dungannon
BT71 6DT
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DECS Reference: TRO/0125157/20

5 January 2021

Dear Mr Mallaghan,

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2020 about the Timorese Association Inclusive Support group and the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

The Government has guaranteed the rights of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who have made the UK their home through the EUSS. The EUSS makes it easy for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members to obtain the UK immigration status they need in order to remain here permanently, with the same rights to work, study and access benefits and services as they had before the UK left the EU. In line with the Withdrawal Agreement with the EU, and its equivalents with the EEA states and Switzerland, those who are resident here by 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply.

The Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 save relevant EU law rights for those eligible for, but who have not yet obtained, status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) at the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. In line with the citizens' rights agreements, it protects those rights pending the final outcome of an application made by them under the EUSS by the 30 June 2021 deadline for those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period.

During the grace period up to 30 June 2021, right to work and right to rent checks for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will not change. They will be able to use their passport or national identity card to evidence their right to work and rent, as now, but if they have status under the EUSS, they may, if they wish, choose to use that as evidence.

Yours sincerely,

European Migration & Citizens' Rights Unit
Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 14 January 2021 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

Members Present

Councillor McNamee

Councillors Ashton*, Black, Burton*, Clarke*, Corry*,
Cuddy*, Doris*, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr*, Milne*,
Molloy*, Monteith*, Wilson*

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism**
Mr Gordon, Head of Leisure**
Mr Hill, Head of Parks**
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts**
Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development **
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor McKinney***
Councillor S McGuigan***

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation - ICBAN

Chief Executive ICBAN, Mr Campbell***
Chair, Councillor McNeill*** (Armagh City, Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough Council)
Vice Chair, Councillor Maxwell*** (Monaghan County Council)
Co-Treasurer, Councillor Nicholson*** (Armagh City, Banbridge
and Craigavon Borough Council)
Immediate Past Chair, Councillor Treanor*** (Monaghan
County Council)

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee wished everyone a Happy New Year, he stated that last year was difficult but that there was now a vaccine and the infection rate was coming down and that he hoped the situation would improve in the coming months.

D001/21 Apologies

Councillor Elattar and Head of Community Development.

D002/21 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

Councillor Ashton declared an interest in InterTrade Ireland.

D003/21 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee expressed condolences to Councillor Cuddy whose mother passed away over the Christmas period.

Councillor Cuddy thanked Members for their messages of condolence which were appreciated.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to Irish Language signage on Council property both internal and external which he stated was to go out to tender and requested update on same.

The Head of Culture and Arts stated that the tender process closed on 4 December and that the assessment panel had met and that a report will be brought to Committee in February seeking approval to appoint contractor to deliver road name signage and facility signage.

Councillor Doris acknowledged the good work done since the last Development Committee in relation to play parks across Mid Ulster and stated that the provision of disability equipment in the play parks is also appreciated. The Councillor also welcomed work carried out by Forestry Service at Drumcaine Forest. Councillor Doris referred to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Strategy and asked for update, she commended staff for the work carried out at Knockmany Forest which she stated is in immaculate condition but that it was frustrating to see a number of other areas which are not being used to potential. Councillor Doris also referred to previous discussion in relation to walking trails for Mid Ulster and proposed that a list of walkways be made available going forward as there are a lot more people out walking at present.

The Head of Parks advised that both the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Strategy have been approved by Council. In relation to the Parks Strategy the officer advised that the specification process was almost complete and the first year tranche was due to be released. It was advised that there has been quite a lot of activity in relation to Village Renewal Schemes which were also a large part of the Parks Strategy. The Head of Parks advised that the Outdoor Recreation Strategy was approved towards the end of last year and officers are working on year one feasibility studies for a number of locations and advised that a more thorough update will be brought to the next Development Committee.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that whilst there has been slippage in relation to play parks due to Covid it is important to keep focus on this programme.

Councillor Burton referred to constituent who is trying to get a UTR (Unique Tax Reference) number but that the National Insurance office has been closed since the start of the pandemic. The Councillor stated that in order to get the UTR number the person needs to have a face to face meeting but that this cannot be done at present. Councillor Burton advised that similar offices in England, Scotland and Wales are open and that in the Republic of Ireland similar meetings are taking place via Zoom. The Councillor stated that for an office to be closed for almost a year is something which needs looked at and asked that Council raise this matter with the Executive Office and HMRC.

The Chief Executive agreed to investigate the matter and revert back to the Councillor.

D004/21 Deputation - ICBAN

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive, Chair, Vice Chair, Co-Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair of ICBAN to the meeting and invited the board members to make their presentation.

Councillor McNeill thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak to them tonight and provide update on The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region 2021 – 2027. Councillor McNeill thanked the Council for their support of the Framework document in the past and Mid Ulster Council representatives on ICBAN. Councillor McNeill also congratulated Mr McCreesh on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council and wished him well for the years ahead in his new role. Councillor McNeill introduced Mr Campbell, Chief Executive of ICBAN who would make the presentation to Members.

Mr Campbell provided presentation (appendix 1) on The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region 2021 – 2027 and how it is hoped it will impact the Mid Ulster Council area which is one of the 8 local authorities in the ICBAN partnership. Mr Campbell stated that this Framework builds on and works with frameworks already in place and deals with the key issues now such as Brexit, Covid 19 and climate change. Mr Campbell took Members through the features of the Framework and explained the Regional Priorities and five Catalyst Projects which are in the early stages of development. Mr Campbell also stated that the Framework is a living document which can be added to and developed through time and as opportunities and challenges present themselves. Mr Campbell acknowledged the support of Council for the Framework document and asked for the continued support of Members by inputting into its development and engaging in advancing the priorities and catalyst projects of the Framework.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr Campbell for the presentation and invited Members who come forward with questions/comments.

Councillor Molloy referred to the blue/greenways and stated he would be keen to examine what is in it for Mid Ulster in that respect. Councillor Molloy stated there has been recent development of the Western Greenway and the Shannon-Erne linkages and asked if there was any proposed further development within ICBAN for the Ulster Canal route which will link in with the Blackwater catchment area and Coalisland. Councillor Molloy stated he felt there was huge potential for the development of this route and the benefits which could come from it.

Councillor Molloy referred to Peace Plus replacing Peace IV and asked if there are any projects which Mid Ulster could tap into going forward.

Councillor Treanor stated he was aware of the campaigns for a project on the Ulster Canal and referred to an announcement before Christmas of 7 million towards a project on the Canal from Clones to Lough Erne. Councillor Treanor stated that there is more money to come and that at least there is some movement forward. Councillor Treanor referred to past plans for the Ulster Canal and completing work in stages and appreciated that the project Councillor Molloy spoke of is a good example in which there could be collaboration to seek funding. Councillor Treanor referred to the Slieve Beagh masterplan which comes into the Mid Ulster area and is already in place and could go forward for funding. Councillor Treanor stated that there are a number of funding avenues for projects such as Peace Plus and including Shared Island Fund and Growth Deal Funds and if strong cases are put together then ICBAN can compete for funding.

Mr Campbell referred to the five catalyst projects mentioned in the presentation and felt these would be of interest to Mid Ulster and the other 7 Councils in ICBAN. Mr Campbell stated that it is hoped that a number of initiatives will come from these five projects and there will be opportunities for partnership working outside of each Council's own area.

Mr Campbell stated that Peace Plus is a real opportunity for local authorities to work together and is a mix of Peace monies and INTERREG monies. Mr Campbell stated that it is hoped the monies will amount to €850 million to €1 billion of funding for projects up to 2027. Mr Campbell stated that the funding will be for social and economic projects and that it is important for Councils to be ready and have projects to deliver.

Councillor Clarke referred to earlier comments in relation to the Ulster Canal and Lough Neagh and felt that as a representative of Magherafelt DEA he could also comment on what he felt was the jewel in the crown of Lough Neagh and the fantastic facilities at Ballyronan Marina. Councillor Clarke asked what support there has been from the Councils North and South to work together in the delivery of the Framework.

Councillor Maxwell stated that all political persuasions work together in ICBAN to come together to a common consensus of what is good for the region. Councillor Maxwell stated that all Councils needed to continue to work together to try to leverage as much funding as possible into the region.

Councillor McNeill stated that ICBAN met with the North/South Ministerial bodies before Christmas at which funding was discussed and the Regional Framework was provided to the representatives. Councillor McNeill stated it was good to see the ICBAN Board and all political persuasions working together for the betterment of the whole area.

Councillor Nicholson stated that the Framework document has got the full support of Councils, the Councillor stated it is a strategic document which gives a framework for all member Councils to move forward in collaboration. Councillor Nicholson stated that ICBAN has a proven record for delivering shared infrastructure projects and that he hoped opportunities would arise with the five catalyst projects being put forward within the Framework document.

Councillor Clarke asked if funding opportunities are available to deliver the overall Framework of Regional Priorities.

Mr Campbell stated that a number of sources are being considered for the funding of the programme and that ICBAN will seek to bring about monies to enhance the delivery of projects. Mr Campbell stated that one of the greatest resources to the delivery of projects is the time and effort of Councillors and officers across the member Councils working together in the development and delivery of projects. Mr Campbell stated that the catalyst projects identified within the Framework are the developing themes of Peace Plus funding and that he felt there are opportunities for funding from this source.

Councillor Cuddy stated he sits on the Tourism Forum of Mid Ulster Council and that Members have seen the success of the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands initiatives. Councillor Cuddy asked if ICBAN was involved with either of these projects.

Mr Campbell stated that ICBAN has delivered a number of tourism projects and that the Wild Atlantic Way includes the Council areas of Donegal and Sligo. Mr Campbell stated that there is currently a European Programme which looks at opportunities for delivering tourism across the ICBAN region and the West of Ireland. Mr Campbell stated that ICBAN could provide an opportunity to bring together all the tourism destinations within the regions ie. Wild Atlantic Way, Hidden Heartlands, Ireland's Ancient East, Embrace the Giant Spirit, Sperrins and Fermanagh Lakelands. Mr Campbell felt that the ICBAN region sits at the crossroads of all these destinations however this is something that is yet to be developed.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the Wild Atlantic Way initiative has been a tremendous success and that he felt any funding should be spread across as many Council areas as possible.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr Campbell and the ICBAN board members for their presentation tonight and that Council looked forward to working together in the future.

ICBAN deputation left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Matters for Decision

D005/21 Mobile Catering Concessions

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation presented previously circulated report which sought approval to procure mobile concession Grab & Go catering services at selected council owned/managed venues and public Parks.

Councillor Corry referred to recent news reports regarding people gathering in parks and other outdoor locations with takeaway coffees etc and not enough social distancing in place. The Councillor asked that if catering services are approved can Council ensure that a similar situation will not arise at the locations being put forward. Councillor Corry also stated that there were more locations detailed on the original list and asked if this is a trial.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that the sites being put forward tonight were for trial and if successful then the list can be expanded to include other sites. The Director advised that Council will monitor situation with regard to compliance of contracts and health requirements and if there was found to be a breach Council would

have to deal with that as it saw fit. The Director advised that it was likely to be the summer before catering services were in place and hopefully the situation in relation to Covid would be improving by then.

In response to question from Councillor Ashton regarding catering provider at Dungannon Park the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there is currently no provider at Dungannon Park as the person who had the contract terminated their contract therefore there is no provider at that location currently and there will be no competition in relation to what is being put forward tonight. The Director advised that if Council were to re-tender the catering contract for Dungannon Park at the moment it was unlikely to get anyone due to the current situation and economic conditions.

Councillor Ashton referred to local hospitality businesses which have been badly affected by Covid and asked if there would be a push to market this opportunity to those businesses to ensure that Council would not be going into competition with them.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the catering services would be sought via public tender and everyone would have opportunity to apply.

Councillor Kearney referred to Portglenone Riverside Path and how well used that path is and that grab and go catering would be very much welcomed at that location.

Councillor Burton referred to facilities at Brantry and Round Lake which are both well used but are outside of a village/town and that she felt it this offered an opportunity for enterprise at such locations.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to procure mobile catering concessions for Grab & Go services across selected Council owned/managed venues for an initial period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further two, 6 month periods subject to satisfactory performance and subject to terms and conditions of a Catering Agreement.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee referred to a member of the public who had been watching last month's meeting and had contacted himself after the meeting to state that he had a contract with Forestry in relation to Drum Manor Forest for the last couple of years and the next year and a half. The Chair stated he had been assured that all locations had been cross checked to ensure there are no contracts in place.

D006/21 Community Development Report

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to the following:

- Community Grants; to agree the Grants Policy and budgets for 2021-2022
- Emergency Support Funding; to agree the allocation of additional DFC funding
- Community Development – to note the community development update

Councillor Doris stated she was happy to propose the report and commended staff who have worked unbelievably hard to get grants out on the ground throughout the year. The Councillor also thanked the Department for Communities and stated that the help was making an impact on peoples lives during this really difficult time.

Councillor Doris referred to the Free School Meals and that there are a number of children who are just above the threshold to receive these and that this is putting families under additional pressure. Councillor Doris stated that this is something Council should look into with the Education Authority.

Councillor Corry stated she would second Councillor Doris's proposal and also concurred with the comments in relation to the good work of the Council team and Department for Communities and also volunteers who have been working in foodbanks and other services. Councillor Corry also stated she was happy to see the inclusion of funding for mental health as Covid has taken a toll on mental health.

Councillor Ashton referred to appendix 1 of report and the Discretionary Grant and that it was noted there is no budget for this grant which will stop the grant from opening this year. Councillor Ashton stated she proposed a budget of £150k for Discretionary Grants which would allow this budget to open.

The Chief Executive advised that it is the intention to reignite that particular support programme for the forthcoming year as demand is significantly increasing and that officers would be keen to incorporate the Discretionary Grant into the programme for 2021/22.

Councillor Monteith stated he did not have difficulty with the thrust of the proposals but that he did foresee some issues as he believed there will be an outcry from families who only have children in primary school that are entitled to free school meals and that they would therefore not be eligible for fuel stamp support. The Councillor stated he understood there was a limited budget available but that he felt this matter needed some work and rejigging of monies to ensure support can be given to all families with children entitled to free school meals.

Councillor Monteith also referred to public confusion in relation to the Well and Warm Scheme which is being rolled out differently across Councils. The Councillor stated that the public were confused as to what they could be entitled to and that there was an expectation being created among communities. Councillor Monteith stated that if possible any surplus monies should be set aside to deal with demand.

Councillor Monteith proposed that the fuel stamp support be expanded out to include those who have children in primary schools that don't have children in post primary schools and are entitled to free school meals. Councillor Monteith also proposed that consideration be given at next Development Committee to the Anti Poverty Strategy as foodbanks and fuel stamps were becoming normalised and people who are working do not have enough to feed their family or heat their home. Councillor Monteith stated that there needed to be a society which pays people to work and provide for their family as reliance on foodbanks and fuel stamps is not normal.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and declared an interest in Coalisland Community Foodbank. Councillor Kerr also thanked everyone who donated to the Coalisland Foodbank following the Christmas appeal and the volunteers who worked

hard throughout 2020 and will continue to do so through 2021. The Councillor also praised the other community groups and individuals who assisted throughout the Council area in 2020.

Councillor Black stated he seconded Councillor Ashton's proposal in relation to Discretionary Grant.

The Chief Executive stated that no one would disagree with the desire to roll the fuel stamp support scheme out to all schools but that the difficulty is that there is limited monies available and that £50 would make a valuable contribution and impact to a family. The Chief Executive stated that the proposal as it stands would allow that impact to be made across 2500 individuals and if the scheme was to be expanded out there are in excess of 50 primary schools across Mid Ulster which would mean that the impact would be greatly reduced. The Chief Executive stated that the scheme is designed to have an impact and that is why it is targeted to post primary schools and suggested that the scheme be rolled out as proposed and that officers go back to the Department to request additional funding for similar roll out to primary schools. The Chief Executive stated that throughout Covid Council had led from the front and has demonstrated that it can innovatively deliver schemes and has been able to access resources time and again. The Chief Executive stated that there was a limited resource for this scheme and that if Council can demonstrate that the scheme can work efficiently and with impact as proposed it provides a good basis when making a request for further resources.

Councillor Monteith stated he accepted what was being said and that Council were dealing with a limited amount of money but that he felt it is a glaring omission to leave primary schools out. Councillor Monteith stated that whatever decision is taken tonight is not ratified until Council and proposed that officers approach the Department now with a view to getting additional finance and also engage with the primary school sector to ascertain the number of additional individuals there would be if the scheme were to be rolled out to primary schools even if this meant a reduced amount as it would still be better than nothing. The Councillor stated that this was no reflection on officers but that he just felt the matter needed a bit more work to make sure Council is being as fair as it can be with limited resources.

Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and that it would not be difficult to get the numbers receiving free school meals. Councillor Molloy stated that Councillor Ashton's proposal in relation to Discretionary Grants is important as a number of community groups and sports clubs have seen the effect of Covid on their activities and that changing facilities and toilets etc will need to be looked at in a different light going forward. Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Doris stated that everyone acknowledged that there will be lot will come from the funding as set out in the report with the additional tweaks mentioned. Councillor Doris asked if there was any merit in Council writing to the Education Minister to establish if anything further could be rolled out to primary schools.

The Chief Executive stated that the difficulty with writing to the Minister would be that it would open another channel which would take time to achieve any output. The Chief Executive stated that officers would do their best to increase the resource for fuel stamp support and would talk to the Department and schools on the matter and if this required revising allocations there would be no difficulty with that.

Councillor Hughes stated she was supportive of the report and the issues raised.

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in Rural Support.

Councillor Cuddy stated that at last night's Policy and Resources Committee Members were advised that Council currently have 80 staff furloughed and that whilst Council had offered its services to other Stormont departments nothing had been taken up. Councillor Cuddy stated that there was an opportunity to utilise Council staff within the community at this time and suggested that this be investigated.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he wanted to place on record his appreciation of the good work of the community development section in the roll out of grants over the past year.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To agree the Community Grants Policy and budgets 2021 – 2022 as set out at appendix 1 of report with the addition of a £150k budget for Discretionary Grants to be included.
 - (II) That officers engage with the Department in relation to additional funding for the fuel stamp support scheme and rollout to primary schools. Officers to also engage with Education Authority on the number of individuals involved in the roll out of the scheme to primary schools with updated figures and allocations to be brought to the Council meeting.
 - (III) To bring report on Anti Poverty Strategy to next Development Committee.
 - (IV) To note Community Development update report.

D007/21 Sperrins Future Search Project Update

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update and sought approvals in relation to the Future Search Initiative. The Head of Tourism highlighted that due to current restrictions it is now proposed to put the Launch Event on hold until a more suitable time.

Councillor Clarke stated it was good to see the project moving forward and noted that it is proposed to hold the launch event in the Alley Theatre in Strabane. Councillor Clarke felt it would be more appropriate for the launch event to be held at a location within the AONB.

The Head of Tourism stated he would raise this issue at the officer meeting taking place tomorrow.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To put the Launch Event on hold until a more suitable time.
 - To continue to support the delivery of the Sperrins Future Search initiative and collaborative projects.
 - To support the suggested project name going forward, that being, Sperrins Partnership Project.

Matters for Information

D008/21 Minutes of Special Development Committee held on 29 October 2020

Members noted minutes of Special Development Committee held on 29 October 2020.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that there have been a number of presentations made to the Development Committee recently and requested an update report on any follow up meetings with the groups.

D009/21 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020.

Councillor Monteith asked if a date had been set in relation to meeting with the Department of Education with regard to special education and process of statementing. The Councillor also asked if there had been any feedback from the Timorese Community in relation to the issue with id and referred to agreement at last meeting to write to the Trust in relation to the Valley Care Home and if an update had been received.

The Chief Executive stated that he would seek clarification on the issues raised and come back to Members.

Councillor Doris requested update in relation to email previously sent by Linda Dillon MLA in which it was requested that Council investigate if lands at Derrylaughan side of Maghery Bridge could be transferred from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chief Executive advised that the Director of Environment and Property was discussing the matter with his counterparts in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and that an update will be brought to the Environment Committee in due course.

Councillor Corry referred to email received from Draperstown Celtic requesting support from Council. The Councillor stated that this club does a lot of good work in the community particularly during the pandemic and referred to the pitch which becomes waterlogged and unusable during the winter months and that she hoped that Council would provide all the support it can.

The Head of Leisure stated that he had been speaking with the club this week and it is hoped a meeting will take place in the near future. The Head of Leisure advised that officers will work with the club to see what support and assistance Council can provide.

Councillor Kerr requested update in relation to Altmore/Cappagh projects and the transfer of licences from the Forestry Service regarding Drumcairne.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Terms of Reference were issued before Christmas in relation to Altmore and Cappagh and are due back next week. The Director advised that the Forest Service have requested masterplans for these sites prior to them entering into a lease agreement and that this is in process.

D010/21 Ballysaggart Lough Enhancement Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on recent works to upgrade and enhance visitor facilities at one of Dungannon's best known local beauty spots, Ballysaggart Lough.

Councillor Monteith thanked officers for the work done and referred to previously held Member workshop in which it was his understanding that Council would be moving towards a masterplan for Ballysaggart Lough. Councillor Monteith stated that there needed to be more strategic discussion in relation to Ballysaggart Lough and proposed that a report be brought to the next Development Committee on the medium to long term future development of the Lough. The Councillor stated that the matter has been raised on a number of occasions and that there needs to be significant investment in the area as the potential is immense and the community are not prepared to wait any longer.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and asked that Ballysaggart Lough is added to the agenda for the next Railway Park meeting.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- (I) That a report be brought to the next Development Committee detailing a strategic investment plan for Ballysaggart Lough and building towards a major capital investment in the area.
- (II) That Ballysaggart Lough be put on the agenda of the Railway Park meeting to be held next week.

D011/21 Macmillan Move More Research Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on a research and evaluation report completed in partnership with Queens University Belfast and Macmillan, demonstrating how proactive the Macmillan Move More programme has been throughout the Covid pandemic. The initial findings of the research were circulated for noting at Development Committee in September 2020.

D012/21 Arts Council of Northern Ireland Survey on Arts and Culture engagement levels during COVID-19 Pandemic

Members noted previously circulated report which provided findings of research commissioned by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland that demonstrate levels of Arts and Culture engagement in Northern Ireland during Covid-19 Pandemic.

D013/21 Tourism Business Engagement Programme

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the business engagement work ongoing through the Tourism Forum, webinar series and Whats App group.

D014/21 Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report which provided the Minutes of the Tourism Development Group meeting held on 22 September 2020 and approved at Tourism Development meeting held on 9 December 2020.

D015/21 Santa visit to Primary Schools in the Mid Ulster District

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of a special visit from Santa to all the Primary School children in Mid Ulster, Christmas 2020.

Live broadcast ended at 8.43 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D016/21 to D018/21.

Matters for Decision

None

Matters for Information

D016/21 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 December 2020

D017/21 Sport NI EBA 2020 Programme

D018/21 DAERA (TRPSI) Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2020

D019/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.52 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

Report on	Master Plans/Scoping Studies for Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne and Dunmoyle Forest
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 February 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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 update members on the recently appointed consultancy team in respect of developing scoping studies for the potential development of Drumcairne, Altmore/Cappagh and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity hubs.
2.0	Background
2.1	As part of Council's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020, forests were identified for the future development of outdoor recreation.
2.2	As part of the Action Plan it was specified that master plans/scoping studies would be carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within Year 1 – 2 for Altmore/Cappagh as a local hub - within Year 2 – 3 for Drumcairne as a local hub - Drummolye Forest was included, with committee approval, as a similar project with potential for development in the catchment area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Requests to quote for the Supply and Delivery of Scoping Study for Altmore/Cappagh, Dunmoyle and Drumcairne Forests were issued to five companies in December 2020.
3.2	Quotations were received from two companies. Following evaluation Outdoor Recreation NI were successful in being appointed as the company to carry out the Scoping Studies, timeline and methodology are presented in Appendix 1.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Three Scoping Studies/ Development Plans total cost £27,900 ex vat (average £9,300.00 per individual Project)

	<p>Budget allocations are ring fenced under councils capital programme for Outdoor Recreation projects.</p> <p>Staff resources are sufficient to work in conjunction with appointed consultancy team.</p>
	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members note the content of the report in relation to the appointment of Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) as consultants to carryout Scoping Studies associated to development proposals for Altmore/Cappagh, Dunmoyle and Drumcairn Forests.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix : Scoping Study
6.2	Appendix : Methodology/Stages of Scoping Study delivery

Appendix 1

Timeline

Item	Timescale
Closing date for quotations	Monday 18 th January 2021
Notification of successful/unsuccessful tenders	Monday 25 th January 2021
Options Paper submitted	Friday 26 th March 2021
Draft report submitted	Friday 23 rd April 2021
Final report submitted	Friday 14 th May 2021

These dates are indicative and may be subject to change.

Methodology

2. Proposed Approach

ORNI proposes the following approach to complete the project within the timescale and on budget.

Step 1 – Project Foundation

1.1 Project Inception Meeting - ORNI will convene an inception meeting with relevant representatives from MUDC to provide the opportunity to gain further insight into the vision and objectives of the project and the practicalities of the site.

1.2 Strategic Context – ORNI will undertake an examination of the strategic context within which the site would operate. As part of this process, a detailed examination of the Plan's contribution to local and national policies will be undertaken. This will include but not limited to:

- NI Government / Departmental Strategic aims and policy objectives
- Mid Ulster District Council – Corporate Plan, Community Plan, Tourism Strategy, Preparatory Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Parks and Play Strategy.

Step 2 – Current Position - It is essential ORNI understands the current position of the site to identify deficiencies and begin to develop recommendations to improve the current situation. This will provide the foundation for future steps.

2.1 Desk Research – ORNI will undertake desk research of any existing studies and information relating to the site. It is envisaged this will include:

- Public vs private land ownership
- Land use / management e.g. FSNi felling plans, permits licences and operations
- Statutory designations – Built and Natural Heritage
- Identification of nearby villages, reservoirs, landscapes and visitor attractions

Appendix 1

- Formal and Informal Recreation via external sources such as Strava Global Heat Maps and specialist activity websites / forums

2.2. Fieldwork – Informed by the aforementioned desk research, ORNI will undertake fieldwork to identify and assess:

- Deficiencies in current provision
- Opportunities for development / positive control points
- Access points
- Supporting infrastructure carrying capacity e.g. approach roads, car parking, visitor services
- Current recreation offering e.g. trail network, signage, waymarking, interpretation
- Topography/ Ground Conditions
- Risks – e.g. Invasive species e.g. Japanese knotweed, anti-social behaviour, informal activity, dumping / hazardous material

2.3 Consultation – ORNI will undertake consultation at two levels

a) Key agencies and stakeholders – This consultation will further inform the findings from desk research and initial fieldwork. For example, consultation may be required as follows:

- **FSNI** - re felling plans, permits licences and operations
- **NED / HED** – re natural and built heritage designations respectively
- **DfI Roads** – re access roads, new entrances, pedestrian crossing points
- **Council Planning Dept** – re all of above

b) Assessment of need – The objective of this step is to identify the type and need for intervention at the site. This will ensure that proposed solutions are appropriate for the volume, needs and motivations of those who are most likely to engage with the site. ORNI believes a rural project of this nature can only be sustainable in the long-term if it is fully embraced by the local community. This will ensure the viability of services throughout the year but also acts as an appeal to visitors i.e. a receptive and engaged local community provides an improved visitor welcome. It is envisaged an indicative list of topics for the survey will include:

- Views on strengths and deficiencies in current position
- Identification of proposed interventions (facilities / activities / initiatives)
- Discussion around the anticipated demand and potential target audiences for proposed facilities and services
- Private sector interest to deliver outdoor recreation activities on site

Key consultation tactics will include one-to-one consultation with Council staff / Cllrs, key stakeholders / local community representatives, online public meeting (due to COVID restrictions on gatherings) and an online survey. A summary review will provide the key themes identified through consultation.

2.4 Initial Landowner Identification – In order to establish the high-level viability of linkages to areas of interest outside the main site, ORNI will liaise with reputable

Appendix 1

community representative to utilise their local knowledge to identify landowners. This will be supported by online Land Registry checks if required.

Step 3 - Analysis and Initial Findings – ORNI will analyse the findings from the aforementioned steps and draw of international best practice and emerging trends in outdoor recreation to prepare an initial options presentation. This will include a SWOT analysis, consultation feedback, proposed vision, proposed priority visitor segments and spatial concept plan. The latter is a GIS map(s) outlining the interdependence of the key components e.g. recreation, biodiversity, built and cultural heritage, linkages to secondary sites. This presentation and facilitated discussion will allow the Council to provide feedback on the key components prior to ORNI working these up in detail within the development plan.

Step 4 - Concept Development - Following agreement on initial options, ORNI will undertake further investigations (including further fieldwork) to undertake a technical assessment of key components envisaged to be (as a minimum) core visitor hub area(s), outdoor recreation activities / trails), educational and social activities, traffic flow and parking.

ORNI will liaise and provide guidance to the local community in relation to landowner identification and access agreements. Informed by benchmarking, ORNI will also provide recommendations relating to opportunities for the private Sector to provide outdoor recreation activities.

This will be presented in a Spatial Masterplan (which will demonstrate their interdependence) and be supported by commentary. To inform the preparation of costs, ORNI will avail of extensive database of benchmarked costs gained from previous similar projects. Many of ORNI's costed projects have externally verified by CPD or independent Quantity Surveyors and have been found to be accurate. Rather than providing distinct 'either or' options, the development plan will include phased options with each phase building upon the other to deliver the vision over a timeline e.g. 3-5 years. Phases / options may include i.e. Do Nothing (Status Quo), Do Minimum, Phase 1, Phase 2 etc. The phases will be presented to provide short, medium and long-term options with benefits and outcomes clearly presented. Each component and therefore phase will be individually costed. Phasing will also be guided by an appraisal of current and forecast external funding opportunities.


Step 5 – Final Report - Prior to submitting the final draft report, ORNI will deliver a presentation of final recommendations and facilitate discussion. MUDC will be provided the opportunity to further comment on draft reports and these will be reflected as appropriate in the final report.

Report on	Interim Update on Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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	Interim update in relation to Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council maintain over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns and settlements, some areas within Council are over provided for while others experience provision to a lesser extent. The draft Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to committee in June 2018. Members requested that further consultation be undertaken. Additional workshop information sessions were held on for members participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan. The Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented again to Committee again in September 2018. Members deferred approval requesting an extension for further consultation. Additional one to one consultations were made available to members in October and November 2018. Amendments, as agreed were factored into the final draft, which was presented to November 2019 Development Committee where it was approved. Budget allocations were presented to P&R Committee December 2019 and subsequently approved.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The adopted strategy will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over a projected 5 year period 2020 – 2025. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and proposes a direction that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.</p> <p>A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The five year strategy has a projected average spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,250,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,103,839 of funding over the period of the strategy across 25 sites. A further contribution of £300,000 from Peace IV will provide a combined strategy expenditure of £2,653,839 for identified for Parks and Play projects across Mid Ulster District Council to the end of 2025.</p>

	<p>The strategy will undergo a period review in year three to assess progress on its objectives. This report is an interim reflection of the current position given the impact of Covid-19 on the projected strategic action plan.</p>
3.2	<p>The Council in conjunction with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) have been rolling out initial phases of the Five Year Strategy with improvement schemes across twenty-five target locations, seventeen of which have been completed with the remaining eight projects ongoing. Major public park and play improvements ranging in value from £150,000 to £250,000 have been completed at Ballygawley, Upperlands and Fivemiletown with smaller village schemes across the district, delivering play park improvements to a maximum of £40,000 per site.</p>
3.3	<p>Two Strategic capital public park improvement schemes identified in the Council's five-year action plan are currently progressing at Ballyronan Marina and Round Lake, Fivemiletown. Projects to the value of £1.67m and £965,000 respectively, when completed will deliver modern and innovative flagship visitor amenities for an anticipated summer season in 2021.</p>
3.4	<p>In parallel with current live projects, framework tenders are being developed to deliver further play objectives across three existing sites at Monrush (Cookstown), Jacksonville (Moygashel), and Drum Manor (Cookstown) with a collective expenditure of £160,000. A new play park will also be created at Glenburn (Magherafelt) with a budget expenditure of £45,000.</p>
3.5	<p>Enhancement projects at Boyne Row (Castledawson), Knockloughrim, Northland (Moneymore), Reford Park, Ballysaggart and Killymerron (Dungannon) along with Ratheen (Cookstown) will represent a further investment of £160,000 under continued play scheme objectives with projected works programmes scheduled for summer 2021.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p>
	<p>Financial: Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan is resourced from central capital budget allocations and external funding streams as presented and approved by Council in December 2019.</p> <p>The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of additional external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Parks and Play Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointment of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and supply team (IST).</p>
	<p>Risk Management: The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures.</p>

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural and urban areas</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are invited to note the content of the report as presented for updates and information purposes.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	A considerable number of the objectives set by the Parks and Play Five Year Strategy have been delivered in conjunction with emerging and current opportunities. This is encouraging even in the face of lockdown restrictions slowing down progress on occasion. The following illustrations reflect some of the projects large and small that will enhance the quality and play experiences for families and their children for decades to come across the Mid Ulster Council District. The strategy will continue to roll out programme projects annually and will be evaluated in year three (2022-23) to ensure that the strategic direction is maintained and that opportunities that present are maximised.
6.2	<p>Ballyronan Marina Inclusive Play Hub Concept design. Project estimate £200k.</p> 

6.3 Fivemiletown Play Park Enhancement, drone footage. Project £150k.



6.4 Caledon Play Park Improvements 2020. Project £40k.



6.5 Ballygawley Play Park extension and upgrade 2019-20



6.6 Ballygawley Public Path improvements 2019-20. Project £250k



6.7 Tobermore Project £17k and Granville Play Park Project £40k 2019-20.



Report on	Interim Update Ballysaggart Lough Development Project
Date	Thursday 11 th February 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 update members on Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon Development Project.				
2.0	Background				
2.1	<p>In November 2017, Mid Ulster Council commissioned Outdoor Recreation NI to undertake a Strategic Outline Business Case for the proposed development of Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon.</p> <p>Development proposal for Ballysaggart Lough provided four indicative cost options</p> <p>Option 1 £0 (do nothing), Option 2 £610,500 Option 3 £239,500 Option 4 £163,500 (bare minimum)</p> <p>Ballysaggart Lough development poses significant challenges in relation to securing land ownership which may impede options 2 or 3. Option 4 (bare minimum) costed at £163,500 would enhance the overall experience to the site mainly through providing toilets and upgrading the existing trails and visitor services.</p>				
2.2	<p>Consideration of Options to meet the Project Need – Ballysaggart Lough</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option</th><th>Description</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Option 1 Do nothing/Status Quo</td><td> <p>Ballysaggart Lough would remain as is, with no further investment.</p> <p>Although Ballysaggart Lough would continue to provide a recreational resource for the local community, the site would continue to offer a lower quality experience than expected with no investment in the existing visitor services.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Option	Description	Option 1 Do nothing/Status Quo	<p>Ballysaggart Lough would remain as is, with no further investment.</p> <p>Although Ballysaggart Lough would continue to provide a recreational resource for the local community, the site would continue to offer a lower quality experience than expected with no investment in the existing visitor services.</p>
Option	Description				
Option 1 Do nothing/Status Quo	<p>Ballysaggart Lough would remain as is, with no further investment.</p> <p>Although Ballysaggart Lough would continue to provide a recreational resource for the local community, the site would continue to offer a lower quality experience than expected with no investment in the existing visitor services.</p>				

		Consequently, the opportunity to attract new visitors to the site and from all sections of the community would not increase.
	Option 2 (see Fig. 1 for Development Proposals)	<p>This option costed at £610,500 would provide the local community with a quality, shared and accessible green/open space. It would also open the site to new members of the community, increasing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion. This option involves;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new pedestrian footpath along Windmill Hill Road linking Ballysaggart Lough to the residential area of Fairmount and Annaghshee and ultimately Railway Park 2. 370m of new boardwalk path to link the end of the pedestrian footpath to the existing trail around the shore of the Lough. 3. A new 790m category 1 trail which would join into the existing trail and complete a circular walking trail around the Lough. 4. A new toilet facility with appropriate lighting that is accessible from the car through a new 'all ability trail'. 5. A new art/sculpture based on the Lough's birdlife. 6. People counters. 7. Upgrading of the existing trails (1600m) and visitor services including bins, benches, picnic tables, signage railings, gates, horticultural planting. Benches, picnic tables, signage etc to be bespoke based on the Lough's birdlife. 8. Upgrading of the existing jetty to a new slipway, rock armouring and upgrading of the car park.

	Option 3	<p>This option costed at £239,500 would provide the local community with a quality, accessible green/open space. It would not open the site to new members of the community, increasing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion given that the pedestrian footpath is not included. This option involves delivering option 2 as set out above, but excludes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the pedestrian link to Railway Park (high risk as dependent on successful landowner negotiation) 2. the new section of boardwalk trail (high risk as dependent on pedestrian footpath going in) 3. the new section of category 1 trail around the eastern side of the Lough (high risk as dependent on successful landowner negotiation) 4. upgrading of the car park, developing a slipway and rock armouring (deemed lower priority as will not increase the visitor experience)
	Option 4 (Bare minimum)	<p>This option costed as £163,500 involves delivering option 3 as set out above but in addition, reduces the quality and uniqueness of the visitor services product developed on-site, that is, specific elements are no longer bespoke to Ballysaggart Lough e.g. seating and specific elements are reduced in scope and scale e.g. art/sculpture and access signage.</p> <p>This option would therefore involve doing the bare minimum.</p>
2.3	<p>Ballysaggart Lough Concept Development Proposal 2017</p> <p>Option 2 : £610,500 (draft estimate 2017)</p>	



3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Mid Ulster District Council approved the current Outdoor Recreation Strategy in March 2020. The Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a clear direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2020-2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area. The strategy sets out the agreed projects and programme. Ballysaggart Lough development project is listed as a year 4/5 objective.
- 3.2 However, development work on the project is ongoing. The Ballysaggart Lough project is already taking shape under the current capital works programme associated to the councils responsibilities as Reservoir Managers as required under the Reservoirs (NI) Act. Ballysaggart Lough Flood Map (6.1). Council appointed Aecom Consultancy (Reservoir Engineers) in November 2020 to progress the necessary preliminary investigations and design/advise on structural remedial works for both Ballysaggart and

3.3	<p>Park Lake Reservoirs. The programme of works to include a tendering process and construction period projects a completion date in August 2022, subject to variation.</p> <p>The reservoir works are pivotal to the overall development of Ballysaggart Lough as the dam wall embankment (crest) is an option to achieve safe pedestrian access across the top of the dam to access the current network of paths that circumscribe the Lough (6.2). This option links into Ballysaggart Lough Concept Development Proposal 2017 (2.3).</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u> Financial: The Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan retains provision for the planned development of Ballysaggart Lough and is resourced from central capital budget allocations as presented and approved by Council in March 2020. Capital works associated to the responsible management of reservoirs is budgeted for under the council's capital programme 2020-2024.</p> <p>The Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of additional external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human</u> Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointments of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and Integrated Supply Teams (IST).</p>
4.3	<p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</u> Extensive consultation was conducted with Council Officers, Elected Members, public and statutory agencies, community associations and groups, clubs and the general public.</p>
4.4	<p><u>Rural Needs Implications:</u> In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan outcomes. Within the Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural areas.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are invited to note the content of the report as presented for updates and information purposes.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Ballysaggart Lough Flood Map.

6.2






Ballysaggart Lough Dam Wall Crest. Potential for pedestrian access path as part of proposed development plan to link Ballysaggart Lough and Railway Park.



Report on	Outdoor Recreation Strategy Update
Date of Meeting	Thursday 11th February 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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	Interim update in relation to Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council approved the current Outdoor Recreation Strategy in March 2020. The Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a clear direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2020-2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>MUDC area covers an area of some 1714 km², straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.</p> <p>Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are Forest Service NI (FSNI), MUDC, NIEA, Waterways Ireland, DAERA, RSPB, Woodland Trust, National Trust and the Ulster Wildlife Trust. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.</p> <p>A programme of actions and works based on key recommendations was identified. The strategy has identified a projected spend of £4,763,047 over the five year period of the action plan. The strategy will be reviewed in year three (2022-23) to assess progress and profile the remaining two years.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Work has been progressing on many sites. The following outlines the exact nature of works undertaken to date:</p> <p>Brantry Wood 2019 – refurbishment of Brantry Lodge (bookable for community events) and upgrade of forest trails, walk includes wooden animal sculptures and balance beams/stepping logs at several points along the length of the trail. The trail also includes a link to Brantry Lough and between the two sites there is just over 5km of off-road walking trail. This project is well received & is being heavily used. A data counter has been installed and early indications predict 9,000 users annually.</p> <p>Total cost: £170,930</p> <div data-bbox="256 725 764 1368">  </div> <div data-bbox="847 703 1378 1070">  </div> <div data-bbox="861 1111 1386 1368">  </div>
3.2	<p>Knockmany Forest 2020 – creation of a new amenity facility which include a changing places toilet, toilet block and a meeting room (bookable for community events) new all-ability Lake side path, upgrade of carpark and signage throughout the Forest. Knockmany Forest is a hub in the Clogher Valley region and this forest received heavy footfall. The addition of the amenity block and creation of new trails is being well-used.</p> <p>Total Cost: £298,386</p>



- 3.3 **Davagh Archaeology Trail 2020** – works progressing in the upgrade of forest trails to explore an ancient Cairn within the Forest.
Total Cost: £78,620
- 3.4 **Davagh Solar Trail 2020** – works progressing to create a walking trail linking Davagh Forest and Beaghmore Stones. This will be a boardwalk and will use augmented reality to bring the solar system to life along the trail.
Total Cost: £447,950
- 3.5 **Davagh Mountain Bike Trail 2021** – the creation of 7km red and 4km blue mountain bike trails within Davagh Forest, to include an all-ability gravity trail suitable for 4-wheeled trail bikes.
Total Cost: £336,000
- 3.6 **Moydamlaght Forest 2021** – path upgrades and creation to include new parking area, new Riverside trail to include balance beams/stepping logs etc. Work also includes path creation behind local community centre.
Total Cost: £255,000
- 3.7 **International Appalachian Trail (IAT) 2021** – new way-marking, signage and seating along the IAT linking Co Donegal to Co Antrim
Total Cost: £14,397

3.8	<p>Portglenone Riverside Walk and Fishing Stands 2019/21 – creation of new walking trail & fishing stands linking the Glenone Riverside Trail to the town of Portglenone. Upgrade of existing trail and fishing stands along the edge of the River Bann alongside Glenone Wood.</p> <p>Total Cost: £259,668</p>												
3.9	<p>Washing Bay 2019/20 – creation of new 1km around the Community Centre and sports pitches. This is a high volume use resource for the local community.</p> <p>Total Cost: £328,137</p>												
3.10	<p>Ballyronan Wood 2021 – plans underway to refurbish the existing woodland walk. This will include boardwalk, interpretation, seating and sculptures. Work will commence on this project February 2021.</p> <p>Total Cost: £81,000</p>												
3.11	<p>Scoping Studies for Dunmoyle, Drumcairn and Altmore Forest 2021 – Appointment of consultancy team completed. Schedule presented below.</p> <p>Total Cost: £27,900</p>												
3.12	<p>Forest Scoping Study Timeline</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th><th>Timescale</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Closing date for quotations</td><td>Monday 18th January 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Notification of successful/unsuccessful tenders</td><td>Monday 25th January 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Options Paper submitted</td><td>Friday 26th March 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Draft report submitted</td><td>Friday 23rd April 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td>Final report submitted</td><td>Friday 14th May 2021</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Timescale	Closing date for quotations	Monday 18 th January 2021	Notification of successful/unsuccessful tenders	Monday 25 th January 2021	Options Paper submitted	Friday 26 th March 2021	Draft report submitted	Friday 23 rd April 2021	Final report submitted	Friday 14 th May 2021
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3.13	<p>Community Trails Development 2021 – Research and present concept proposals for potential trails in each DEA. Draft Terms of Reference completed, consultancy for phase one will be progressed in 2021 as per strategy action plan.</p>												
3.14	<p>Horse Riding Opportunities 2021 - Research and present concept proposals for potential Off-Road Horse Riding Trails. Draft Terms of Reference completed, consultancy for this work will be progressed in 2021 as per strategy action plan</p>												
3.15	<p>Marketing & Communication 2021 – based on the publication of the new Corporate Plan, a new, updated Parks and Outdoor Recreation Marketing Strategy 2021 – 2024 is progressing as per strategy action plan.</p>												
4.0	Other Considerations												
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan is resourced from central capital budget allocations and external funding streams as presented and approved by Council in March 2020.</p>												

	<p>The Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of additional external funding that may enhance or change the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.</p>
	<p>Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan in conjunction with the appointments of appropriately qualified and experienced consultancy (ICT) and Integrated Supply Teams (IST).</p>
	<p>Risk Management: The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'ⁱ. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural areas.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are invited to note the content of the report as presented for updates and information purposes.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Lower Bann Blueway
Date of Meeting	11 February 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Charmain Bell

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 update Council on the Blueway Feasibility Study carried out for the proposed development of a Blueway along the Lower Bann from Newferry (West) to Toomebridge.
2.0	Background
2.1	Blueways are a network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside idyllic lakes, canals and rivers in Ireland. They provide scenic routes into the heart of rural Ireland by canoe, bike or on foot. A Blueway offers a truly unique experience into the countryside and along stunning waterways, allowing the visitor to experience a beautiful fusion of the past and present. A Blueway is very similar in concept to a greenway except rather than being a trail across land, this is a water trail.
2.2	The development of Blueways presents valuable opportunities for rural communities to attract more visitors. These values lie not only in the recreational opportunities that they offer but also in their potential to stimulate local businesses and regenerate local areas.
2.3	<p>The Lower Bann River which stretches for 60km from Toome to the Atlantic is rich in wildlife, history and built and natural heritage as evidenced by the wide range of environmental designations attributed to it. Although considerable development has taken place along the River in recent years, in order for the River to maximise its full outdoor recreation potential moving forward, several key issues have been identified that require urgent addressing namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the River is currently a hidden asset, not reality identifiable as a destination and therefore it cannot capitalise on its role in social and economic development. • currently access on the water allows full length navigation but the river banks only allow fragmented river bank routes for walkers and cyclists. • given that the Lower Bann drains Lough Neagh, Rivers Agency is obligated to manage the water levels in Lough Neagh releasing excess into the Lower Bann with consequent impacts on water levels and flows which then impacts water and river bank based recreation e.g. sailing and angling.

2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water skiing and jet skiing zones are not always being adhered to by the user groups thereby causing damage to the biodiversity and habitats of the area.
2.5	<p>In order to address these issues, Waterways Ireland has been working with the Local Authorities to create a 'Blueway' along the Lower Bann, which will significantly enhance the recreational opportunities in this part of Mid Ulster.</p>
2.6	<p>A Lower Bann Blueway would result in the development of a multi-use trail running alongside the already fully navigational water course linking walking, cycling, canoeing and paddle boarding with local towns and villages, leading to the creation of recreational hubs (clusters of activity), which then can be marketed as a 'Blueway', making the Lower Bann become more visible and recognised as a valuable recreational asset in the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area.</p>
2.7	<p>Stage 1 of the Lower Bann Blueway from Portglenone to Newferry was completed in 2019 with the provision of 25 additional coarse angling stands installed from the Portglenone Bridge upstream. These were designed to complement the existing 89 angling stands and walkway which also underwent improvements which included widening the existing path and repairing damaged pegs. As a result of the development, in June 2019 the Lower Bann hosted the 25th European Coarse Angling Championships. Additional work on the Blueway has also commenced from Newferry downstream towards the existing 89th peg.</p> <p>Council Officers working in collaboration with Waterways Ireland appointed a company to carry out a feasibility study to investigate the potential of extending the Blueway from Newferry (west) to Toome.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Gerry Darby Consulting was appointed to undertake and produce a feasibility study and recommendations report to assess the potential of extending and developing a Blueway either over land or water along the Lower Bann from Newferry (west) to Toomebridge, including Lough Beg. Consideration was given to the existing tourism attractions/tourism providers within a 5 mile radius of the stretch of water (<i>within the Mid Ulster District</i>), and how to improve accessibility to the Lower Bann.</p>
3.2	<p>The proposal also refers to the significant sites in the Mid Ulster Council area namely, Lough Beg and Church Island, Newferry West, Hutchinson's Quay and Portna. This will build on an already developed stage one trail along the Lower Bann from Portglenone to Newferry which was completed in 2019.</p>
3.3	<p>This study provides a variety of trail options, together with a preferred option, based on the limitations and barriers that exist along the shoreline. These barriers and limitations include potential quick shoreline flooding, access permissions from landowners, and the tight statutory planning and environmental regulation as a result of strict European and local environmental legislation.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: £1,000 MUDC Grant aid received from Waterways Ireland £10,000
	Human: Delivered within the roles and responsibilities of council officers
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Blueway Feasibility Study along the Lower Bann from Newferry (West) to Toomebridge
6.2	Appendix 1. ASSI Creation and Views about Management
6.3	Appendix 2. Blueway Management Development Guide
6.4	Appendix 3. Trail Specifications

Blueway Feasibility Study along the Lower Bann from Newferry (West) to Toomebridge.



Gerry Darby Consultancy
Authored by Gerry Darby and Dr William
Burke

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Summary

The basis of this proposal is to carry out a feasibility study for the development of an intended Blueway trail between Newferry (west) and Toome. The proposal will also refer to the significant sites in the Mid Ulster Council area namely, Lough Beg and Church Island, Newferry West, Hutchinson's Quay and Portna. This will build on an already developed stage one trail along the Lower Bann from Portglenone to Newferry which was completed in 2019. Mid Ulster District Council are also the main client for this proposal and are working in collaboration with Waterways Ireland.

The proposed Blueway will not only form part of a full multi-use trail running alongside part of the river Bann but will also act as a linkage between recreational hubs, and villages and provide a real tourism asset for the Mid Ulster District area.

This study attempts to provide a variety of trail options, together with a preferred option, based on the limitations and barriers that exist along the shoreline. These barriers and limitations include potential quick shoreline flooding, access permissions from landowners, and the tight statutory planning and environmental regulation because of strict European and local environmental legislation.

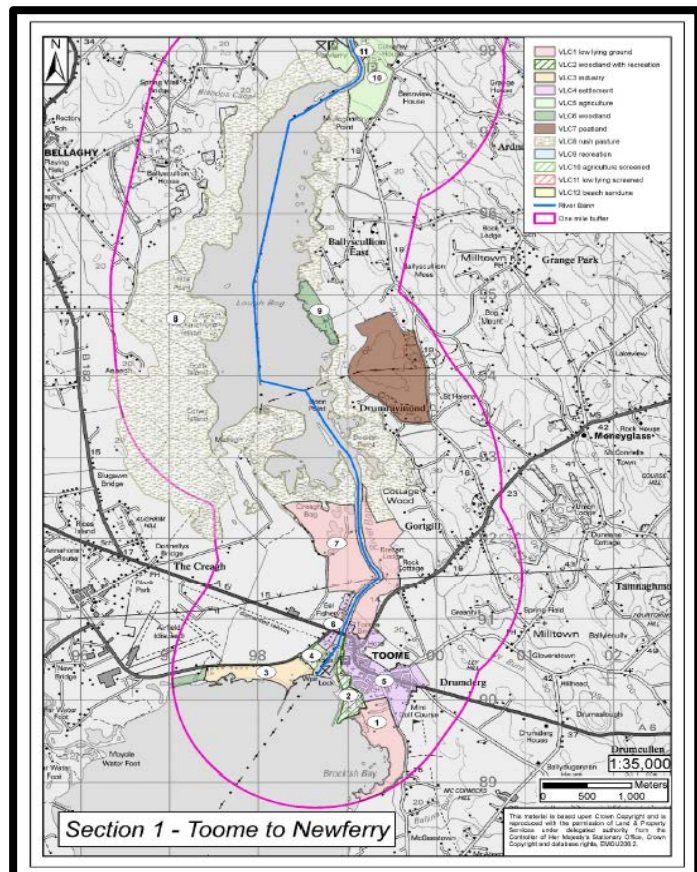
It is hoped that this new proposed trail will link in with other and potential trails along the whole of the Bann to create a full 60 km Blueway with potential to stimulate local businesses and regenerate local areas along its length.

Chapter 1: Context

Site Description

The types of landscape that are to be found in this study area are both varied and unique. They include types such as woodland, agricultural, peatland, and rush pasture. The rush pasture around the main shoreline of Lough Beg has a particularly high environmental value and sensitivity due to their unique ecosystem. The Lough itself is less than 2m deep and because it floods in winter it provides a particularly important habitat for wintering

Figure 1: Different Types of Landscape



wildfowl and then in the spring, as the levels decrease, the same habitat supports large numbers of breeding waders (redshank, lapwing, curlew, snipe.) Breeding populations of snipe, redshank and curlew are among the highest in Northern Ireland. In spring and autumn Lough Beg is important for migrating birds to rest and feed on their way through. The area is also home to large areas of cut-over raised bogs such as Culnafay Bog and its associated aquatic vegetation form part of the internationally important Lough Neagh Ramsar site. The wet grasslands and rush

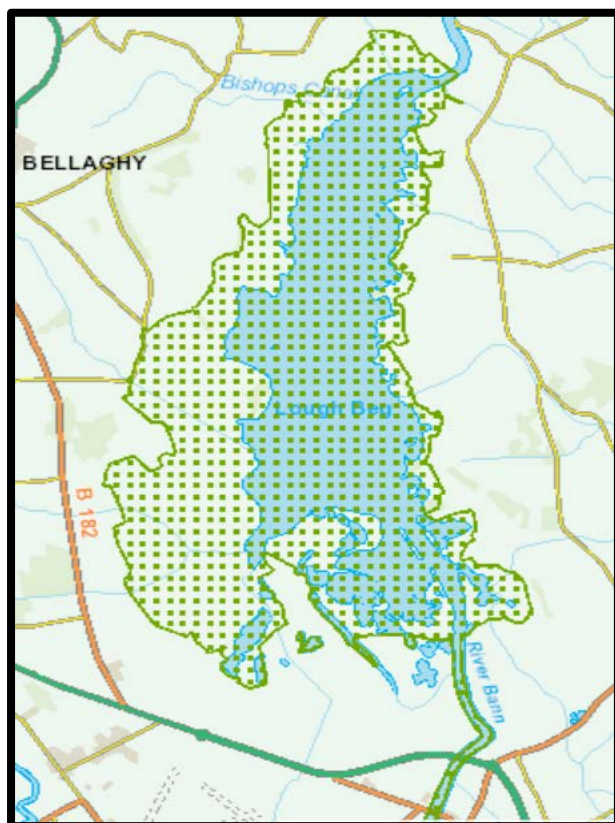
pasture also contain rare vascular plant assemblage including Irish ladies' tresses. Northern small reed, and water wort, pennyroyal,

Chapter 2: Environmental Designations

Lough Beg which is in the main central landscape type within the study area has several different and important designations associated with it, including local, UK and European. It is linked and taken to be part of the wider Lough Neagh designations. These include, RAMSAR, Special Protected Area (SPA) and an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). It also holds some satellite ASSI designations due earth science quality and other habitat or species importance. These will be identified later.

Designation Boundaries and Shoreline Focus

Figure 2 SPA Area



The Lough Beg SPA boundary takes in the main waterbody of the lough together with all adjoining natural and semi-natural habitat of conservation significance. All islands within the lough are also included. Adjoining agriculturally improved areas utilised by swans are not included but their importance is significant and these are identified separately. The SPA boundary is based on the ASSI boundary although there are some

small variations around the shoreline. The Ramsar designations round the shoreline of the Lough also follows the ASSI boundary except for the southern part of the Lough where it extends.

Special Protected Area

Under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409, Lough Beg qualifies as Natura 2000 and Special Protected Area site by regularly supporting whooper swans and under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of breeding common tern.

Under Article 4.2 of the Directive, it qualifies as a Natura 2000 site along with Lough Neagh as a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting a variety of species of waterfowl in winter including Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Scaup, And Coot.

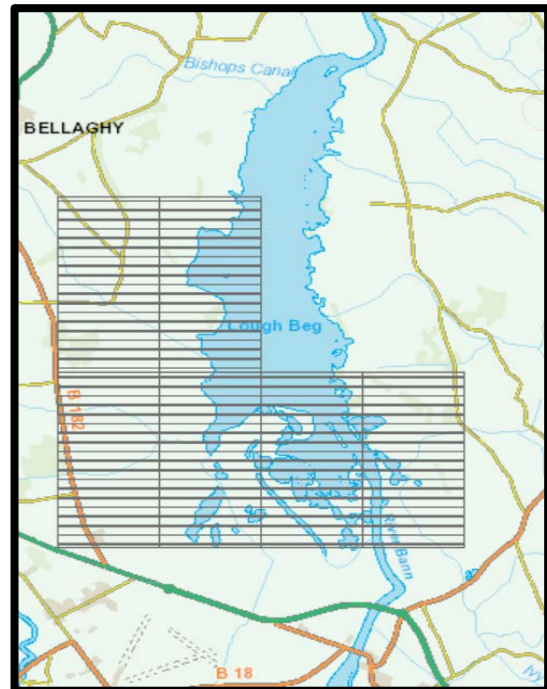
Lough Beg is also notable for supporting an important assemblage of breeding birds, some species which occur in nationally important numbers - great-crested grebe, gadwall, pochard, tufted duck, snipe, redshank common include, Lesser Black-Backed Gull and Black-Headed Gull. Other Important Breeding Wetland Species Include Shelduck, Teal, Shoveler, Lapwing and Curlew.

ASSI Features

The ASSI designation of Lough Beg is different from the SPA designation in that it identifies important habitats as well as species and it is based on UK and not EU law. Furthermore, species features are not just confined to birds but include fish, invertebrates, and flora.

The Lough Beg site is designated under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2) and contains the main features detailed below. A more detailed view on how the features should be managed is provided in the NIEA document “Views about Management”. This is detailed in Appendix 1 The area identified in the study includes a large area of wet grassland which is home to an important amount of breeding wader birds such as Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Curlew. The RSPB are working in the area to help revive these priority species bird. These breeding bird areas can be seen in figure three. The main species and habitats include:

Figure 3 Lough Beg Breeding



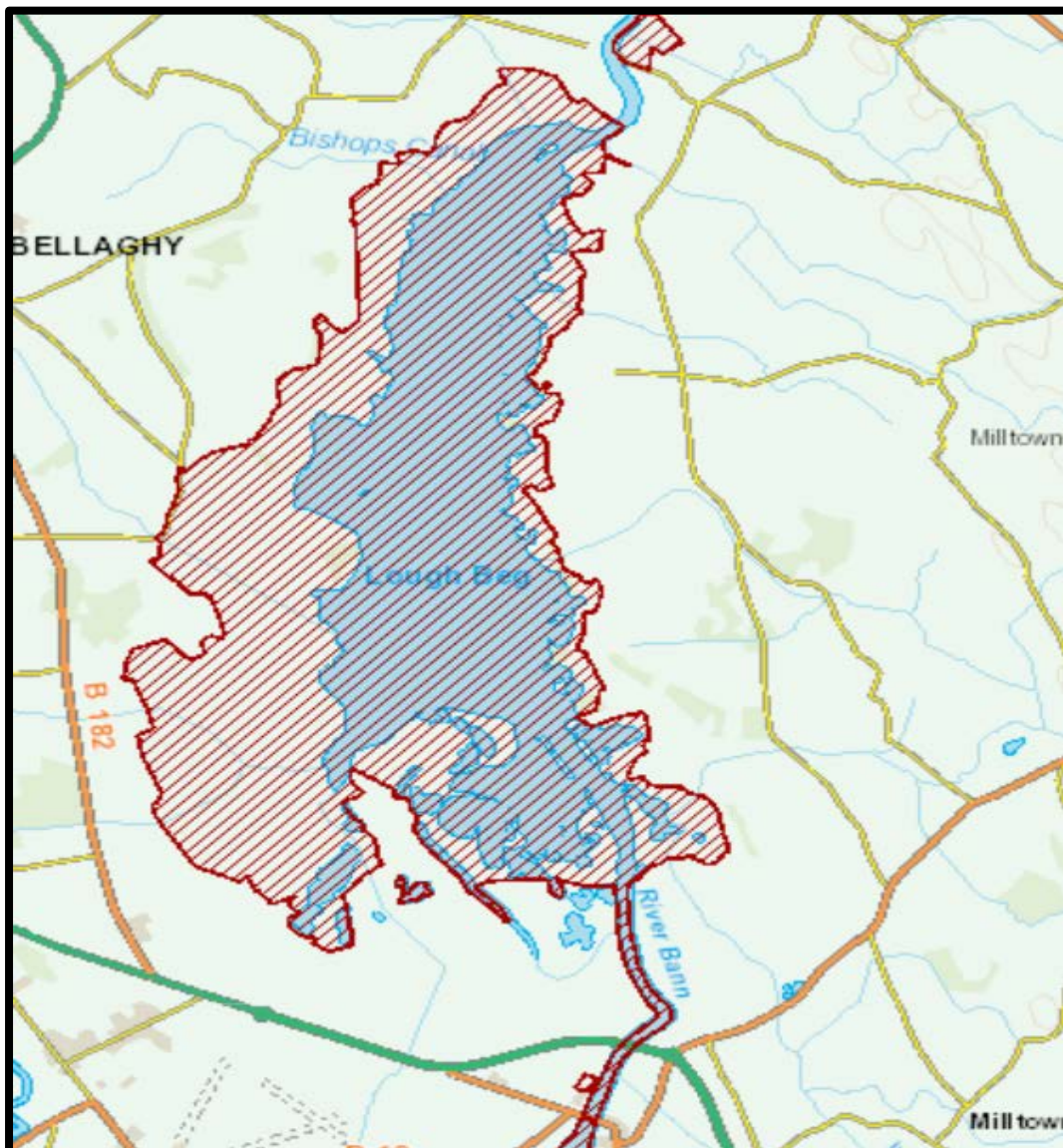
1) Habitat

- Species rich wet grassland
- Wet woodland
- Fen and Swamp

2) Species

- Wintering Water birds
- Breeding Water Bird
- Breeding Common Tern
- Breeding Waders
- Fish Assemblage
- Rare Plants

Figure 4 Lough Beg ASSI Boundary



Whooper Swans

A large amount of whooper swan rest and feed in the Loughs Neagh/Beg area over winter. These iconic birds migrate from Iceland in mid-October, with swans wintering at the same sites each year. They feed predominantly on improved or wet grassland and arable stubbles. The Swan's return migration takes place in March and April.

The birds are a feature of the Special Protected Area and are an Amber-listed species with more than 20 per cent of the UK population wintering in Northern Ireland.

Because they feed almost in the same area this could come into conflict with any possible trail development. Their presence in winter also minimises the period in which any potential work could be carried out. The map below indicates where the feeding areas are identified.

Figure 5 Whooper Swan Feeding Areas



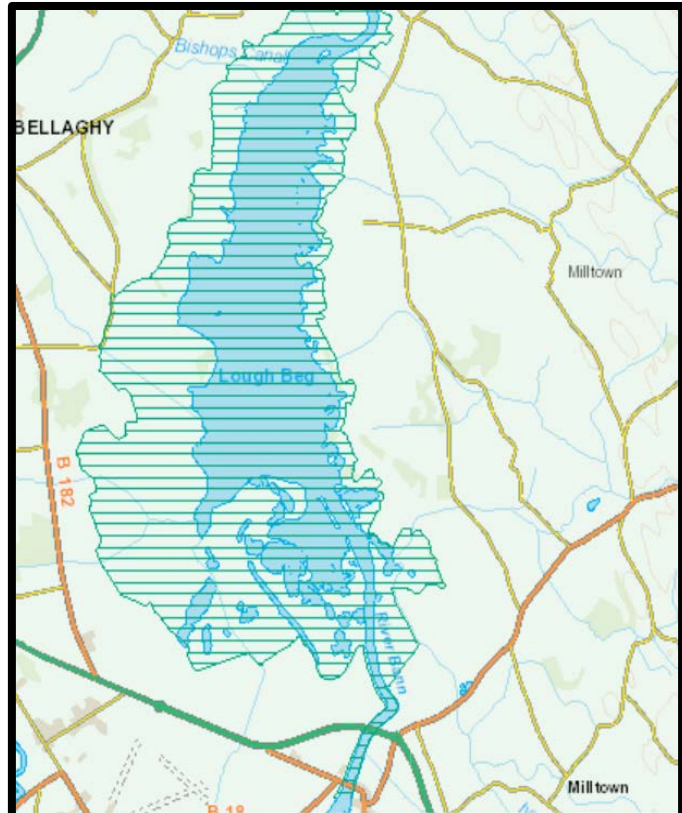
Ramsar

Lough Beg and Lough Neagh are Ramsar sites which means they are designated under the terms of the Ramsar Convention. The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and 'wise use' and has three main 'pillars' of activity:

- The designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites.
- The promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country.
- International co-operation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Figure 6 Ramsar area

Lough Beg qualifies under the Ramsar convention by a few criteria but mainly because it is a particularly good representative example of natural or near-natural wetlands and supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable, or endangered species or sub-species of plant or animal. As with the ASSI and SPA designation RAMSAR could impinge on the direction of any Blueway trail.

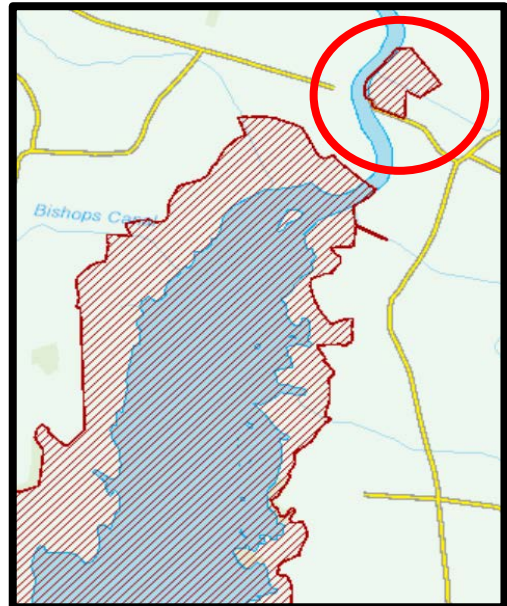


Other Close by ASSI,s

Culnafay ASSI

Figure 7 Culnafay ASSI Map

Culnafay ASSI is an area of special scientific interest because of its deposits of diatomite. Diatomite consists of accumulated diatom frustules with differing amounts of clay, silt, sand, and peat.



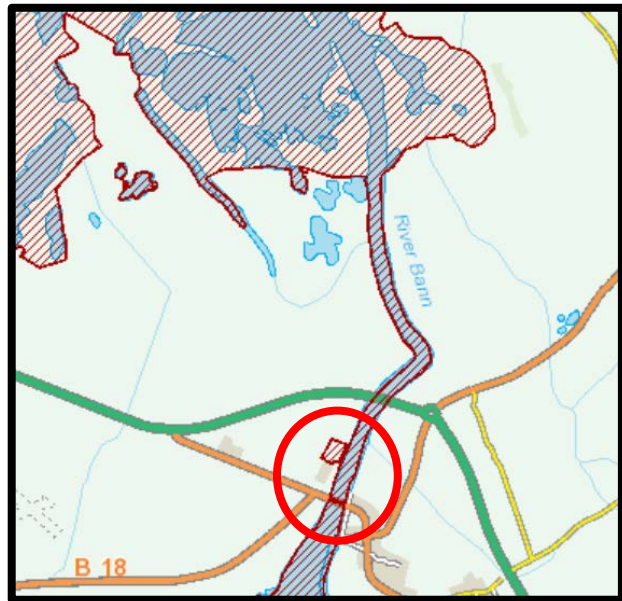
The diatomite which was extensively mined and extracted is also known as Bann clay. At Culnafay, as in much of the Bann valley, the diatomite was probably deposited in an elongated lake, and could contain remains or evidence of Mesolithic occupation sites. In relation to the potential Blueway trail the site is on the other side of the Bann and should not impinge on any development

Toome ASSI

The area is of special scientific interest because of its diatomite deposits as at Culnafay. Past commercial exploitation in the Lough Neagh basin has reduced the area of intact material to a small site like these.

At Toome, the diatomite forms part *Figure 8 Toome ASSI*

of the lowest lake terrace of Lough Neagh and is up to 2m above the present lough level. This site contains the longest total sequence of diatomite and associated deposits (3-4m thick in places) encountered in a recent survey of the remaining diatomite deposits of the Bann valley. This remaining site is amongst the



most important deposits of freshwater diatomite in the British Isles and are unique when considered with the associated materials. Because of this rare site again caution would be needed if developing a trail through this area or an alternative way around it could be identified

Built Heritage

There are several important buildings and historical monument sites scattered throughout the proposed study area. Most of these are on the west side of Lough Beg and the river Bann. The most important scheduled site is without doubt Church Island. This is marked red on the map.

The Large green area identified on North of the map is Ballyscullion House and Domain. The house is listed. The important Church Island site consists of a church and graveyard standing on the highest part of the island. The graveyard is enclosed by a stone wall and the church is dated late medieval but sits on an earlier church. There is also a late 18th century

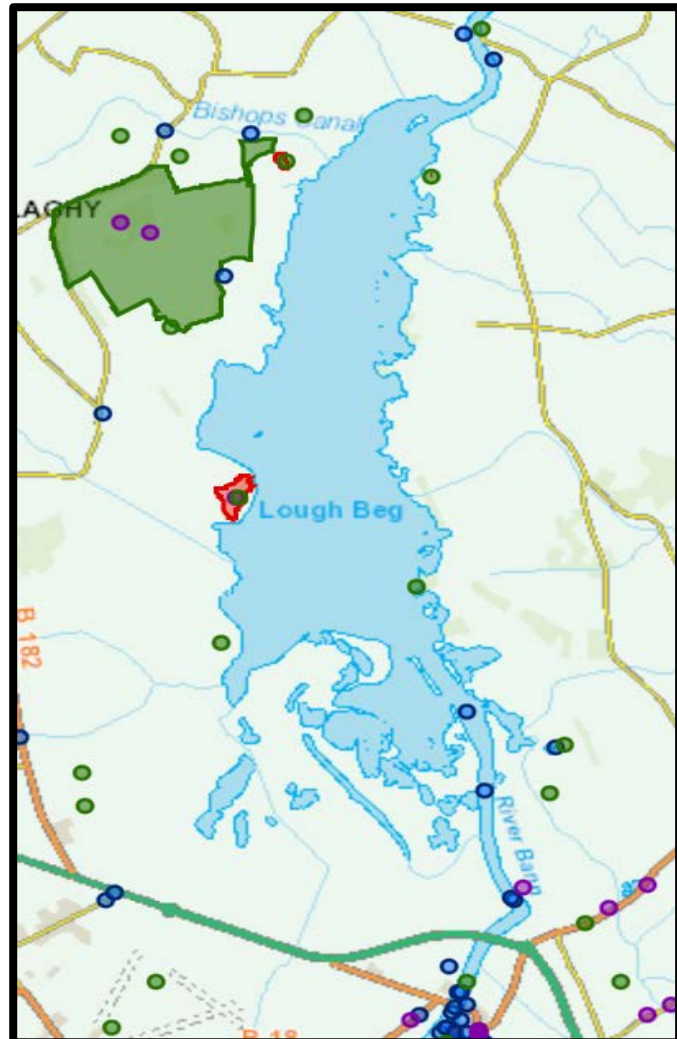
tower/folly built on the site. The site is of local cultural importance with pray and pilgrimage visits by local people carried out in the summer when the land is dry enough to be walked to.

Toome Village and the nearby area also has a high concentration of industrial heritage ranging from old

Figure 9 Built Heritage Sites

diatomite processing buildings to important historic fishing quays and the Lough Neagh Eel Co-operative. Mid Ulster Council have been promoting and linking many of the sites to the places and people mentioned in poetry of Seamus Heaney. This “Openground” trail also offers the opportunity for visitors to link with the Seamus Heaney Home Place. The potential Seamus Heaney sites are located at:

- Lough Neagh
- Toome and Toomebridge
- Lough Neagh Eel factory
- The Lower River Bann, as it flows into Lough Beg
- Church Island on Lough Beg
- The Strand at Lough Beg (west side)



Chapter 3: Strategic fit and Regulatory Framework

Planning

The development of a Blueway trail within the defined the study area should give due consideration to the wider strategic context and in particular the regulations of the planning system, as these can place strong limitations of any actual physical development. Any trail development should also fit and match the main aims and objectives of associated strategic documents such as tourism plans or other relevant existing studies

It is important to note that the Strategic context to any proposed development on the whole of the Bann has already been explained and detailed in the “Lower Bann Corridor Study Volume 1 and 2 2017” and it is not the intention of this document repeat this exercise. However, it did highlight several important strategic documents and programmes which should be referred to in this study. The important and relevant strategic and planning programmes include:

- Programme for Government
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable
- Development, September 2015
- Regional Development Strategy, 2035 (prepared by Department for Infrastructure¹¹)
- Planning Policy Statements on a wide range of planning related topics (prepared by Department of the Environment)

- Local Development Plans for new district areas (when they come into being).

The Programme for Government, Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and the Regional Development Strategy, 2035 whilst important for setting context are somewhat distant from the real regulatory framework needed to assist with the development of tBlueway trails on the ground. On the other hand, the Planning Policy Statement, Local Development Plans and Village Plans provide a much more practical tool to help with the development of projects such as an activity trail and these will now be examined in more detail.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)

Planning Policy Statements are important in that they set out the policies on land-use planning in Northern Ireland and have a strong influence on the development of the Local Plan. The main PPS, s that are relevant to this proposal include:

- PPS 2: Natural Heritage - specifically related to environmental designations
- PPS 4: Planning and Economic Development – development in the countryside, should benefit economic activity while protecting or enhancing the environment
- PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage – Identified the importance of landscape quality or buildings and monuments of local significance are therefore worthy of protection
- PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation – where Policy OS 6 will permit the development of facilities ancillary to water sports

adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs, and waterways where a number of criteria are met (as specified in the document)

- PPS 16: Tourism – gives guidance on the development of tourist accommodation

However, while the PPSs support economic tourism and recreational development, outdoor recreation, and tourism, they also set policy for landscapes and habitats and buildings that need protection and set the agenda for what is included in the Local development Plan.

Local Development Plans

Mid Ulster Community Plan

The Council's Community Plan seeks to bring about the conditions that will enable citizens to live in a "welcoming place where people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where the economy is thriving; the environment and heritage are sustained; and where public services excel". The plan has been produced in partnership with statutory partners including Tourism NI. The proposal fits with Theme 1 Economic Growth through improving the attractiveness of the area as a tourism destination, capitalising on the tourist assets of activity and heritage. An extension of this is reflected in the plans associated supporting document, the Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy, which has a core objective of getting more people to visit and stay overnight in the District. Critically, the project will maximise tourism investment and employment concentrating on Mid Ulster strategic tourism themes of Activity and Heritage. The project will also contribute to Theme 2 Infrastructure by increasing access to and

development of the natural heritage assets at Newferry, Lough Beg, Toome village (west) and Lough Neagh.

Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

The project fits with Mid Ulster District Council's corporate plan 2015 – 2019 particularly through the theme of “Creating Growth” which identifies support for rural communities and the regeneration of towns and villages. The purpose of this theme is to promote the towns and villages of Mid Ulster as a good place to shop, visit, invest, and live in. Further priorities include:

- Forming and encouraging collaborative partnerships to deliver positive outcomes for the people and the district.
- Create and build a sense of civic pride in towns and villages across Mid Ulster Connecting communities and forming collaborative partnerships through community planning.
- Maximise our natural & built attractions & facilities, building collaborative partnerships & strategic alliances.

The project is consistent with facilitating regeneration of rural villages, in this case Bellaghy, Castledawson and Toome and the desire of council that rural villages act as an economic and service hub for their rural hinterland.

Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan 2015–2020

The Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan 2015 – 2020 sets out Mid Ulster District Council's key priorities for growing the local economy over five years and explains how we aim to achieve them. Identified themes for growth include:

- Enabling Economic Growth/Sectoral Diversification
- Enabling Employability and Skills
- Enabling Town and Village Regeneration
- Enabling Infrastructure and Connectivity

Theme 3 aligns to the key priorities of the Rural Development Programme and the Village Renewal Scheme. Community Planning in Mid Ulster District Council has outlined its vision encompassing working together, taking the long-term view, and tackling difficult issues such as balanced growth and development; community cohesion and safety, disadvantage, poverty, regeneration; sustainability; and well-being.

The Plan has identified 15 outcomes to be achieved in Mid Ulster the life of the plan. This project supports the following specific outcome – “Our towns and villages are vibrant and competitive”. The project uses disadvantage as its focus in addition to the regeneration and renewal themes and this we believe is innovative. It is a project that is embedded in a bottom-up approach and is a true partnership between civic leaders and community, from development of the project through to delivery and management. The project will not only seek to improve the infrastructure

on the ground but create groundwork for the newly implemented Community Plan. A result of this joined –up approach, the community groups will be geared up for exploiting the potential of the Community Plan in a way which will impact on their local communities in terms of increased socio -economic benefit. The development of a quality walking and cycling product between Newferry and Toome will provide a quality off-road access. This coupled with way-marking and interpretation will enable visitors and locals to explore the shoreline and learn about its ecology.

Mid Ulster District Council - Our plan to develop tourism in Mid Ulster to 2021

The Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan provide a framework to guide destination development, planning, management, and marketing over the period 2016 - 2021. The strategy recognises that tourism performance is largely based on rural and outdoor activities and tied into the area's natural attributes and the region is a developing destination that in recent years has not fulfilled its potential to contribute to economic growth.

Lough Neagh and its Waterways Destination Management Plan

The Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 (DETI) provides the strategic direction and targets for Northern Ireland tourism and sets out a range of priorities which fall under four key themes – People, Product and Places, Promotion and Partnership. The aim is to provide a vision for the development of Northern Ireland's tourism experience to the year 2020 and an action plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy is the intention to grow income from visitor numbers. As part of the delivery of the

strategy, Tourism NI aimed to support tourism stakeholders in local regions throughout Northern Ireland in the production and delivery of “Destination Development Plans”. The Lough Neagh and its Waterways Destination Management Plan aims to advance the tourism product within the destination area and is the blueprint to drive the tourism experience in the region. The Lough Neagh Partnership, lead body in this destination, aims to ensure that the tourism and leisure potential of the Lough is maximised. Lough Neagh’s main tourism strength lies in its diversity of water-based sports and activities which is a focal point for tourism in the area. The development of a new Blueway connecting the Lower Bann with Lough Neagh via Lough Beg will contribute significantly to this through the provision of infrastructure that contributes to attracting those interested in ‘slow adventure’ and engagement with local heritage such as canoeing, walking, and cycling on a destination focused approach.

Mid Ulster Tourism Plan

The Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan was drawn up by Mid Ulster Council in 2016 and provides a framework to guide destination development, planning, management, and marketing over the period 2016 - 2021. The strategy recognises that tourism performance is largely based on rural and outdoor activities and tied into the area’s natural attributes and the region is a developing destination that in recent years has not fulfilled its potential to contribute to economic growth.

It identified several important tourism issues in relation to Mid Ulster and a number of these are specifically relevant to the Blue -way study area. These include:

- The poor visibility of Mid Ulster's natural heritage, outdoor activity, and historic and archaeological heritage
- Lough Neagh and its Waterways suffers from a lack of developed product, with difficult access to the water and a complex shared decision making amongst 5 local authorities.

Equally several important opportunities were identified and more importantly, opportunities that support the development of trails. Linkages to the heritage of the area, the importance of landscape and demand for more outdoor recreational activity were highlighted and include:

- The development of the Seamus Heaney tourism product and experience associated with the new Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy has provided a strong new heritage experience very close to the study area and will closely link with the Blueway
- The very high concentration of Neolithic, and Bronze age sites across Mid Ulster, offer a unique tourism and the study area contains a significant amount of built heritage sites. The new Blueway should include as far as possible access to important heritage monuments and sites.
- Outdoor tourism sites and experiences, such as Davagh Forest Mountain bike track and the stage 1 Blueway development are already in place, and this suggests that the outdoor tourism product can be exploited further right across the area.
- The Seamus Heaney Trail development offers exciting opportunities to integrate tourism in the landscape.

In conclusion the strategy identifies three main strategic pillars on which the Blueway Trail can link into and these should be duly recognized and give priority in relation to the development of any the new stage 2 Blueway trail. These include

- Seamus Heaney Centre
- Archaeological sites, history, and heritage
- Outdoor Recreational Activities such as walking and cycling.

Waterways Ireland Lower Bann Corridor Study

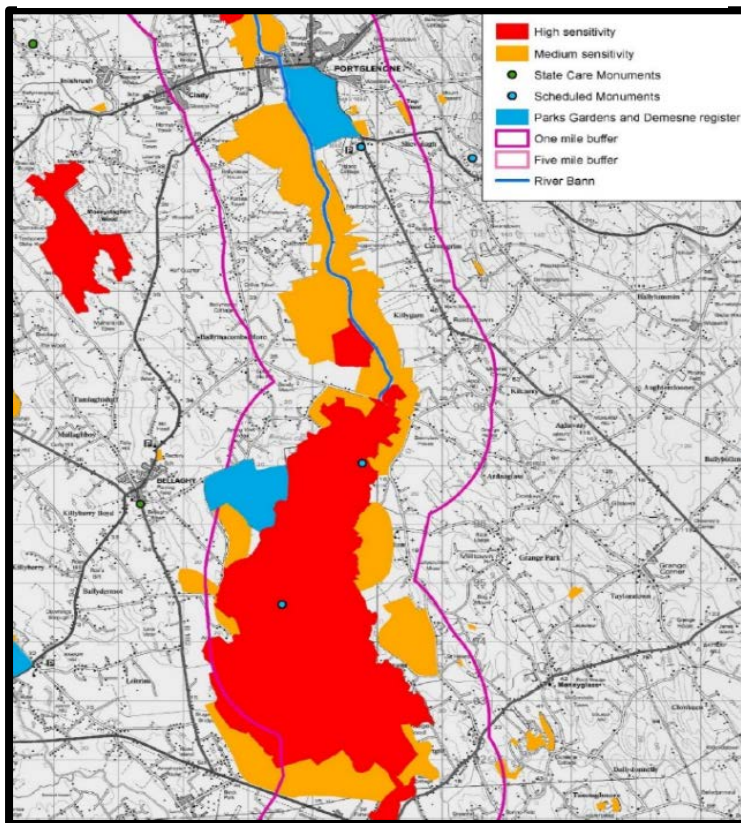
The Lower Bann Corridor study was commissioned by Waterways Ireland and had the official title of “Recreational Tourism and Commercial Product Identification Study for the Lower Bann. The main aims of the study are to identify commercial tourism products and opportunities along the whole of the Bann corridor, identify existing users and future tourism development sites for product development together with potential sources of funding.

The document is important for the purposes of this study in that it identified sensitivities with regards to natural and built heritage sensitivities and provides recommendations and protocols which should be applied to the development of any future recreational tourism projects. These should be equally applied to the development of any Blueway Trail development within the confines of this study area.

- Any developments proposed located where habitats have important EU designations should show a strategic need for development

- Any developments proposed to be located where habitats designated as being of importance at a national or local level, or sites where species of national importance are known, should carefully consider the reasons for designation of the site and reflect this in the proposal.
- Where possible, proposed developments should be in areas where existing settlement recreational development has taken place, to minimise habitat disturbance
- Habitats should not be fragmented, and where possible, development should seek to further enhance the natural riverine environment within which they are proposed to be sited
- Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) should be sought from the department where development is proposed within the vicinity of a scheduled site
- Historic parks, gardens, and demesnes by their nature, are a designed landscape and represent different development challenges to that of the natural landscape. Given that the majority are privately owned, effective partnership working will be required to take forward any proposed developments at these sites
- Enhancing visitor numbers to heritage sites (archaeological or environmental) can bring about unpredicted damage to them. The relevant European Conventions and other International Charters that inform heritage work should be adhered to when considering or completing development work

Figure 10 Landscape Sensitivity Map



Newferry to Toome which can be seen here on this page.

Together with these protocols, the Waterways Ireland Study also provides prepared Landscape and Environmental Sensitivities maps for the whole of the river providing a full overview of the sensitivity of the landscape to development in relation to the Lower Bann. A map was prepared for the area from

Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland Promotion Strategy

In order to achieve the vision outlined in the Department for Economy's Draft Tourism Strategy to 2020, Tourism NI has placed a focus on moving from a tourism sector which emphasises the attributes of the landscape or the standalone infrastructure assets on offer, to one which focuses on the emotions, feelings and sensations that visitors will have on their journey, the stories they will learn and the connections they will make i.e. experiential tourism.

To do this, Tourism NI has developed a set of five core experience themes that are unique and authentic to Northern Ireland. Of these themes the

Blueway trail from Toome to Newferry has the potential to contribute to the 'Unique Outdoors' core experience theme.

Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI have also developed a segmented approach to marketing and promoting tourism products. This focusses on people's preferences and motivations looking at why people take holidays and what they want to do. The main segments that could relate to a Blue Ways Trail would include the "Culturally Curious" and the "Great Escapers"

Chapter 4: Existing Products

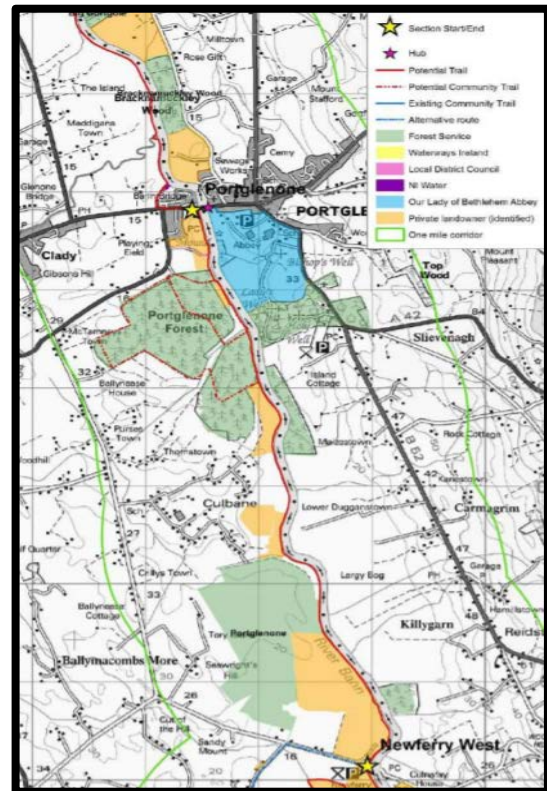
For a relatively small area the Blueway study area in this proposal has a surprisingly large amount of recreational and tourism activity, either present or in the process of being developed. The following is a summary of these activities and indication of their priority in relation to the development of a new Blue way trail from New Ferry to Toome. These should be given some sort of priority in relation to fitting in with the proposed new Blueway.

1 Waterways Ireland Stage One Blueway (Portglenone to Newferry)

Waterways Ireland has already developed the Blueway concept on many of its other waterways. The basis of the concept is to develop an activity trail in parallel to its existing waterway canals or rivers. The trail along with the rivers and canals creates connections between the water and land and on small towns and villages along the way. It is also important to note that the Blueway's scheme is also promoted and developed through a new guideline and accreditation scheme. Details of the management and accreditation criteria can be found in Appendix 2.

Waterways Ireland have also carried out a path feasibility study identifying a possible path from Toome to Coleraine. A study was titled “Feasibility Study into the Development of a Walk and Cycle Route along the River Bann, from Toome to Coleraine”. It was this proposed phase one route that was developed by the Mid Ulster Council Waterways Ireland and other partners.

Figure 11 Stage One Path from Portglenone to Newferry West



Phase one of the River Bann development incorporated a new Blueway pathway from Portglenone to Newferry West. This is a new multi-use 7 Km public path accessing new and existing angling stands and the stands were host to the 2019 European Coarse Angling Championship.

The phase one is intended to link naturally at Newferry West to this study area phase 2 project.

2) Ballyscullion Park

Ballyscullion Park is situated at the north of the study area and consists of a private property and parkland which offers use of its beautiful historic gardens and grounds for weddings, civil ceremonies, and receptions. Accommodation is available in five Courtyard Cottages. Each cottage sleeps 6 people and it also caters for corporate events, private parties, and private tours. It has also been the location for some Game of Thrones

Scenes. Any path development would probably have to bypass the parkland due to its listed status but the owner is keen to work with local tourism operators and so some linked products could developed particularly with people interested in visiting the house or the Game of Throne Scenes.

3) Church Island

Church Island is a small island on the west side of Lough Beg Lough Beg - 1.5 miles from Bellaghy. It has a lot of historic monuments including a thirteenth century church, Balluan Stone and a 18th century Folly Spire built by the then Bishop Hervey. The actual Church Ruin has been recently restored by the Historical Environment Division through funding from the Lough Neagh Partnership.

The fields and strand surrounding the Island are equally important in terms of breeding wader birds and plants such as rare orchid "Irish Lady's Tresses. Any proposed pathway would probably have to skim around the boundary of the ASSI which covers the Island and surrounding strand or if permission could be granted a walkway from Longpoint could also be developed. Better access by boat should be considered as the Island is difficult and dangerous to access from land. Waterways Ireland are examining the possibility to the mitigating use of any sand or silt raised from any dredging operations. A possible causeway proposal could at least be examined as long-term option once the technology for this has been fully developed.

4) Seamus Heaney Open Ground Sites

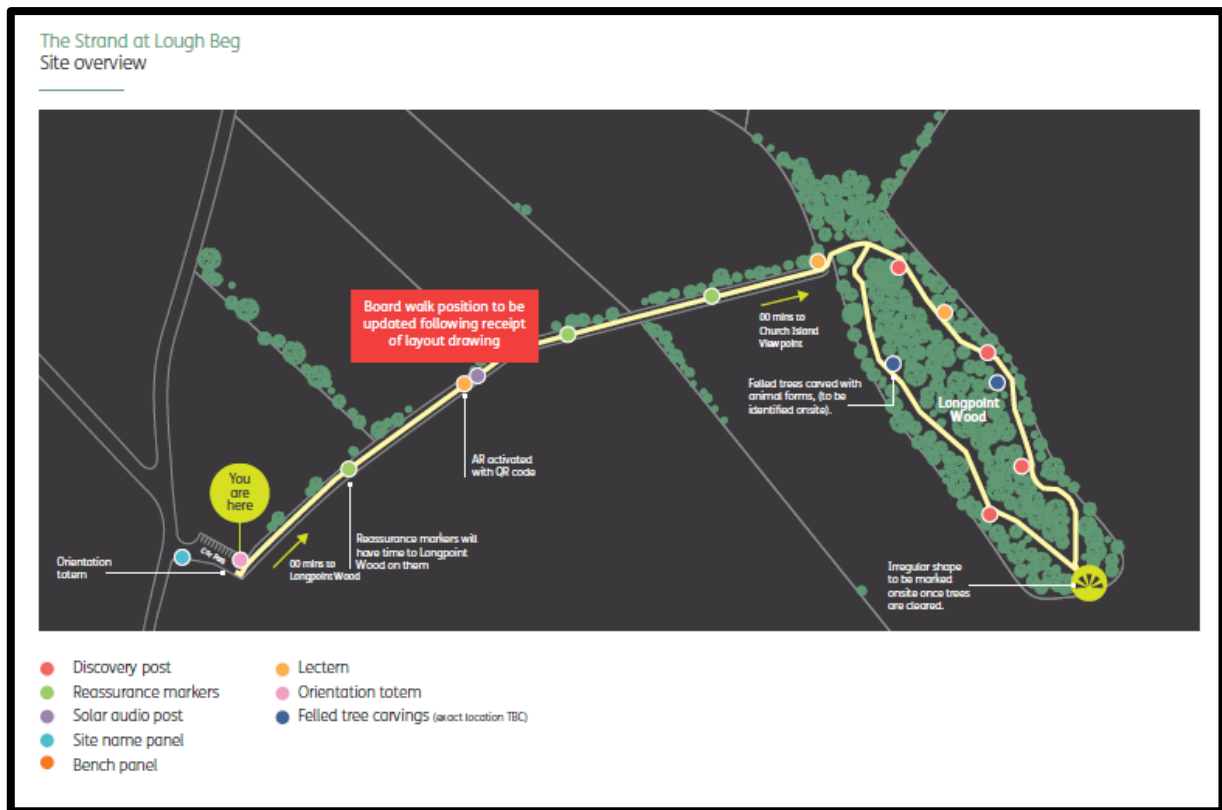
Figure 12 Relevant Open Ground Sites



The Seamus Heaney Open Ground Project is a proposed network of locations and sites that are associated with the poetry of Seamus

Heaney. The sites will be upgraded to provide seating and interpretation on each of the landscapes, views, and relevant poem. The sites will provide a small space to reflect both on the interpretation of the landscape location and the meaning and sentiment of the words of the associated poem. The sites will also include a sculptural interpretation and digital info point and all will link and relate back to the main Hub of the Seamus Heaney Homeplace Center in Bellaghy. There are two main sites that relate to the area and these are the Lough Neagh Fishermen's Cooperative site at Toome and the site at Lough Beg Strand. The site at Lough Beg Strand will include a walk to Long Point Wood subject to access agreement. This will be probably one of the most inspiring sites in the study area and it is important that there is some linkage to the new Blueway Trail.

Figure 13 Access to Long Point



5 Seamus Heaney Home Place

Figure 14 Seamus Heaney Home Place



The Seamus Heaney Home Place is a new interpretation centre celebrating the life and poetry of Seamus Heaney. The £4.2 million centre is based in the village of Bellaghy which is about 5 km away for the proposed Blueway trail. It also contains a café and small

theatre, known as the Helicon. The centre is the focus and hub associated the Open Ground project and is the main Tourism product in the Study I area and is of fundamental importance in promoting and marketing the

trail. Unfortunately, the Centre is too far away physically to link by an access path as this would increase the costs of the project considerably.

6) Lough Neagh Tours

The Lough Neagh Partnership has recently developed an experiential Food tour focusing in on wider Lough Beg area. The tour involved visits to local pubs and sites including the Toome Lockhouse, the Thatch pub, Ballyscullion House, Toome eel fishery, and the Crosskeys pub. Local food is tasted along with an explanation of local folklore and interpretation of the landscape.

The Partnership also has developed and provides a Seamus Heaney Tour visiting sites and locations associated with the Poet Seamus Heaney. Locations that are visited include Seamus Heaneys Homeplace, Bellaghy Bawn, his graveside, the Strand at Lough Beg, Toome Eel fishery and a small local historic forge. Most of the sites have associations with Seamus Heaney poems. Some of these locations will cross with sites associated with the Heaney Open Ground project and of course the new potential Stage 2 Blueway. There are opportunities to work with the Partnership to help cross promote the new Blueway along with Waterways Ireland and Mid Ulster Council

7) Toome Eel Fishery and Interpretation Centre

Figure 15 Toome Eel Fishery



Toome Eel Fishery is based in Toome on the shores of the River Bann. In the summer of 2019, a new interpretative centre was developed inside the fishery, explaining the work of the fishermen's cooperative and the journey of the Lough Neagh Eel. The facility is also one of the sites associated with the Seamus Heaney Open Ground project. It

would therefore be important for this facility to be linked in some way any new trail proposal.

8) Toome Lockhouse

Figure 16 Toome Lockhouse



Toome Lockhouse is a new café and interpretation facility. The project involved the restoration of the original Lock house and was funded by the Lough Neagh Partnership and Waterways Ireland.

This new recreational and tourism facility has proved successful and will be a perfect starting or finishing point for the Blueway trail.

Chapter 5 Consultation with stakeholders

Due to the limitations and restrictions imposed on head-to-head meetings with people by Coronavirus, consultation with landowners could not happen and meetings with the main partners was restricted to digital Zoom meetings.

The requirement to engage with landowners on the ground could not be carried and this therefore this means that the final route identified in this study will still require access negotiation and agreements with landowners to be made. Hopefully as the restrictions of Coronavirus come lesser as the year progresses then this could possibly be followed up.

Details of known landowners will be provided separately to Mid Ulster Council as the names and addresses of individuals cannot be published in public. Some new landowner details may also have to be found based on the final agreed route. The opportunity to do this has unfortunately been restricted by the Coronavirus pandemic and this will have to be followed up later.

Chapter 6 Blueway routes and options

Route Options

Having considered the strategic context in which Blueway routes could be developed together with the constrictions and existing opportunities it is important to examine several potential Blueway Routes so that we can try to assess which would be the most viable and best value for money. In preparing the route options the following methods were use

- Desktop research - to inform the trail requirements process and review information previously gathered specifically relating to the project.
- Site surveys and analysis - to complete the trail options assessment.
- Mapping using QGIS to illustrate the route corridor and required route infrastructure.

In identifying the optional location for the trail, six criteria were established to assist with selection. These included:

- Access Status
- Safety
- Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Enjoyment
- Cost

Each route is appraised and given a score of how well it performs against each criterion set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Appraisal Criteria and Scoring for Preferred Route

No.	Criteria	Considerations/Explanation	Score
1	Access Status	<p>What is the permission status of the route?</p> <p>Are there formal access agreements in place?</p> <p>What is the ability to achieve formal access agreements along entire route?</p> <p>Is the route close to private residential property?</p>	<p>1 – No permission is likely to be granted for some/all the routes.</p> <p>2 – Unlikely to obtain permission for full route.</p> <p>3 – Some permissions in place</p> <p>4 – Likely to get / already have in place permission for most of route.</p> <p>5 – Permission guaranteed for full route</p>
2	Safety	<p>How hazardous is the route – on technical and personal safety basis?</p> <p>Technical – how much of the route is on road?</p> <p>Is the route perceived as dangerous?</p> <p>Personal - Is the route through fields with cattle in? Is the route secluded</p>	<p>1 – Least safe</p> <p>5 – Most safe</p>
3	Sustainability	<p>How environmentally sustainable is the route?</p> <p>How much maintenance/management will be required?</p>	<p>1 – Least sustainable</p> <p>5 – Most sustainable</p>

4	Accessibility	Is the route across steep and difficult terrain? Is the gradient and path surface suitable for all/most abilities?	1 – Least accessible 5 – Most accessible
5	Enjoyment	How enjoyable is the route to walk? Does the route take in scenic views? Is it away from traffic? Does it take in points of interest, e.g., monuments etc?	1 – Least enjoyable 5 – Most enjoyable
6	Cost	What costs would be involved to develop the path?	1 – Highest cost 5 – Lowest cost

A total of four options were identified:

- Option 1: Use of existing road network (baseline)
- Option 2: New build route between Newferry and Toome
- Option 3: New build between Newferry and Long Point Wood/Church Island
- Option 4: New build between Long Point Wood and Toome

These options are discussed overleaf.

Route Option 1: Use existing road network (Figure 17)



Table 2: Option 1 Existing Road Appraisal

No.	Criteria	Considerations/Explanation	Score
1	Access Status	Utilises the existing road network to link Newferry with Toome. No permissions are required.	4
2	Safety	Entire route is on a combination of narrow 'B' Class roadways and major 'A' Class arterial routes including a dual carriageway. There is an absence of pedestrian footpaths and safe crossing points and traffic volume is extremely high. The roads are therefore dangerous and unsuitable for recreational walking or cycling.	1
3	Sustainability	Little management or maintenance is required.	4
4	Accessibility	This route would not be accessible to all abilities due to the absence of suitable safety infrastructure. However, it is flat terrain with no significant gradient change and the tarmac would be suitable well experiences cyclists. The absence of a footpath and the narrow nature of the road impacts negatively.	2
5	Enjoyment	The route is on the main road network and, albeit bounded by mature hedgerows in places, it is not an enjoyable route to walk because of the traffic.	1
6	Cost	The cost of developing this as the Blueway is minimal requiring way markers only.	4
Total Score			16

This option has been discounted as it does not reflect the aspirations of a functioning Blueway.

Route Option 2: New build between Newferry and Toome (Figure 18)

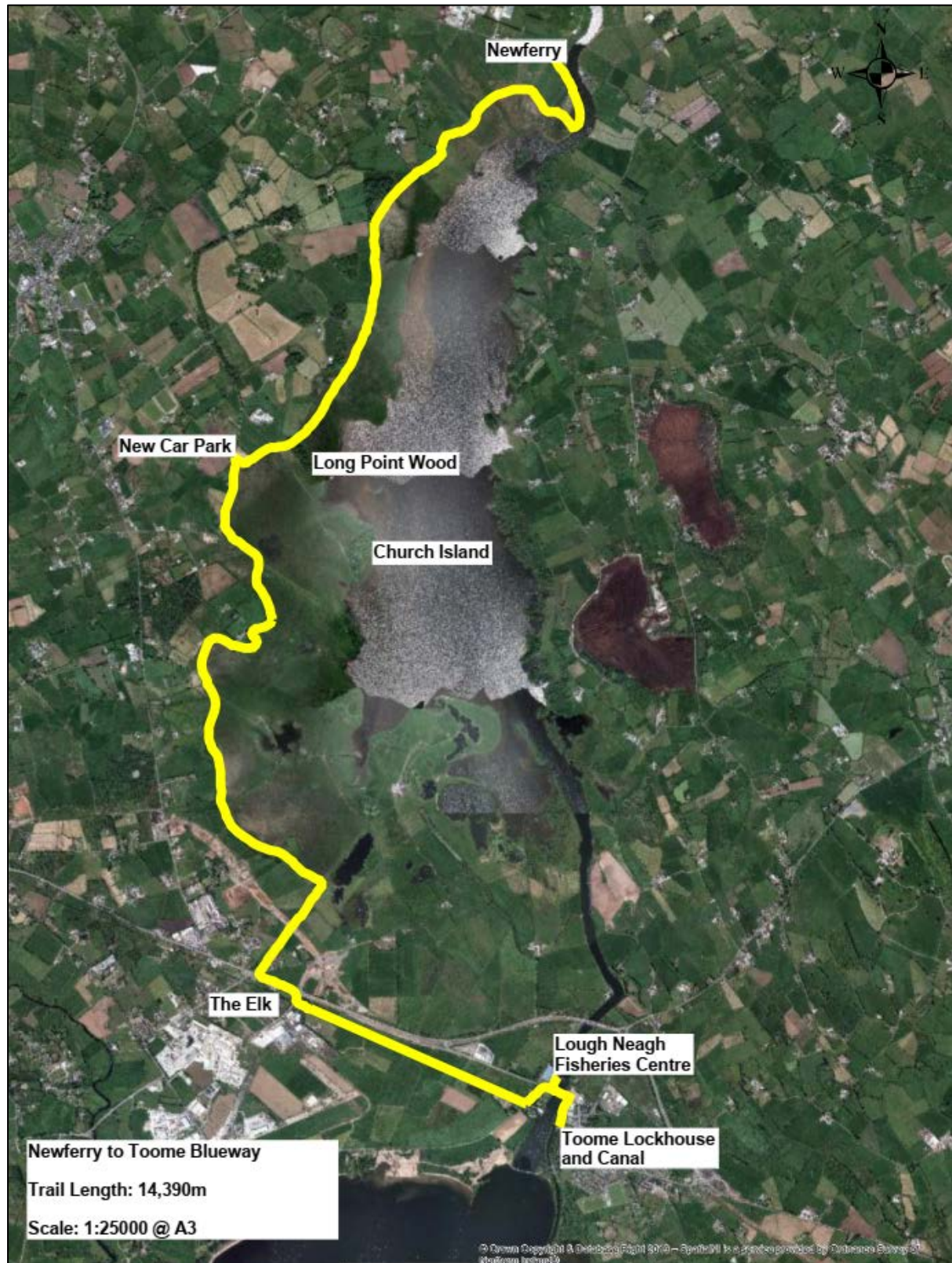


Table 3: New build between Newferry and Toome Appraisal

No.	Criteria	Considerations/Explanation	Score
1	Access Status	Much of the access is over land in private ownership and will subsequently require a longer process of engagement with the landowners to agree permissive path conditions. This is a significant risk that requires a well-planned methodology to secure agreement. MUDC have experience in progressing this approach having already secured agreement for access to Long Point Wood from the Ballydermot Road. Access is also required through lands designated for their natural heritage. This may also have implications for securing planning consent and will require the completion of an Appropriate Assessment to ensure no damage or loss is incurred on the designation features because of route development and construction. Similarly, much of the northern section is prone to flooding which may impact 'all year' access. The line of the route takes the user near private residencies which is likely to be problematic. With widespread future community engagement and ongoing consultation with statutory agencies and NGO's, it may be possible to address these access constraints	3
2	Safety	The route is 9% on road with the remaining 81% through fields and along existing tracks. Cattle are seasonally grazed along parts of the trail so appropriate fencing will be required to ensure public safety. The	3

		route is isolated and there are occasional water hazards.	
3	Sustainability	The option traverses the boundary of the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA for much of its length so there is a risk regarding negatively impacting the site designation features both during construction and use. Appropriate methodologies will have to be put in place to mitigate against this. The northern portion of the trail may be subject to seasonal flooding so this will have an impact on whole life costs which must be budgeted for. To minimise these longer-term management and maintenance costs it is recommended that either a lower cost substrate is used for the trail or a higher specification raised boardwalk be installed to reduce the impacts of water damage.	2
4	Accessibility	This route would be accessible to all walkers, cyclists, and others. Ground is flat terrain with no significant gradient change. Gates are located at various points along the path.	4
5	Enjoyment	90% of the route offers scenic views of the shoreline and Lough. Moderately flat terrain makes it an enjoyable walk for majority of users. Enjoyment is only reduced by the wetter conditions midway along the trail	5
6	Cost	The cost of developing this option is constrained by the site's designations and issues of flooding. A combination of raised boardwalk and gravelled path for up to 90% of the route will increase costs significantly.	3
Total Score			20

Option 3: Newferry to Long Point Wood Appraisal (Figure 19)



Table 4: Newferry to Long Wood Point Appraisal

No.	Criteria	Considerations/Explanation	Score
1	Access Status	Informal permissions in place along certain parts of the route. Much of the remaining access is over land in private ownership and will subsequently require a longer process of engagement with the landowners to agree permissive path conditions. This is a significant risk that requires a well-planned methodology to secure agreement. MUDC have experience in progressing this approach having already secured agreement for access to Long Point Wood from the Ballydermot Road. Access is also required through lands designated for their natural heritage. This may also have implications for securing planning consent and will require the completion of an Appropriate Assessment to ensure no damage or loss is incurred on the designation features because of route development and construction. Similarly, much of the section is prone to flooding which may impact 'all year' access. The line of the route takes the user near private residencies which is likely to be problematic. With widespread future community engagement and ongoing consultation with statutory agencies and NGO's, it may be possible to address these access constraints	3
2	Safety	The route is 100% off road traversing through fields and along existing tracks. Cattle are seasonally grazed along parts of the trail so appropriate fencing will be required to ensure public safety. The route	3

		is isolated and there are occasional water hazards.	
3	Sustainability	The option traverses the boundary of the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA for much of its length so there is a risk regarding negatively impacting the site designation features both during construction and use. Appropriate methodologies will have to be put in place to mitigate against this. The trail may be subject to seasonal flooding so this will have an impact on whole life costs which must be budgeted for. To minimise these longer-term management and maintenance costs it is recommended that either a lower cost substrate is used for the trail or a higher specification raised boardwalk be installed to reduce the impacts of water damage.	2
4	Accessibility	This route would be accessible to all walkers, cyclists, and others. Ground is flat terrain with no significant gradient change. Gates are located at various points along the path.	4
5	Enjoyment	100% of the route offers scenic views of the shoreline and Lough. Moderately flat terrain makes it an enjoyable walk for majority of users.	5
6	Cost	The cost of developing this option is constrained by the site's designations and issues of flooding. A combination of raised boardwalk and gravelled path for up to 60% of the route will increase costs significantly.	3
Total Score			20

Option 4: Long Point Wood to Toome Appraisal (Figure 20)



Table 5: Newferry to Long Wood Point Appraisal

No.	Criteria	Considerations/Explanation	Score
1	Access Status	This option utilises both portions of the existing road network and land in private ownership. The development and construction of the new A6 dual carriageway is a major constraining factor to securing a more direct connection to Toome. As a result, the route deviates away from the Lough to utilise the safest crossing point which will be a new footbridge just north of Creagh roundabout. Much of the remaining access is over land in private ownership and will subsequently require a longer process of engagement with the landowners to agree permissive path conditions. Access is also required through lands designated for their natural heritage. This may also have implications for securing planning consent and will require the completion of an Appropriate Assessment to ensure no damage or loss is incurred on the designation features because of route development and construction. The line of the route takes the user near private residencies which is likely to be problematic.	3
2	Safety	The route is 86% off road traversing through fields and along existing tracks. Cattle are seasonally grazed along parts of the trail so appropriate fencing will be required to ensure public safety. The route is isolated and there are occasional water hazards. Of greatest concern is the proximity of the new A6 dual carriageway which represents a significant danger	2

3	Sustainability	The option traverses the boundary of the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA for much of its length so there is a risk regarding negatively impacting the site designation features both during construction and use. Appropriate methodologies will have to be put in place to mitigate against this. The trail may be subject to seasonal flooding so this will have an impact on whole life costs which must be budgeted for. To minimise these longer-term management and maintenance costs it is recommended that either a lower cost substrate is used for the trail or a higher specification raised boardwalk be installed to reduce the impacts of water damage.	2
4	Accessibility	This route would be accessible to all walkers, cyclists, and others. Ground is flat terrain with no significant gradient change. The exception will be the new A6 footbridge which is ramped to facilitate disabled access. Gates are located at various points along the path.	3
5	Enjoyment	60% of the route offers scenic views of the shoreline and Lough. Moderately flat terrain makes this section an enjoyable walk for majority of users. The remaining 40% follows the A6 which is noisy and unpleasant	3
6	Cost	The cost of developing this option is constrained by the site's designations and issues of flooding. A combination of raised boardwalk and gravelled path for up to 50% of the route will increase costs significantly.	3
Total Score			16

Chapter 7 Agreed Route

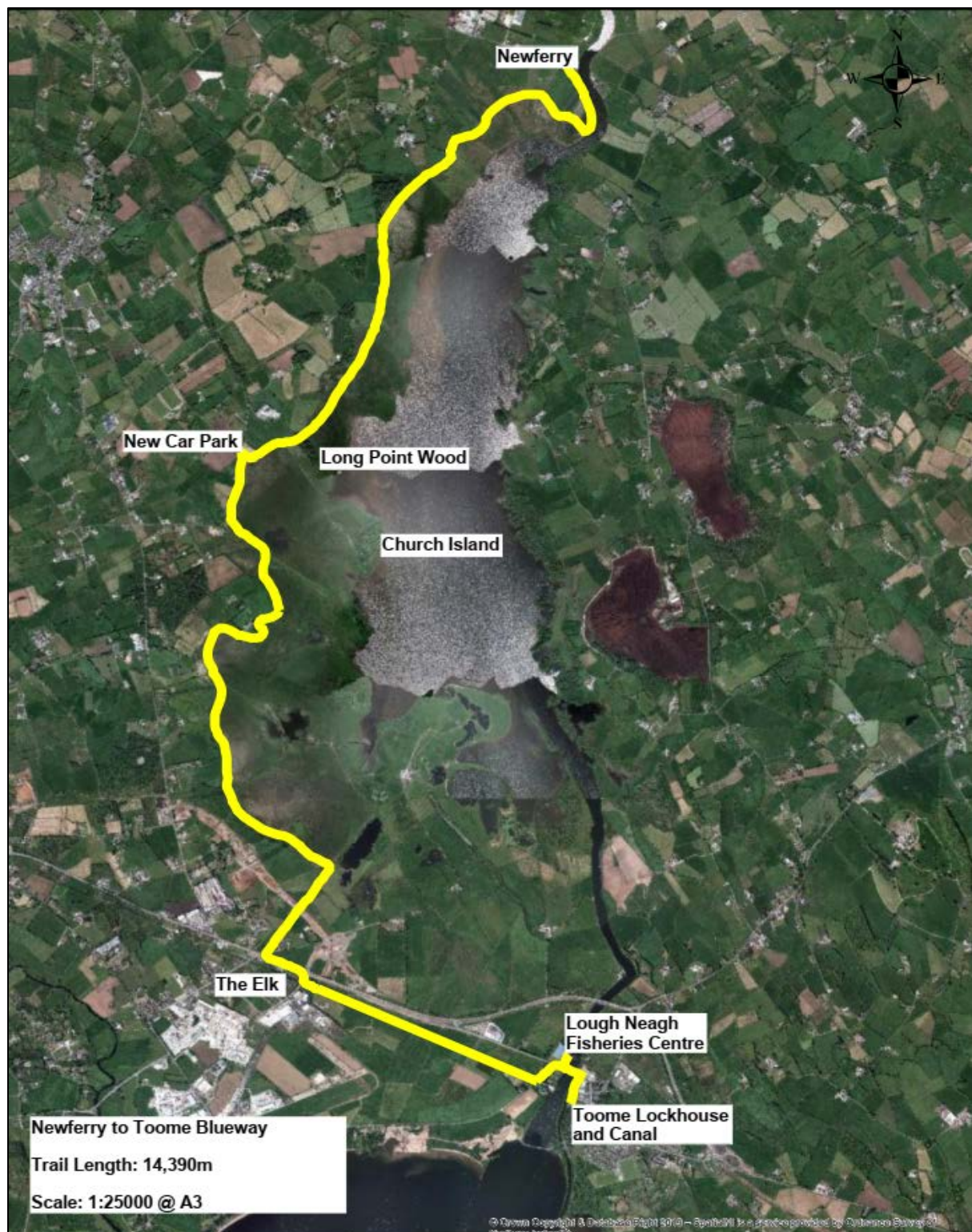
Route Description

The preferred new Blueway (Option 1) will run from Newferry (west) located on the River Bann southwards along the western shore of Lough Beg for a length of 14.4 Km where it will connect with the recently developed Lock keepers Cottage Heritage Centre and Café, adjacent to Toome Canal.

To ensure value for money, mitigate against damage to protected habitats and species and to meet the connectivity objectives of the scheme, the proposed route has attempted to utilise existing farm tracks, following the periphery of the Special Protection Area (SPA) boundary, and will be strategically placed to achieve maximum connectivity with other built, cultural, and natural heritage assets.

Materials and methodologies selected for new build and path refurbishment works reflect the natural setting of the Blueway which will be fully fenced and constructed of a compacted gravel trail or elevated boardwalk with handrails if sensitive areas are present. The route will be fully waymarked in both directions and appropriate safety signage installed. Infrastructure such as bridges and gates will also be installed where necessary.

Figure 21 Agreed Route



Figures 22

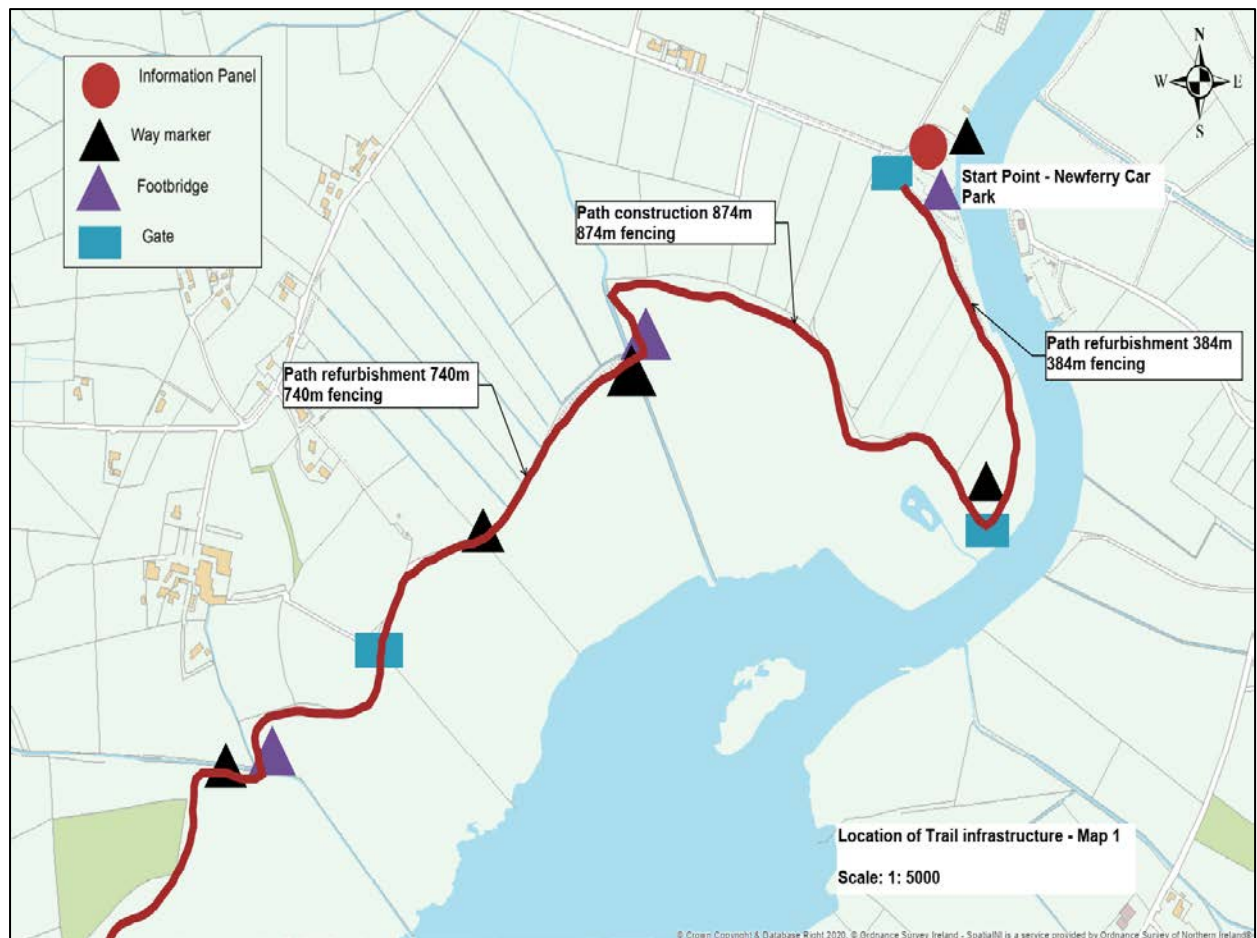


Figure 23



Figure 24

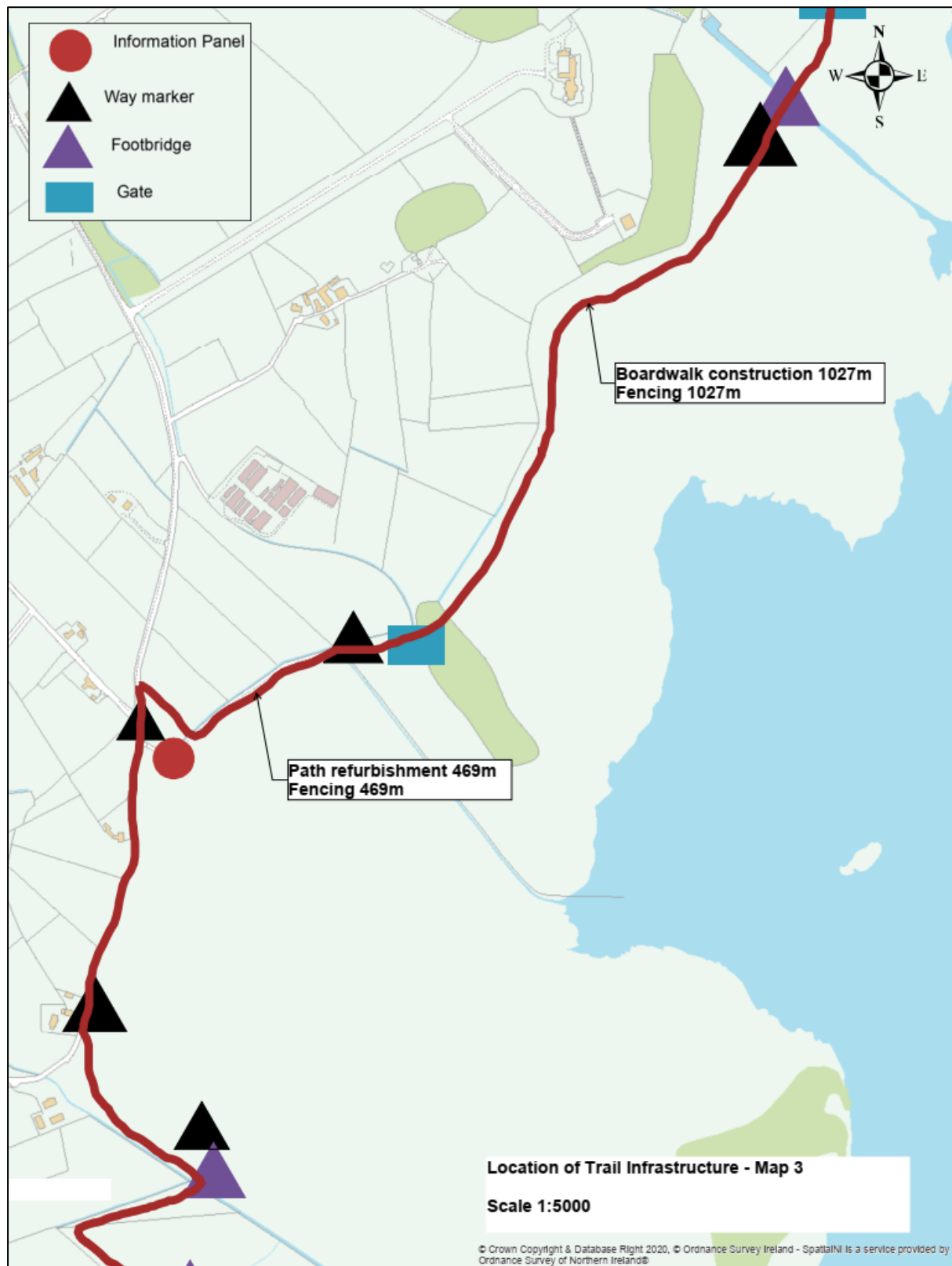


Figure 25

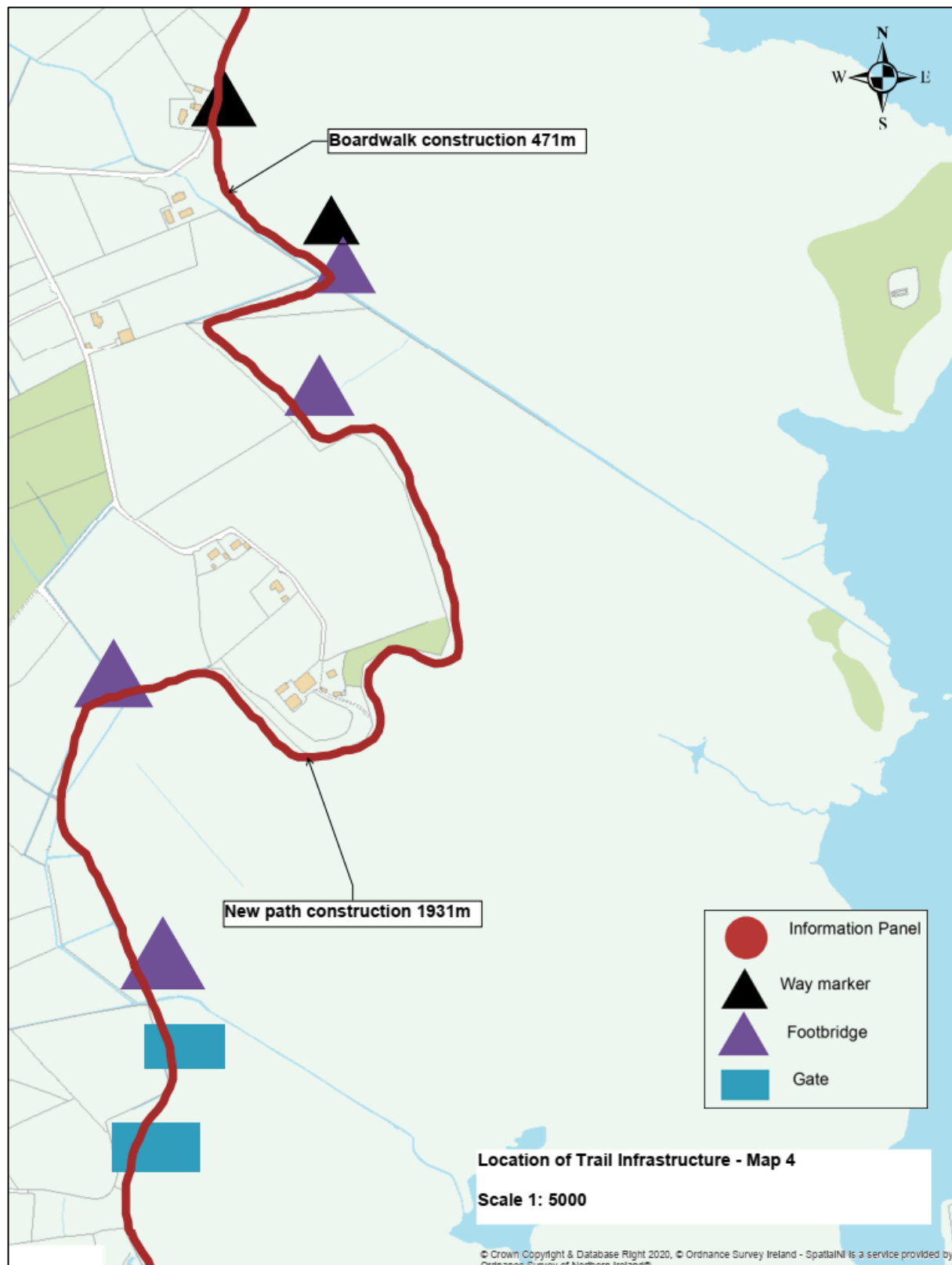


Figure 26

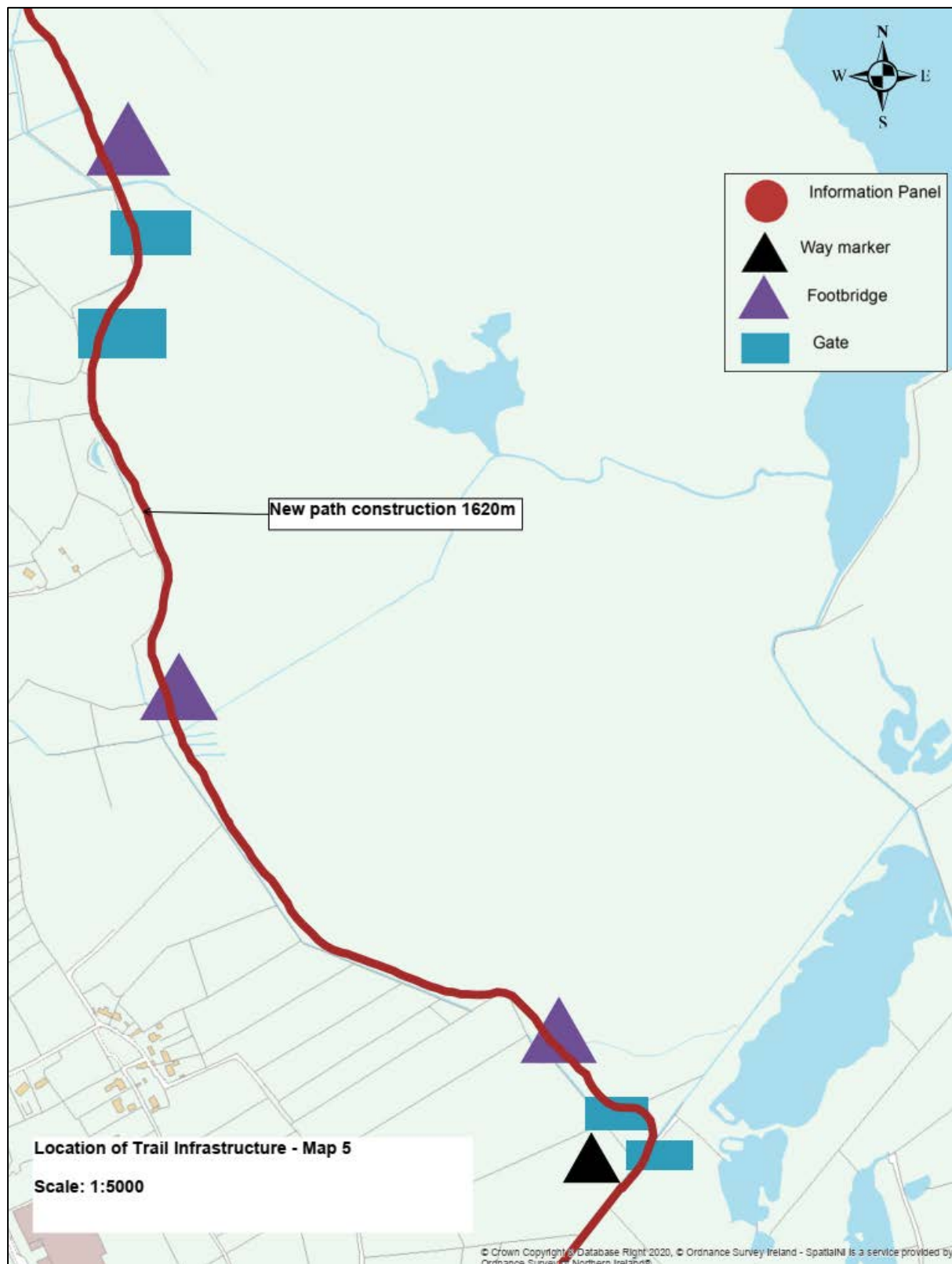


Figure 27

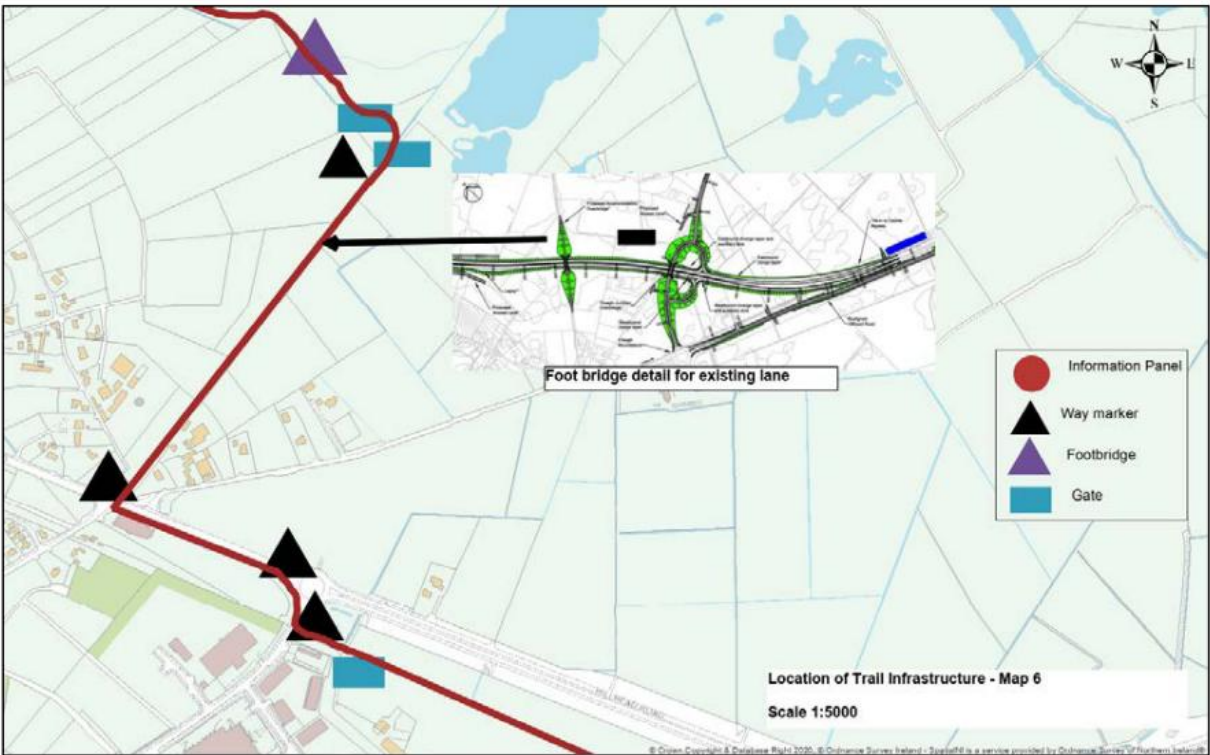
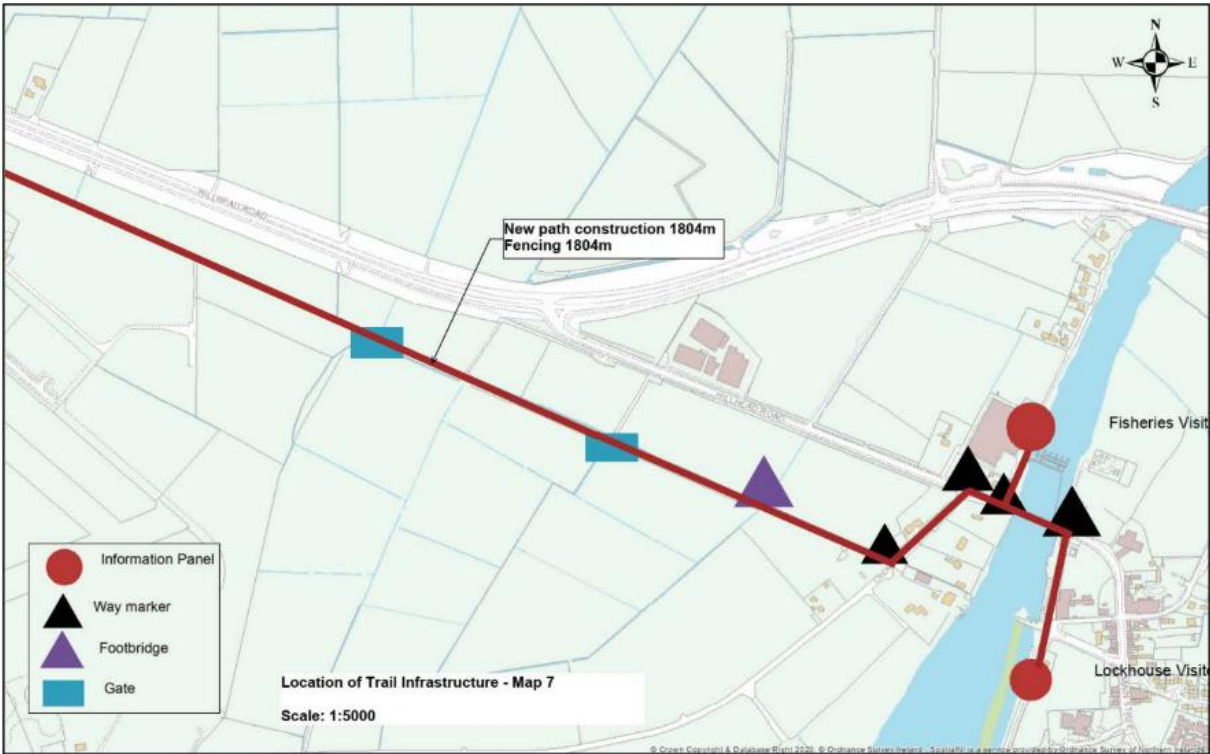


Figure 28



Chapter 8 Costings

Introduction

The following outlines the capital project costs for the proposed trail including technical development (based on % rate), path build, infrastructure requirements and contingency. The figures do not take into consideration account resource costs (managing, maintaining, and marketing the path) or costs associated with securing access either land purchase or permissive access, Land purchase would involve arriving at a figure that a strip of land is deemed to be worth based on current market values. Permissive access will involve a cost to the landowner as compensation towards the permissive access agreement. Compensation may include the loss of land value (actual not perceived), loss of farm payments and/or loss of earnings from the production of that land including lease to third parties and/or tenant farmer(s). The rate was taken to be £8.00 per linear metre (for a 3m wide strip). The specifications for the boardwalk, path and associated gates and furniture can be found in appendix 3.

Table 6

Cost Estimate				
Newferry to Toome Lockhouse				
Development of a 14.4Km x 2.5m Blueway Trail and associated infrastructure				
Item	Unit	Rate	Quantity	Cost
SITE CLEARANCE, DEMOLITIONS & EARTHWORKS				
General site clearance	m2	£ 1.75	£ 4,550.00	£ 7,692.00
Excavation to levels	m3	£ 2.90	£ 3,427.00	£ 9,938.00
Disposal of excavated material	m3	£ 12.00	£ 1,700.00	£ 20,400.00
PAVING - NEW BUILD				
Geotextile	m2	£ 1.20	£ 17,140.00	£ 20,568.00
Type 3 Blinding	m2	£ 43.00	£ 17,140.00	£ 737,020.00
Recycled PVC Boardwalk (incl. piles, joists, bridging etc)	m2	£ 104.50	£ 5,500.00	£ 574,750.00
PAVING - REFURBISHMENT				
Type 3 Blinding	m2	£ 27.20	£ 3,983.00	£ 108,337.00
FENCING				
Stock proof fencing 1.2m high (BS1722-2:2006)	m	£ 11.25	£ 11,980.00	£ 134,775.00
Metal Gate incl. Posts	ea.	£ 395.00	£ 26.00	£ 10,270.00
Kissing gates	ea.	£ 550.00	£ 12.00	£ 6,600.00
BRIDGING				
4m wooden footbridge	ea.	£ 2,885.00	£ 4.00	£ 11,540.00
5m wooden footbridge	ea.	£ 3,395.00	£ 3.00	£ 10,185.00
6m wooden footbridge	ea.	£ 4,370.00	£ 1.00	£ 4,370.00
7m wooden footbridge	ea.	£ 10,950.00	£ 2.00	£ 21,900.00
12m wooden footbridge	ea.	£ 18,650.00	£ 1.00	£ 18,650.00
Abutment and anchor works	ea.	£ 450.00	£ 22.00	£ 9,900.00
LANDSCAPING				
Reseeding	m2	£ 1.90	£ 3,427.00	£ 6,512.00
SIGNAGE				
Trailhead panel design and installation	ea.	£ 2,100.00	£ 2.00	£ 4,200.00
Waymarker posts (incl. discs)	ea.	£ 110.00	£ 15.00	£ 1,650.00
Directional signage	ea.	£ 70.00	£ 9.00	£ 630.00
FURNITURE				
Litter bins	ea.	£ 190.00	£ 12.00	£ 2,280.00
Seating	ea.	£ 320.00	£ 4.00	£ 1,280.00
SUBTOTAL				£ 1,723,447.00
Preliminaries (7.5%)				£ 129,258.00
Contingency (10%)				£ 172,344.00
Design Team Fees (10%)				£ 172,344.00
Other Technical Fees (5%)				£ 86,172.00
TOTAL				£ 2,283,565.00

Chapter 9: Conclusion and Recommendations

The development on a Blueway trail within the area identified will without doubt be a hard task to implement on the ground, particularly considering the large amount of natural and built heritage designations that exist. However, there is a real potential way to take the project forward by following the agreed route in this study. The following are additional recommendations which will add value and recreational variety to the Blueway experience.

- 1) If the Blueway trail is to be developed, it will cross the main priority designations at several points which include SPA, ASSI and RAMSAR. Contact should be made with NIEA Designations section to discuss the proposal in more detail and ascertain any fundamental objections, arrange environmental impact analysis and agree permissions
- 2) The development of any new Blueway from Newferry West must be formally accredited under the Blueway accreditation scheme. See Appendix 2 for details of the accreditation scheme and process for application.
- 3) A new steering should be put in place with the main partners to ensure the full marketing and promotion of the new Blueway. The main Partners would include, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Waterways Ireland, and Mid Ulster Council. Arrangement for joint promotion would be agreed
- 4) Full head to head engagement with landowners and stakeholders should take place once the Coronavirus crisis is over and access agreements worked up.
- 5) New funding opportunities should be investigated particularly from the new SEUPB Peace programme and the Rural Development Programme, Sport Northern Ireland and the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland and the DFI.
- 6) Support and develop new tourism and recreational products and experiences by linking with commercial operators and community based

organisations such as Lough Neagh Tours, Open Ground Ballyscullion House, Lough Neagh Artisans Group, the Thatch Pub, TIDAL and Mid Ulster Literary Cluster.

7) There is a need to coordinate and develop walking and cycling tours with a variety of accommodation providers around the Lough Beg area.

8) At times of the year flooding of the path or walkway may be a problem so it is important to have contact and liaise regularly with DAERA over control of water from Toome Sluice Gates.

9) In future, liaise closely with the Lough Neagh Partnership and the RSPB in relation to the development of facilities on Lough Beg for wildlife watching, particularly for the Whooper Swans in the winter.

10) Develop and promote a programme of Events for the Blueway Trail linking with Waterways Ireland, Bellaghy Community Association the Seamus Heaney Homeplace.

Appendix One

ASSI “Views on Management”

Appendix 2

Blueway Management and accreditation

Appendix 3

Boardwalk and Path Specifications

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT LOUGH NEAGH,

COUNTIES ANTRIM, ARMAGH, DOWN, LONDONDERRY AND TYRONE. ARTICLE 24 OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND AMENITY LANDS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1985.

The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (the Department), having consulted the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area delineated and described on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of the flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the 'Lough Neagh area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because it is a large shallow eutrophic lake occupying a downwarp in Tertiary basalt with its associated physical, chemical and biological characteristics. More specifically it is of interest for: wintering and breeding birds; its wetland vegetation, which includes a large number of rare plant species; and the presence of a number of rare invertebrate and fish species.

The site includes the whole water body of Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles at 38,500 ha, and a marginal fringe of land totalling 39,800 ha together. The shallow, eutrophic Lough is supplied by seven main tributary rivers and is drained by the Lower Bann.

The Lough lies within a downwarped block of Tertiary basalt which is at least 35 million years old and has a number of associated geological and physiographical features of scientific interest e.g. the Lough Neagh Clays, evidence of Holocene water-level changes, and contemporary phenomena including mobile sand bars.

Most of the shoreline and shallow margin of the Lough is exposed to wave action and has a rocky or sandy character. The submerged and floating aquatic vegetation is confined to sheltered bays and inlets and includes very extensive stands of Fennel-leaved Pondweed Potamogeton pectinatus and Slender-leaved Pondweed P. filiformis intermixed with smaller quantities of additional species.

Swamp vegetation generally consists of a mosaic of small stands of Common Spike-rush Eleocharis palustris, Reedmace Typha latifolia, Branched Bur-reed Sparganium erectum, Flowering Rush Butomus umbellatus, Bulrush Scirpus lacustris and Bottle Sedge Carex rostrata. Locally, large stands of Common Reed Phragmites australis have developed.

The tall fen occurring along the water's edge mostly consists of a thin, generally species-poor band of Reed Canary-grass Phalaris arundinacea, Hemlock Water Dropwort Oenanthe crocata, Yellow Loosestrife Lysimachia vulgaris and Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria, but in places there are a number of more uncommon plant species.

Some of the lough shore is fringed by a fragmented, swampy woodland of Alder Alnus glutinosa and Willow Salix spp. related to successive lowerings of waterlevels. This woodland is among the best of its type in Northern Ireland. It is extensive and locally contains a diversity of plants including many notable species.

The remainder of the shore is mostly covered by a variety of grassland types ranging from improved and reseeded grassland to species-rich hay meadows, with the most characteristic type being wet marshy grassland with Soft Rush Juncus effusus and Brown Sedge Carex disticha as the most prominent species.

Other interesting vegetation types present include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and mobile sandy shores.

Exceptional numbers of rare plant and animal species are found in the above habitats in and around the Lough. Over forty rare or local vascular plants have been recorded for the site since 1970, the most notable being Eight-stemmed Waterwort Elatine hydropiper (open water), Marsh Pea Lathyrus palustris (tall fen), Many-seeded Goose-foot Chenopodium polyspermum (lake shore), Large Bittercress Cardamine amara (swampy woodland), Irish Lady's Tresses Orchid Spiranthes romanzoffiana (wet grassland), Buckthorn Francula alnus (swampy woodland), Narrow Smallreed Calamagrostis stricta (wet grassland), Holy Grass Hierochloa odorata (wet grassland) and Elongated Sedge Carex elongata (swampy woodland).

The Lough and its margin also contain an exceptional number of rare or local invertebrates, including aquatic and terrestrial molluscs, a freshwater shrimp Mysis relicta, beetles and hoverflies. Of the rare beetles recorded, two, Stenus palposus and Dyschirus obscurus, have their only known Irish location around the Lough. The Lough also supports twelve species of Dragonfly, a high proportion of the total known to occur in Northern Ireland. These invertebrates are mostly associated with open water, swampy woodland or sandy shorelines.

Fifteen species of fish are found in the Lough, several of which are commercially fished, including large numbers of Eel Anquilla anquilla. Two rare species occur, the River Lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis, and the Pollan Coregonus autumnalis, the former with a limited Irish distribution, the latter with a European distribution confined to Ireland.

Internationally important numbers of waterfowl regularly winter on the Lough, with the peak number averaging over 66,800 birds in the five years between 1986/87 and 1990/91. Species which qualify as internationally important (with their percentages of the North-west European flyway population) are Whooper Swan Cygnus cygnus (1.6%); Pochard Aythya ferina (8.4%); Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula (2.5%); Scaup Aythya marila (1.1%) and Goldeneye Bucephala clangula (3.8%). Other significant species are (with their percentages of the Irish population) Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus (32.8%); Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo (6.7%); Mute Swan Cygnus olor (17.3%); Bewick's Swan Cygnus columbianus (3.7%); Shelduck Tadorna tadorna (2.4%); Gadwall Anas strepera (14.6%); Teal Anas crecca (1.8%); Mallard Anas platyrhynchos (6.9%); and Coot Fulica atra (16.5%). These birds are mostly associated with open water, shallow lough shore and wet grassland.

In the summer the Lough supports important numbers of breeding birds, including the largest number of Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus and the largest concentration of Great Crested Grebe in Ireland; the largest number of Redshank Tringa totanus in Northern Ireland, as well as significant numbers of Snipe Gallinago gallinago, Common Tern Sterna hirundo, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Gadwall and Shoveler Anas clypeata. These birds are mainly concentrated on islands, fens and swamps and fen meadows.

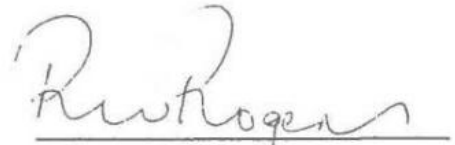
SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features of the area:

1. Any activity or operation which involves the damage or disturbance by any means of the surface and subsurface of the land, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including sand, gravel, peat, lignite and diatomite.
2. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used or in supplementary feeding practice.
3. Any change in the established method or frequency of rolling, mowing or cutting.
4. Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure, slurry or artificial fertiliser.
5. The application of herbicides, fungicides or other chemicals deployed to kill any form of wild plant, other than plants listed as being noxious in the Noxious Weeds (NI) Order 1977.
6. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material not specified under (4) or (5).
7. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than for
 - (i) plants listed as noxious in the Noxious Weeds (NI) Order 1977;
 - (ii) normal cutting or mowing regimes for which a consent is not required under (3).
8. The release into the area of any animal (other than in connection with normal grazing practice) or plant. 'Animal' includes birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates; 'Plant' includes seed, fruit or spore.
9. Burning.
10. Changes in tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clearing, selective felling and coppicing.
11. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.
12. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or large stones and grading of rock faces.
13. Operations or activities which would affect wetlands (including marsh, fen, bog, rivers, streams and open water) e.g.
 - (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;

- (ii) modification in the structure of any watercourse;
 - (iii) lowering of the water table, permanently or temporarily;
 - (iv) change in the management of bank-side vegetation.
14. The killing or taking of any animal in a manner likely to affect the continued existence of the species within the area except as provided for under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
15. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area:
- (i) Educational activities;
 - (ii) Research activities;
 - (iii) Recreational activities;
 - (iv) Exercising of animals.
16. Changes in game, waterfowl or fisheries management or fishing or hunting practices.

SEALED WITH THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND ON 30 November, 1992.


R W ROGERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOOTNOTES

- (a) Please note the consent by the Department to any of the above operations or activities does not constitute planning permission. Where required, planning permission must be applied for in the usual manner to the Department under Part IC of the Planning (NI) Order 1972. Operations or activities covered by planning permission are not normally covered in the list of Notifiable Operations.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and activities listed above are capable of being carried out either on a large scale or in a very small way. While it is impossible to define exactly what is "large" and what is "small", the Department would intend to approach each case in a common sense and practical way. It is very unlikely that small scale operations would give rise for concern and if this was the case the Department would give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.

Jo Anne Stuckman
Civil Servant
Buthof Stormont, Belfast

LOUGH NEAGH

Views About Management

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2)

A statement of Environment and Heritage Service's views about the management of Lough Neagh Area of Special Scientific Interest ("the ASSI")

This statement represents the views of Environment and Heritage Service about the management of the ASSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the area's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Environment and Heritage Service has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the ASSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the ASSI and there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. It is also very important to recognise that management may need to change with time.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation or activity. The written consent of Environment and Heritage Service is still required before carrying out any operation or activity likely to damage the features of special interest (see the Schedule on pages 3 and 4 for a list of these operations and activities). Environment and Heritage Service welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the ASSI to ensure that the management of this area maintains and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Wintering Waterbirds

Lough Neagh ASSI is a wintering site for large numbers of migratory waterbirds. It supports internationally important populations of waterbirds including Great Crested Grebe, Whooper Swan, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Goldeneye and Golden Plover together with numbers of Little Grebe, Great Cormorant, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler, Coot and Lapwing that are significant in an all-Ireland context.

Swans, geese, ducks and waders are attracted by a rich food supply and secure roost sites. Wildfowl make use of both open water and surrounding open habitats, particularly wet grassland, for feeding. Aquatic vegetation and invertebrates are important food sources for many ducks while swans, geese and some ducks obtain a proportion of their food on land. Waders such as Lapwing and Golden Plover feed predominantly on worms, insects and other invertebrates in wet grasslands. The quality of feeding areas is, however, susceptible to the influence of operations undertaken both within and outside the ASSI that may result in pollution or changes in water quality or



unacceptable levels of disturbance to feeding birds. It is therefore important that damaging practices are minimised around the ASSI.

Secure roost sites, free from disturbance, are essential to allow the birds to conserve energy when not feeding. Some of these roosts may lie outside the ASSI. Undisturbed roosts are particularly important during severe winter weather. Wildfowl usually roost on open water, while waders tend to use islands or isolated headlands. The variety of habitats present within the ASSI should be managed in order to safeguard the wintering waterbird population.

Specific objectives include:

Feeding habitats – it is important to maintain the quality and extent of habitat used for feeding by the birds, in particular the open water and surrounding reedbed, fen and grassland where present.

Disturbance around known roost sites and frequently used feeding areas should be minimised.

Breeding Waterbird Assemblage

Lough Neagh ASSI supports numbers of breeding waterbirds, especially Great Crested Grebe, that are significant in an all-Ireland context. Maintenance of these populations is dependent upon the extent and condition of undisturbed vegetation that provides cover for nests, especially reedbeds, swamps, areas of tall fen and shoreline wet woodland. Islands can be particularly important nesting sites as these are often safe from land-based predators such as foxes. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance or enhancement of habitat used for nesting and the implementation of measures to minimise disturbance of such areas.

Specific objectives include:

Nesting habitats for waterbirds, especially reedbeds, swamps, areas of tall fen and wet woodland, should be maintained and, where possible, extended.

Human disturbance to waterbirds breeding on islands should be minimised by discouraging landing at nesting sites through appropriate signage or by creating marked “buffer zones” to prevent close approach by boats and other craft. Access to nesting sites on the mainland shoreline should be restricted, where possible, during the breeding season.

Breeding Common Tern

Lough Neagh ASSI supports internationally important numbers of breeding Common Terns. These migratory seabirds are present between April and September and feed on fish in inshore waters. Breeding terns are highly susceptible to disturbance and predation and consequently often choose to nest on islands or isolated man-made structures surrounded by water. They are particularly attracted to areas of shingle or broken shells. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance or enhancement of habitat or structures used for nesting by terns.

Specific objectives include:

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance or enhancement of sites currently used by breeding terns and the creation of potential new sites. Shingle areas should not be allowed to become overgrown. Nest sites can be extended, or new sites created, by provision of a layer of broken shells. Chick survival would be enhanced by creating shelter structures within the breeding sites to provide refuges from aerial predators or inclement weather. Such activities should only be undertaken in consultation with Environment and Heritage Service.

Human disturbance to breeding terns should be minimised by discouraging landing at nesting sites through appropriate signage or creating marked "buffer zones" to prevent close approach by boats and other craft.

Species-rich wet grassland and breeding waders

Species-rich wet grassland is an important habitat for wildlife. The wet grassland in the ASSI is also notable for the rare plants, important invertebrate communities and breeding birds that it supports. The latter include concentration of breeding waders (Snipe, Lapwing Curlew and Redshank) in parts of the site. Such important concentrations of breeding waders have become scarce in Northern Ireland.

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the wet grassland through the conservation of its associated native plants and animals. In general, sensitive management of the habitat should ensure that its component communities of plants and animals are protected.

Many of the more sensitive plant species can be quickly lost through intensive management treatments such as fertiliser and herbicide application. However, grassland generally needs some management to retain its interest. Although occasional small patches of scrub can be valuable in providing additional habitat niches for birds and invertebrates, in the absence of management, coarse grasses can quickly take over and ultimately woody species may become dominant.

Grazing by cattle is the most effective way of controlling the growth of more vigorous plant species and helping to maintain open areas and a diverse sward structure, which also benefits breeding waders. In the absence of grazing, cutting of the vegetation to create open areas and reduce the dominance of coarse grasses and rushes is desirable.

There are some specific management practices relating to factors, such as vegetation structure, grazing levels, soil moisture and predators, that are of particular importance for breeding waders. For example, limited rush cover can help provide good habitat for breeding waders, while heavy infestations can mean that shorter areas useful for feeding are lost. Rush-topping may be necessary.

Sward height is also important. This often determines which species of wader will make use of the area, with longer vegetation attracting Snipe and short vegetation being more suitable for Lapwing. Use of fertiliser should be discouraged, as this can increase early season grass growth, thus reducing the suitability of the site for waders such as Lapwing, which prefer shorter swards. Such use also means livestock could move onto the land early, at high stocking rates, which would increase the risk of trampling of nests.

The breeding productivity of ground nesting waders can be reduced by the presence of tall hedges or mature trees in the immediate vicinity of the nest site as they provide lookouts and nest sites for predators such as Hooded Crow.

Specific objectives include:

Low intensity grazing has contributed to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the continuation of this practice.

Prevent the loss of more sensitive grassland plant species and breeding waders through the control of scrub, bracken and rushes. In general, maintaining a species-rich sward that is also suitable for breeding waders can be achieved through the appropriate grazing regime. In some cases other methods of control, such as cutting or rush-topping, may be required. Such activities must not be carried out during the wader breeding season.

Maintain the diversity and quality of the species-rich grassland by ensuring there is no application of fertiliser, slurry or herbicide to the site.

Where appropriate, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the grassland from drying out.

Limited scrub and tree management may be required as appropriate to deter predators such as Hooded Crow.

Wet Woodland

Wet woodland is an important habitat for wildlife. It provides food and shelter for a wide variety of mammals, birds and invertebrates.

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the woodland through the development of its structure and the conservation of its associated native plants and animals. These include higher plants of limited distribution within Northern Ireland and important invertebrate communities.

Specific objectives include:

Encourage the woodland to become more "mature" by avoiding disturbance to the trees. The structure of the wood will gradually become more diverse, with well-developed canopy, shrub and ground layers, and an abundance of species like Ivy, mosses, liverworts and lichens that live on the trees themselves.

Encourage the retention of dead wood both on the woodland floor and still standing in the canopy. Dead wood is a very important habitat for some of the less conspicuous woodland species, such as fungi and invertebrates.

Encourage regeneration of woodland and discourage damage to trees and shrubs through the control of grazing and browsing. In general, natural regeneration is preferable to planting.

Increases in the nutrient status of the water and underlying peat soils can lead to a decline in some of the more valuable plant communities. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of good water quality through the control of pollution and artificial enrichment.

Where necessary, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the wood from drying out.

Fens and Swamps

Fens and swamps are important habitats for wildlife. They develop on the fringes of open water and represent a stage in the process of succession from open water to dry land. Swamps often consist of a single dominant plant species (such as reeds, sedges, or bulrushes), with a few other plants growing amongst them whilst fens are often very diverse and rich in species. The Lough contains a number of different fen and swamp vegetation communities. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the fen and swamp through the conservation of these communities and their associated native plants and animals. These include higher plants of limited distribution within Northern Ireland and important invertebrate communities.

Fen vegetation requires water levels to be at, or just below, the surface all year round, while swamps generally occur in slightly deeper water. Increases in the nutrient status of the water and underlying peat soils can lead to the dominance of species, such as Bulrush, at the expense of other, more important plant communities. Therefore it is important to maintain good water-quality.

Fen and swamp communities are susceptible to successional change and generally need some management to retain their interest. In the absence of management, coarse grasses such as Common Reed can quickly spread from the swamp into the fen and ultimately, woody species may become dominant. Over a period of time, these species may shade out more important plant communities and cause the fen to dry out. Occasional small patches of scrub can be valuable in providing additional habitat niches for birds and invertebrates, but widespread conversion of fen and swamp to wet woodland would generally be undesirable.

Low intensity summer grazing by cattle (or ponies) that are more adaptable to wet conditions is the most effective way of controlling the growth of more vigorous species and helping to maintain species-rich fen vegetation and a diverse sward structure. In the absence of grazing, cutting and removal of the vegetation to create open areas and reduce the dominance of coarse grasses is desirable.

Specific objectives include:

Where appropriate, Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the vegetation from drying out.

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of good water quality through the control of pollution and artificial enrichment.

Where feasible, Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the grazing of fen and swamp although overgrazing should be avoided as the wet soils are particularly susceptible to poaching. Where grazing is not possible other

management practices, such as cutting, may be used, especially on extensive stands of reedbed.

In general, the control of scrub within fen and swamp communities can be achieved through the appropriate grazing regime. In some cases additional scrub control may be required.

Freshwater Fish Assemblage

Lough Neagh supports an important freshwater fish assemblage which includes the largest population of Pollen in Ireland, one of a handful of known European populations of non-migratory River Lamprey and the Dollaghan, a form of brown trout thought to be unique to the lough.

Environment and Heritage Service recognises the important economic and social roles of fishing and welcomes sustainable fishery management that is sensitive to the special interests of the ASSI.

Specific objectives include:

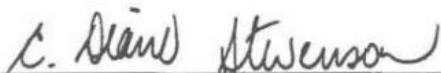
Environment and Heritage would promote the protection of spawning grounds of the three named fish species both in the lake and its tributary rivers and ensure migratory routes to and from spawning grounds are kept open and free of artificial barriers.

Management principles applicable to all habitats throughout the site

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage all activities associated with site maintenance, management, access and recreation to be undertaken in a sensitive manner that ensures disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

Discourage non-native species, especially those that tend to spread at the expense of native wildlife.

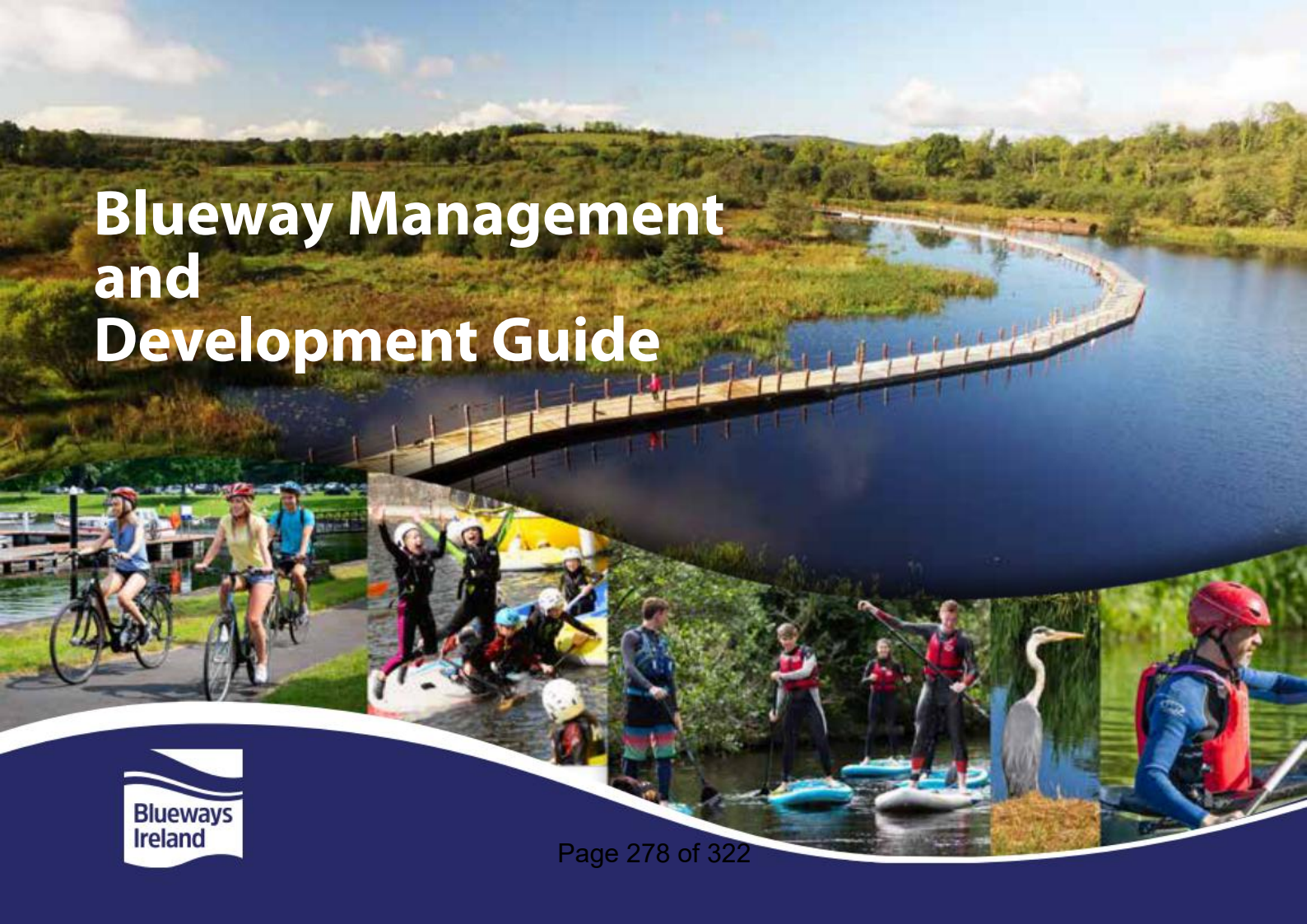
Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the main habitats, such as open water and scrub, through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife, especially breeding birds, invertebrates and rare plants.



E Diane Stevenson
Authorised Officer

Dated the 01st of February 2008

Blueway Management and Development Guide







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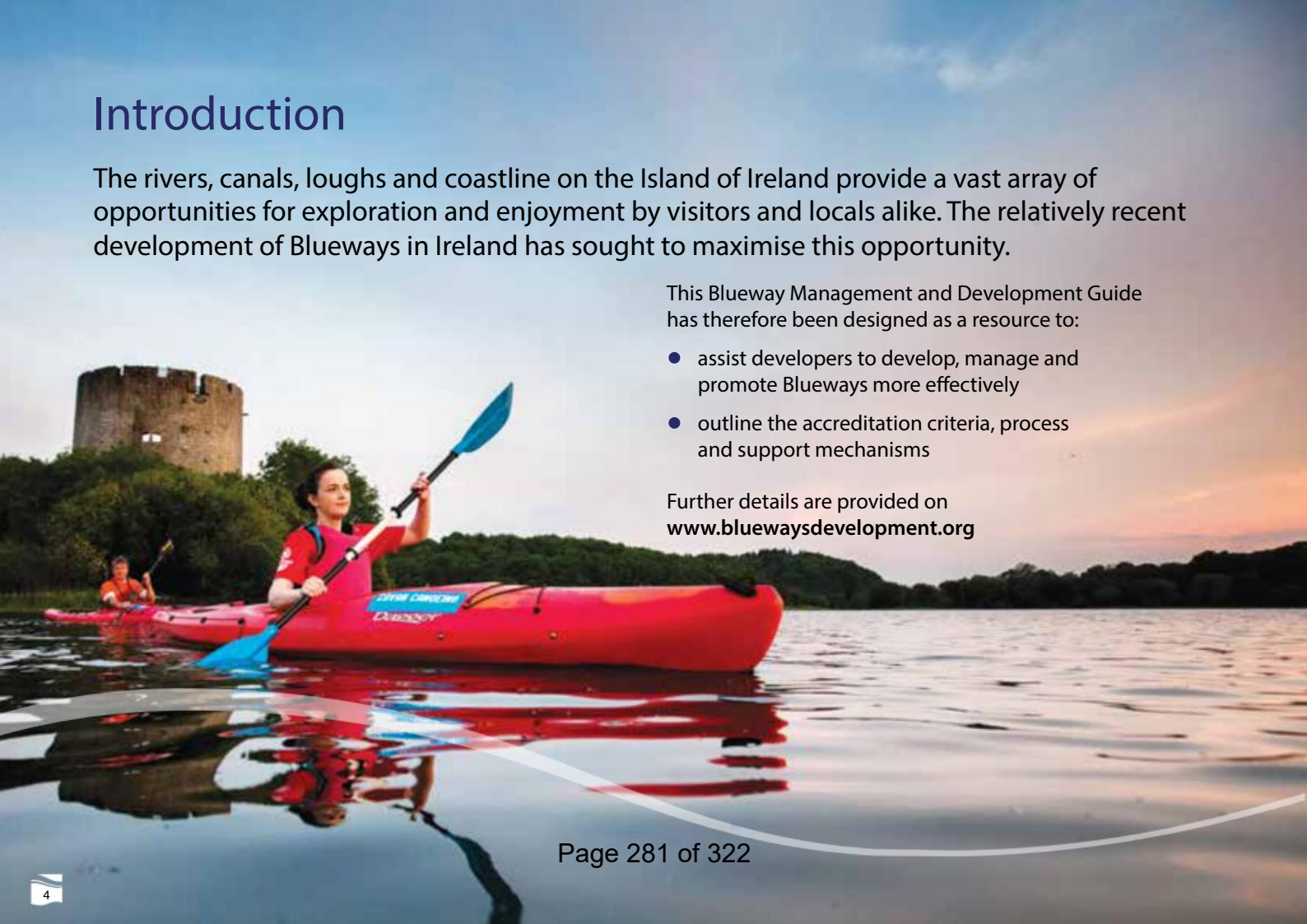
Introduction

The rivers, canals, loughs and coastline on the Island of Ireland provide a vast array of opportunities for exploration and enjoyment by visitors and locals alike. The relatively recent development of Blueways in Ireland has sought to maximise this opportunity.

This Blueway Management and Development Guide has therefore been designed as a resource to:

- assist developers to develop, manage and promote Blueways more effectively
- outline the accreditation criteria, process and support mechanisms

Further details are provided on www.bluewaysdevelopment.org



AIM

The guide has been designed with the aim of providing detailed information and advice in order to answer the following queries:

- **Definition** – What is a Blueway?
- **Target Market** – Who will be attracted to a Blueway?
- **Accreditation** – Who is managing the accreditation process?
- **Benefits** – Why become accredited?
- **Criteria** – What are the fundamental components of a successful Blueway?
- **Achieving Success** –
How to achieve Blueway Accreditation
- **Planning** – How to plan the development and management of a successful and sustainable Blueway

WHAT IS A BLUEWAY?

A Blueway is defined as:

“ A network of approved and branded multi-activity recreational trails and sites, based on, and closely linked with the water, together with providers facilitating access to activities and experiences. ”

The Blueways Ireland brand represents:

- Being active in nature
- Exploration of waterscapes
- Service providers enabling easy access for all
- Multi-activity trail options
- Set within the context of places to stay, eat and go
- Enriched by local culture, heritage, arts and visitor attractions
- Responsible recreation within the environment

The Blueway User

Whether a Blueway user is a member of the community enjoying their local waterway or a visitor exploring a new destination, it is essential the Blueway delivers a memorable experience.



TARGET MARKET - WHO WILL BE ATTRACTED TO A BLUEWAY?

Blueways in Ireland are designed for a range of users from those who have **little to no skills or prior experience in undertaking adventure activities right through to experienced participants.**

Therefore a Blueway needs to offer the following:

Features

- A mixture of land and water activities
- A rich opportunity to experience the culture, history and scenery on the island of Ireland
- A safe experience

Locations

- Attractive locations - not simply just anywhere with water, but scenery unique to the island of Ireland which visitors do not find closer to home
- Coastal locations – especially important to attract overseas visitors
- Sheltered waters - i.e. not the brunt of the ocean

Water-based activity offering - should be:

- Delivered by guides
- Focus on the easier entry level
- Follow high safety standards

It is clear that potential Blueway users are attracted by the proximity to water, however it is evident the preference remains to be alongside water rather than in or on the water. Hence the importance of multi-activity options.

TOURISM

It is important to realise that a visitor to a Blueway is set in the context of holistic visitor segmentation. It is recognised that the physical activities (whether water or land based) will not be enough on their own to differentiate the island of Ireland from many other destinations. Therefore the tourist will require a full package of unique cultural and historical attractions and experiences to be enticed to visit.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

The attachment of the Blueway brand to a local waterway should act as a catalyst for local participation initiatives for example through school, youth organisations, clubs and sports partnerships.

Criteria - What are the Fundamental Components of a Successful Blueway?

Extensive international benchmarking has identified the external assessment of high quality recreation trails utilise a holistic criterion encompassing all aspects of the visitor experience.



As such, the Accreditation Criteria for Blueways on the island of Ireland combines a visitor focused approach with fundamental safety, technical, access and environmental components. All of these are underpinned by sustainable management techniques and processes.

In summary:

EXPERIENCE

Are the visitors' expectations met?

SAFETY

Is risk being appropriately managed?

TECHNICAL

Does trail infrastructure and signage follow best practice?

CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENT

As a minimum does the Blueway avoid any negative impact on the environment or ideally how does it add to or improve the environment e.g. through education and access?

ACCESS

Will the Blueway be open for public use for at least ten years following accreditation?

SUSTAINABILITY

Are the management structures / partnerships, plans and processes in place to ensure the Blueway can continue to meet the required standard?

In order to achieve accreditation, a Blueway must demonstrate how it meets the criteria (see pages 16-17).

Detailed guidance on how to achieve the criteria is provided within **www.bluewaysdevelopment.org**



Accreditation - Who is Managing the Accreditation Process?

Accreditation has been identified by the Blueway Partnership as fundamental to ensure a consistent high standard of Blueway development on the island of Ireland.

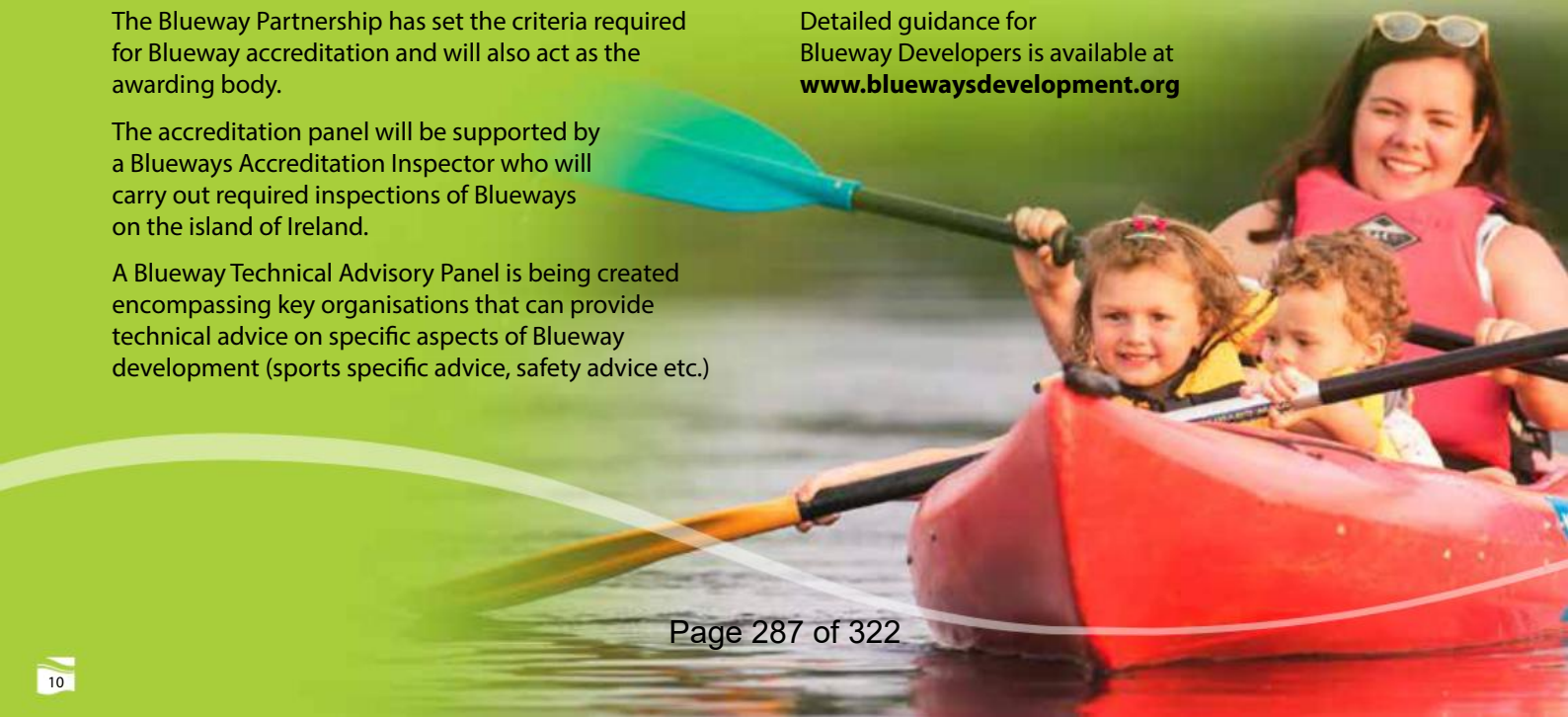
AWARDING BODY

The Blueway Partnership has set the criteria required for Blueway accreditation and will also act as the awarding body.

The accreditation panel will be supported by a Blueways Accreditation Inspector who will carry out required inspections of Blueways on the island of Ireland.

A Blueway Technical Advisory Panel is being created encompassing key organisations that can provide technical advice on specific aspects of Blueway development (sports specific advice, safety advice etc.)

Detailed guidance for Blueway Developers is available at www.bluewaysdevelopment.org



BLUEWAY DEVELOPMENT AND ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK



Benefits - Why become Accredited?

The accreditation of a Blueway by the Blueway Accreditation Panel will bring the following benefits:



BRAND

An accredited Blueway will be afforded the opportunity to avail of the official Blueway brand which can be utilised within user information and signage. External accreditation will also provide enhanced consumer recognition of the proposition.

For further information on brand guidelines see the Blueway Design & Brand Guidelines at **www.bluewaysdevelopment.org**

QUALITY STANDARD

External accreditation will help reassure key stakeholders that a best practice approach is being implemented. This may include:

- Key decision makers within your organisation
- Key funders
- Local community and business

In addition, an approved brand is more marketable.

SUPPORT

Those engaging in the accreditation process will be able to avail of the support of the Blueway Development Advisor and also best practice knowledge sharing from other Blueway developers / managers through an annual Blueway Forum meeting.

PROMOTION

External accreditation will also provide enhanced consumer recognition of the proposition. Blueways remain a relatively new concept on the island of Ireland, therefore a critical mass of accredited Blueways which follow the same high standard will help raise awareness. This in turn will generate a cross sell effect, particularly within the domestic market i.e. visitors who have a positive experience on one accredited Blueway will be attracted to visit another.

OPPORTUNITIES

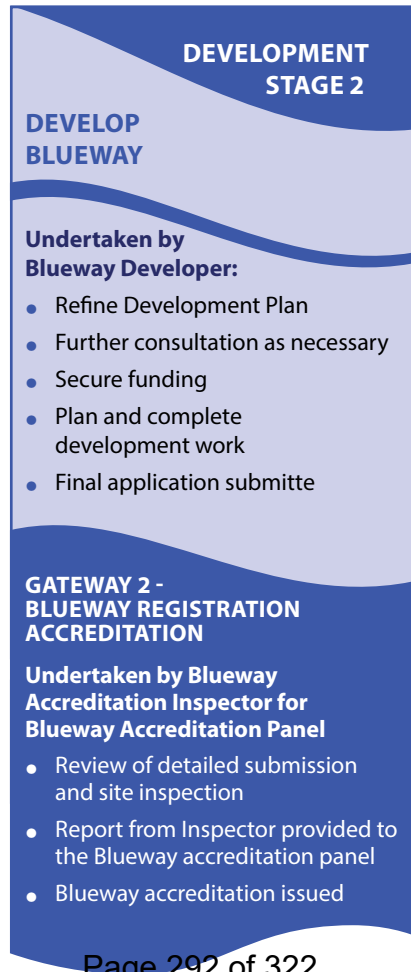
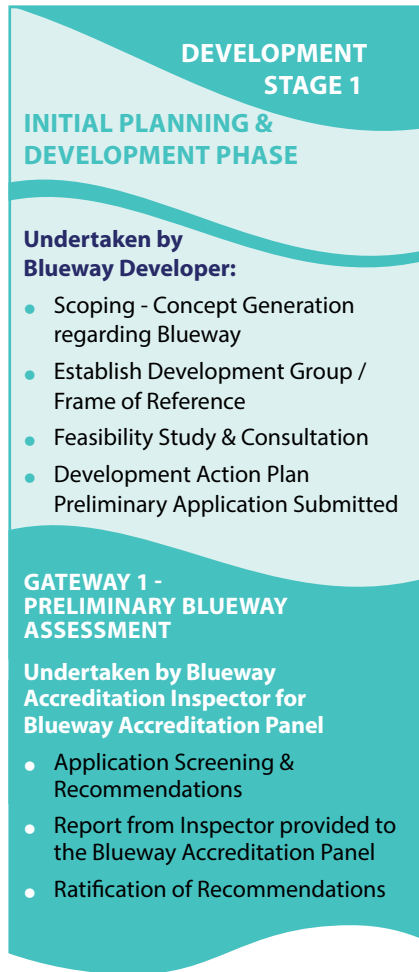
The Blueway Partnership will continue to engage with relevant funding bodies to ensure the recognition of the importance of accreditation within funding measures. Developers can also use the accredited and quality Blueways to lever further funding for additional developments and increasing the offer of services. There is recognition within local and national tourism development plans for Blueways and for quality, accredited facilities.

Planning - How to plan the Development and Management of a Successful and Sustainable Blueway

The recommended process for successfully planning and developing Blueways in Ireland is outlined on page 15.

The reality of outdoor recreation means the steps in this process may not be delivered in a linear fashion i.e. there will inevitably be overlap, however, it is important each step is delivered.





BLUEWAY ACCREDITATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST

EXPERIENCE		✓
Engaging Landscape / Culture and Heritage	Offers an opportunity to appreciate and explore an attractive landscape and engage with the unique heritage and culture of the area	
Multi-activity	Offers a combination of water and land based trail (with connectivity to water) options	
Capacity Building	A programme is in place to develop 'Eat / Stay / Go' and 'Activity / Experience' opportunities	
Eat / Stay / Go	Bars, Cafés, restaurants and attractions are easily accessible from trail heads and / or trails	
Activity / Experience Providers	Guided activity experiences appropriate for 'novice' are available and can be booked in advance	
Length of time	Offers a minimum experience duration of between half a day to one day	
Visitor Information	The visitor can access information to allow them plan and enjoy their Blueway experience	
TECHNICAL		
Walking Trails	Walking Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Cycling Trails	Cycle Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Shared Use Trails	Shared Use Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Snorkel Trails	Snorkel Trails follow the guidelines of the Irish Underwater Council	
Paddling Trails	Paddling Trails follow the Blueway Paddling Trail Guidelines	
Sailing & Windsurfing Sites	Sailing & Windsurfing Activities will be compliant with Irish Sailing and/or RYANI Accreditation standards	
Signage	All signage follows with Blueway Signage Guidelines	
Trailhead Facilities	Trail heads are clearly identified and offer adequate parking Toilet and changing facilities are available within close proximity of water based trail heads	
Managing user conflict	Consideration and identification of steps to mitigate against potential conflict with waterway / trail users has been undertaken	
Accessibility/Inclusivity	Reasonable steps have been undertaken to provide disabled access	

BLUEWAY ACCREDITATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST

ACCESS		✓
Landowner / Authority Agreement	Access is permitted by all landowners and relevant authorities – public and private for a minimum period of 10 years	
Insurance	Public liability insurance is in place providing indemnity for all infrastructure, land-based trails and water trails' access and egress points	
SAFETY		
Suitability	The experience is suitable for the 'novice' with little to no skills or prior experience in undertaking adventure activities	
Responsibility	Visitors are not exposed to hidden dangers Visitors should be aware of the risks they will face and that safety is a shared responsibility between the visitor and the Blueway Developer/ Responsible Authority	
Activity Providers / Experiences	A programme is in place for activity providers to demonstrate their safety credentials	
CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT		
Statutory Approval	Evidence of consultation and approval with appropriate statutory bodies can be demonstrated	
Biosecurity & Invasive Species	Proactive measures are in place to stop the spread of invasive species and harmful pathogens	
Environmental Education	The Leave No Trace Ireland Principles have been incorporated	
Litter	The Blueway is free from litter and fly-tipped waste	
SUSTAINABILITY		
Management Group	A Blueway Management Group is in place – led by a Local Authority or State Agency	
Management Plan	A Blueway Management Plan is in place	
Visitor Feedback	A formal process is in place to monitor visitor feedback	

BLUEWAY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Blueway Development Groups will be required to cover the cost of preliminary and registration assessments to be carried out on Blueways.

It is anticipated that all accredited Blueways on the island of Ireland will also require re-inspection every three years. This cost must be considered during feasibility and planning stages on all projects and should be included in project budgets and funding applications.

Detailed information on the planning process is provided within
www.bluewaysdevelopment.org







THE BLUEWAY PARTNERSHIP COMPRISES:



www.sportireland.ie



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

www.failteireland.ie



www.waterwaysireland.org



**tourism
northernireland**

www.tourismni.com



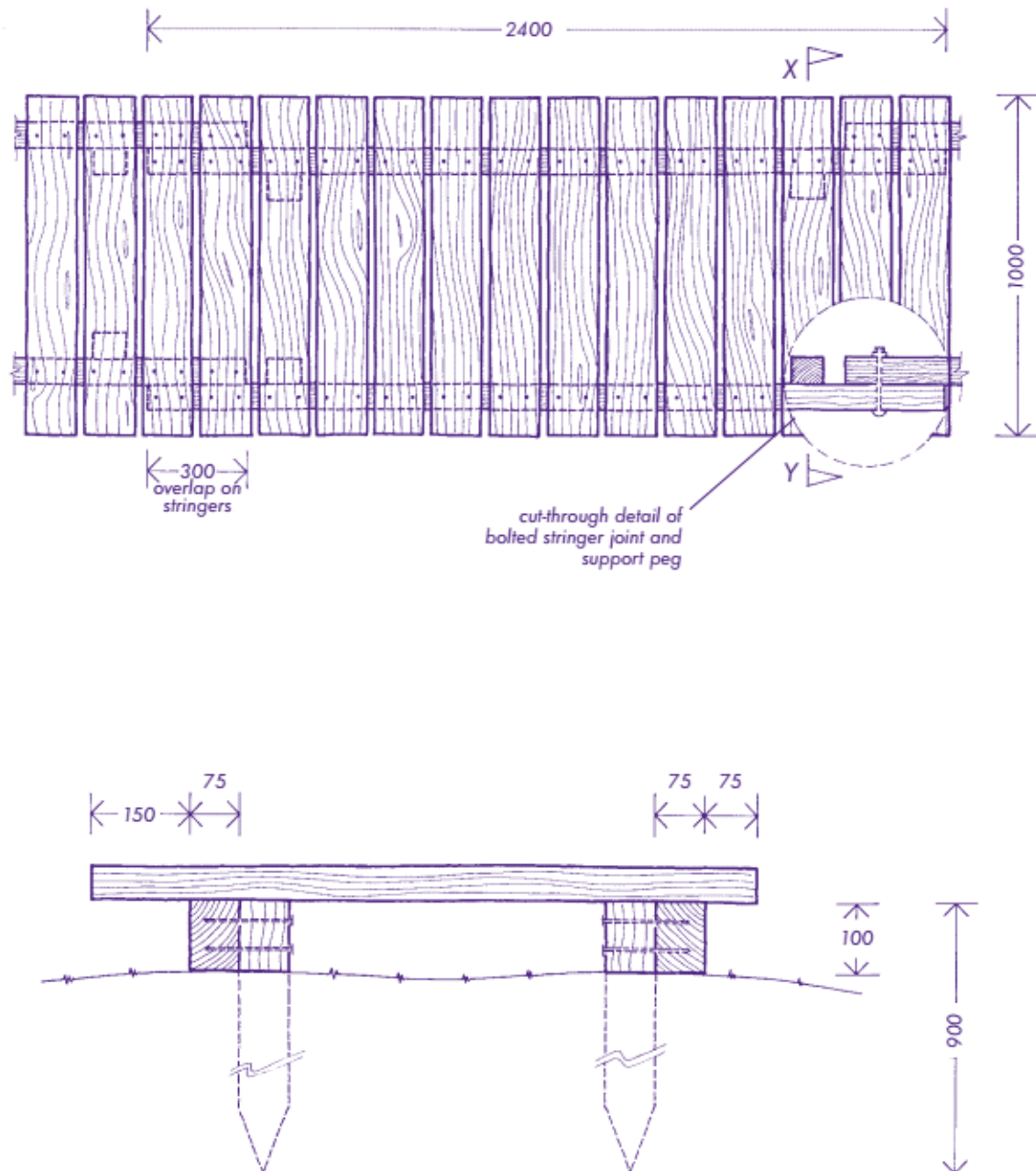
www.sportni.net

DISCLAIMER

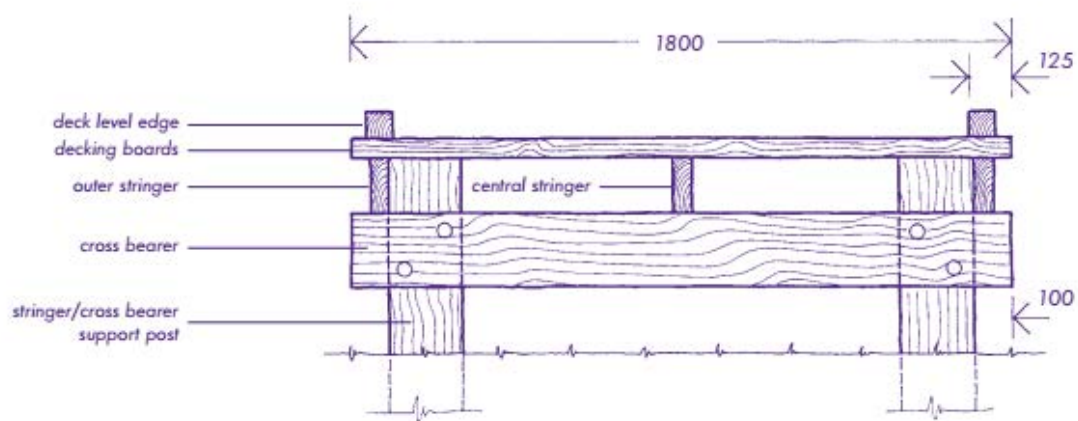
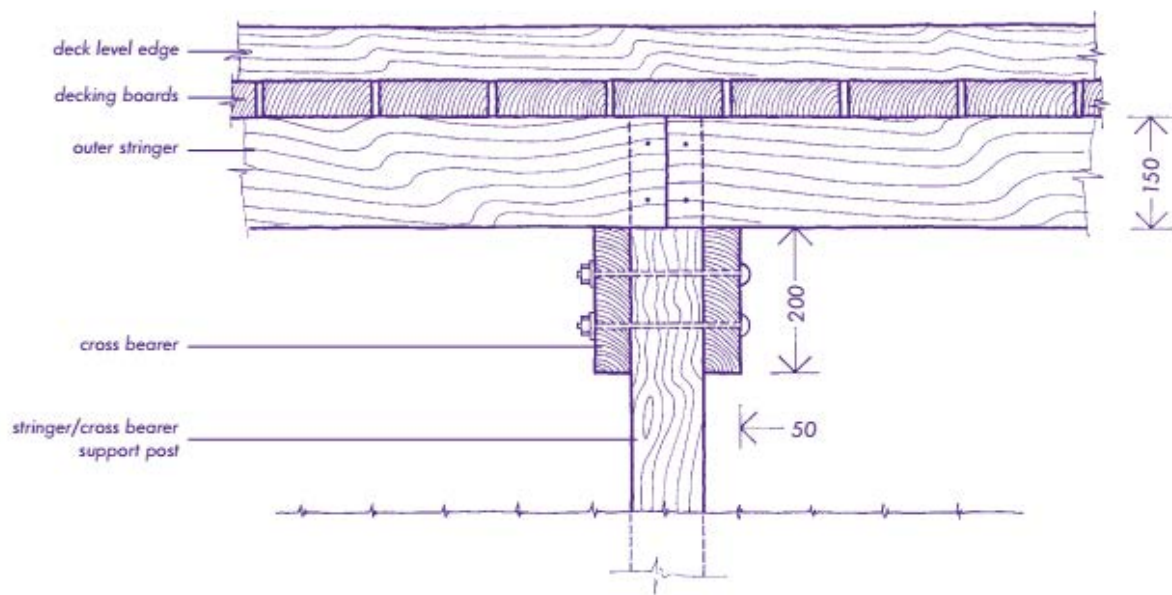
Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication. The Blueway Partnership cannot, however, accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly.

Basic Specifications for Boardwalks, paths and associated gates and furniture

Low level Boardwalk



Raised Boardwalk



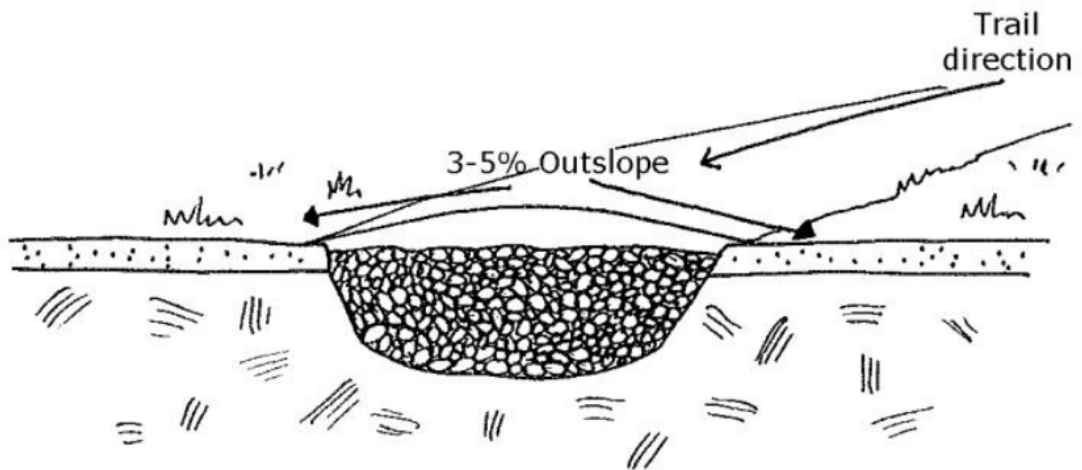


Image illustrating a raised camber path

Examples of trail furniture





Report on	<p>Economic Development Report – OBFI</p> <p>1) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 9.11.20</p> <p>2) Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report</p> <p>3) Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment</p>
Date of Meeting	11 February 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>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 9.11.20</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.</p>
2.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report</p> <p>To mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2020, Mid Ulster's second Enterprise Week took place between Monday 16th and Friday 20th November 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Mid Ulster Enterprise Week took a different format this year offering a programme of virtual events. Spearheaded by the Council with support from partner stakeholders this year's theme concentrated on sustainability and resilience amid the significant challenges of the pandemic.</p>
2.3	<p>Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment</p> <p>Covid-19 presents an unprecedented challenge for all businesses, and particularly so for Mid Ulster entrepreneurs at the most vulnerable phase of their development. During the Covid crisis, there have been extensive funding packages to support established businesses however, government aid has tended to neglect the new business start sector. Mid Ulster has a long held reputation for entrepreneurship, and a competitive economy, it is therefore vitally important that these individuals are supported financially during this time of crisis. The final quarter of the financial year traditionally sees a surge in those exploring self-employment as an option, and with the lockdown potentially ending in March and many people on furlough</p>

	<p>facing an uncertain future, this is a particularly opportune time to provide a pilot scheme providing a small one-off financial payment to Mid Ulster's new business starts which will augment the current start up provision already in place.</p> <p>It is proposed to deliver a pilot initiative to support new business starts with a small one-off start up payment, working in collaboration with Council's start up delivery partners (Cookstown Enterprise Centre, Workspace Enterprises and Marketing NI [Dungannon]) from January - March 2021.</p> <p>The objectives of the Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stimulate and support entrepreneurship in Mid Ulster; ▪ Award a payment of up to £250 to at least 60 start up clients to provide financial help towards the marketing of products, accessing a loan, capital costs, rent, set-up costs, or cost of renovating premises etc. <p>A similar scheme was undertaken by Derry and Strabane City Council (in partnership with their Enterprise Agencies) in November 2020 which stimulated a 60% uplift in inquiries by January 2021.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 9.11.20</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 9th November 2020 are attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, the second Enterprise Week (16th - 20th November) went virtual with a series of online, interactive events organised by the Council with the support of partner stakeholders. Twelve virtual events were held across the week under the theme of 'Survival, Recovery, Resilience', reflecting the very different economic context in which businesses are operating as a result of coronavirus.</p> <p>A wide range of relevant business topics were offered to ensure all sectors of industry received support. Specific webinars were held for the Retail, Hospitality, Manufacturing and Engineering sectors, alongside advice for Start-ups, Brexit regulation changes for labelling and chemicals and a range of speakers representing funding organisations and support agencies. In addition, the virtual events provided advice on key business issues including communication, sales, leading teams through a pandemic and social media.</p> <p>Feedback from attendees was very positive with many welcoming the virtual format this year as this enabled them to take a short time away from their work commitments, without the need to travel to and from a venue, or access the event recording at a later date.</p> <p>The range of topics and speakers were highly commended by attendees and the relevance of topics were acknowledged, particularly given the extremely difficult trading conditions many of our businesses are facing.</p> <p>An Evaluation Report of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week is included in Appendix 2.</p>

3.3	<p>Have a look at the short video on Council's YouTube Channel which summarises a variety of the virtual events held during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week at https://youtu.be/HX3Uzuf12ok</p> <p>If Members wish to view any of the webinars held during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week, these can be accessed at https://bit.ly/enterpriseweekwebinars</p> <p>Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment</p> <p>The payment will be open to those clients within Mid Ulster who have received support from the Business Start / Go For It Programme, completed a Business Plan by 31 March 2021 which has been signed off by the Lead Enterprise Partner between the period January-March 2021 and can confirm they intend to start a new business within 6 months of their letter of offer. They will be required to complete a short application, which will be screened by the 3 Enterprise partners who will then make a recommendation to Council Officers.</p> <p>Recipients will be contacted by Council Officers after 6 months to ascertain whether the business has started. Updates will be submitted to Members at regular intervals.</p>
	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment</p> <p>Provision has been made in the economic development budget in the region of £15,000 (i.e. equivalent to 60 payments), however, some additional monies may be required should demand for support be high (or less if demand is lower). Funding for the scheme will be accommodated within the existing economic development budget without placing any additional demands on Council resources.</p> <p>Human: Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment Officers' time in management and delivery of scheme.</p> <p>Risk Management: Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment Failure of participants to start a business following participation on the programme.</p>

	<p>The risks need to be considered in the context of the risk of doing nothing, which could have much more serious implications such as reduced levels of business starts within the council area, lower levels of entrepreneurship, higher unemployment levels and more people seeking benefits – all exacerbated within the current Covid crisis. The following measures will be implemented in an effort to minimise the identified risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Programme participants must complete the Go For It Programme with one of the three Enterprise Partners, this will represent a commitment on the client's part to start a new business and provide them with the necessary support and guidance to take their business idea forward; ii. Following completion of the Go For It Programme the Enterprise Partners will evaluate the suitability of participants to receive a one off start up payment of £250 and make a recommendation to Council; and, iii. Council will then issue a letter of offer to approved clients who will be required to sign a declaration accepting the terms and conditions of the letter of offer. Payments will be triggered by the creation of a business plan and written confirmation from the client that they are committed to starting the business within a period of 6 months from their application date. Applicants will be advised that payment may be clawed back if the business does not provide appropriate confirmation that they have started within the specific timeframe.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment An Equality Screening Exercise has been completed.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been completed.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p>
5.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 9.11.20 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting dated 9 November 2020.</p>
5.2	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report Note the Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Enterprise Week held on 16-20 November 2020.</p>
5.3	Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Payment

	Note the establishment of an indicative economic development budget of approximately £15,000 towards the delivery of a Pilot Covid Recovery Start Up Scheme. Members should note the budget will depend on the level of demand from clients. Should additional monies be required to meet higher demand than anticipated, then this will be met from Council's existing economic development budget during the pilot period.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum - 9.11.20</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 Evaluation Report</p>

Appendix 1

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting Monday 9 November 2020 at 12.30pm Microsoft Teams

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Francie Molloy	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum
Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union
Dermot McGirr	Translink
Patrick Anderson	Dept. for Communities

In Attendance

Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Celene O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION																												
1	<p>Apologies</p> <table> <tr> <td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Niall McAleer</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Raymond Lowry</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colin McKenna</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michael McGibbon</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ursula Marshall</td><td>Mid Ulster Disability Forum</td></tr> <tr> <td>Raymond O'Neill</td><td>Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Declan Dorrity</td><td>The Venue/The Beer Shed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brian O'Neill</td><td>Coalisland Credit Union</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aedamar McCrossan</td><td>PSNI</td></tr> </table>	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Niall McAleer	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council	Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum	Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association (Chair)	Declan Dorrity	The Venue/The Beer Shed	Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union	Aedamar McCrossan	PSNI
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Aedamar McCrossan	PSNI																												
2.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Doris Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, took the role of Chair, as Raymond O'Neill was unable to attend the meeting, and sent his apologies.</p>																												
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 12th October 2020</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Doris</p> <p>Seconded by P Anderson and agreed: -</p>																												

	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 12 October 2020</p> <p>M Leavey provided an update on the work adjacent to Toals Bookmakers in The Square stating that work is commencing this week on the installation of additional drainage channels.</p> <p>O Donnelly updated that he had contacted the Dungannon Herald and there did not appear to be any appetite to carry out a shop window scheme in Coalisland as they do in other areas. C Fox updated that the Herald is offering free advertising space to local businesses in the lead up to Christmas.</p>
5.	<p>Coalisland Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>M Leavey updated that the Fox Contracts are currently working on the footpaths and private area on Lineside and will be there for another number of weeks. It is hoped to keep disruption to a minimum to ensure shops are serviced.</p> <p>The Contractor is also working on lighting installation in the Cornmill car park. They are also working on Barrack Street car park in the removal of demolition material. On Main Street parking bays have been resurfaced and opened up.</p> <p>To note Fibrus are also in the area installing their fibre network on the outskirts of the town.</p> <p>The issue with the power box for the CCTV at the Cornmill has been rectified and Coalisland & District Development Association (CDDA) staff have been briefed in how to use the equipment.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked as if there have been any issues with access to premises on Lineside during the works. O Donnelly updated that he is down on site most days and there has been no issues reported to him.</p> <p>F Molloy asked for an update on the drainage issues in the town. M Leavey indicated additional drainage pipe work and gullies have been installed from The Square up Barrack Street to the access road back on to Main Street. This pipe work is connected into the DfI Rivers drainage culvert, which takes some pressure off the combined sewer in this area, which should help alleviate the problem. DfI Roads and NI Water still have to complete works on the storm connection from Landis restaurant and on installing additional gullies on Kings Row – programme of works to be confirmed.</p> <p>Gortgonis</p> <p>M Leavey updated that the Roads drawings have been revised to remove the right hand turning lanes and provide a T-Junction to both the school and leisure centre site. These are currently being reviewed with the intention of issue to Planning in the coming weeks.</p>

	<p>F Molloy enquired whether there is any indication that DfI Roads Service will accept the T-Junction. M Leavey indicated that significant works had been completed by the design team indicating that a T-Junction would be acceptable. Several meetings have been held with DfI Roads where design information was presented to DfI Roads to consider. It was recommended that Council proceed with issuing the drawings to planning and DfI Roads could provide a formal position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Events – Halloween & Christmas 2020 <p>O Donnelly provided an update on the proposed 12 Gifts of Christmas draw to be rolled out across the District with prizes from local shops on offer. People can enter via social media with a draw taking place for Coalisland on one day.</p> <p>Cllr Doris asked if there was any instances of Anti-Social Behaviour recorded over the Halloween period. C O'Neill updated that there were none reported through the PSNI.</p> <p>C O'Neill advised that Coalisland was the only town that had organised online events and organisers deserved credit for their work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Recovery Plan <p>C Fox updated that the second COVID Recovery Business Grant will open on Monday 16 November and is open to all eligible commercial businesses in both rural and urban. Anyone who was unsuccessful the first round is eligible to apply for this round of grants. It is an online process once again and the guidance notes will be uploaded to the Council website.</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>P Anderson updated that DfC are seeking a site visit in relation to the Railway Lands in order to progress the transfer of the lands. F Molloy stated that there is interest from local community groups who are looking to use the lands.</p> <p>C Fox updated that Mid Ulster Councils Enterprise Week commences 16 November with a variety of free webinars from renowned speakers throughout the week. Registration and a full list of the week's online events were available on the Councils website.</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 7th December @ 12.30pm via Microsoft Teams</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Duration</p> <p>Meeting ended at 13.15pm</p>

Appendix 2

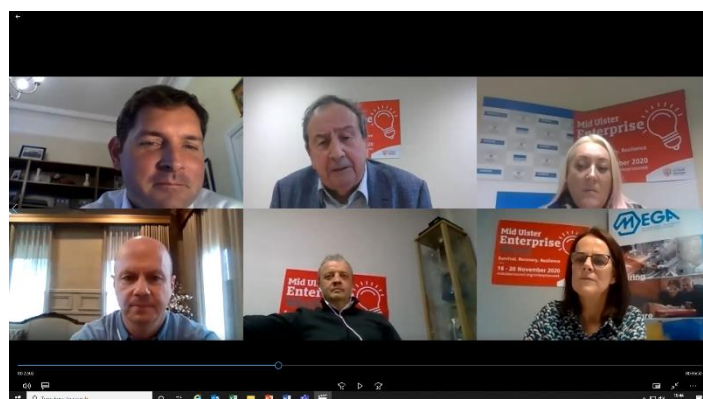


Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week

Monday 16th to Friday 20th November 2020

Evaluation Report



1.0 Background

To mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2020, Mid Ulster's second Enterprise Week took place between Monday 16th and Friday 20th November 2020. Due to restrictions as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Mid Ulster Enterprise Week went virtual this year offering a diverse range of twelve online, interactive events.

Organised by Mid Ulster District Council, with support from partners including Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership, Invest NI, Intertrade Ireland, Mid Ulster Skills Forum, MEGA, Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group and local business leaders, the week's focus was on sustainability and resilience amid the significant challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

A total of twelve online events took place across the week, with subjects ranging from Reinventing Retail to building Resilience in the Hospitality and Tourism sector, alongside business support topics including LinkedIn to Win and Communication in the Workplace. The week was completed with another very successful business funding and support event.

The Council supported two further virtual events as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. These events were aimed at inspiring potential entrepreneurs and organised by the Go for It Programme and Mid South West officer teams.

2.0 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Outputs

- ✓ Extensive programme of over 12 free virtual webinars
- ✓ Total of 539 people attended the programme of events (66% Attendance Rate)
- ✓ A further 251 people viewed recordings of the webinars via the Council's YouTube channel at 7th January 2021.
- ✓ High Social Media Engagement:-
 - Twitter - 30 posts, 47,078 impressions (number of times a tweet has been delivered to twitter stream of users), 1,225 engagements (Number of users that interacted with post);
 - Mid Ulster Facebook - 27 posts, 98,795 people reached, 4,802 people engaged, 24,509 video views.
 - Instagram – 6 posts, 2,588 people reached, 20 people engaged.
- ✓ Council Website Analytics - 1,834 page views from October to November.
- ✓ Press Coverage – Mean Advertising Value equivalent to £36,694.38

3.0 Marketing & Promotion

The promotional focus was digital-first, using social media channels to push traffic to a specific enterprise week web page, with a specially created animated explainer video produced to support the week's events and an e-zine also created and issued.

Other support included extensive press and radio advertising.

The events were also promoted via e-invitations to the Council's key business networks.

A promotional video has been created to capture the highlights of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 in a visual format and is available to view on the Council's YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/HX3Uzuf12ok>

If anyone wishes to view any of the webinars held during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week, these can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/enterpriseweekwebinars>

4.0 Programme of Events

Webinar	Speaker(s)	Attendance	Views of Video (up to 7/1/21)
Introducing your company quickly and compellingly	Una McSorley, Marcomm Training.	51	31
EU Exit - Changes to Chemicals Regimes REACH / CLP / PIC	Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the Department for the Economy and Invest Northern Ireland.	10	N/A
Reinventing retail in a Covid world	Graham Soult, CannyInsights.	44	16
A recipe for recovery: Tourism and hospitality	Michael Deane, Deanes Restaurants.	43	31
The MEGA Impact - one year on	Compere – Malachi Cush. Panel - Maria Curran, MEGA Project Director, Darragh Cullen, Edge Innovate, Pat O'Neill, Founding Member of Powerscreen, Jenna Coote, Coote Engineering, Peter Canavan, Holy Trinity Foundation.	71	77
Go for It - Confessions of a Start-Up	Compere – Cate Conway Speakers - Laura Irwin, Co-Owner of Noble Spaces and Dave Linton, Founder of Madlug.	22	
It's a zoo around here - a guide to better communication in the workplace	Una McSorley, Marcomm Training.	58	13
LinkedIn to win	Louise Brogan, Social Bee.	67	23
The 4 C's - creating content that connects through Covid	Gail Sheen, Social Sheen and Clara Maybin, So Social.	53	22
Inspiring Entrepreneurs	Panel – Cormac Diamond, Bloc Blinds, Mairead Mackle, Tarasis Enterprises, Shane McCrory, Electricast Ltd.	22	N/A
Leading teams through a pandemic	Julie Allen, Julie Allen Consulting.	35	18
Business funding and support event	Compere – Karen Patterson Speakers – Cllr Cathal Mallaghan, Chair Mid Ulster Council, Ethna McNamee, Invest NI, Shane O'Hanlon, Intertrade Ireland, Jim Eastwood, Mid Ulster Enterprise Agencies, Anita Doris, Cavanagh Kelly Accountants.	63	20
	Total Registrations	539	251

5.0 Synopsis of Events

A total of 12 events were offered by Council as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 under the theme of '*Survival, Recovery, Resilience*'.

A wide range of relevant business topics were offered to ensure all sectors of industry received support to assist in operating within the current difficult economic environment. Specific webinars were held for the Retail, Hospitality and Manufacturing and Engineering sectors, alongside advice for Start-ups, Brexit regulation changes for labelling and chemicals and a range of speakers from funding and support agencies. In addition, the virtual events provided advice on key business issues including communication, sales, leading teams through a pandemic and social media.

Feedback from attendees was very positive with many welcoming the virtual format as this enabled them to take a short time away from their work commitments, without the need to travel to and from a venue, or access the event recording at a later more suitable time.

The range of topics and speakers were highly commended and the relevance of topics were acknowledged, particularly given the extremely difficult trading conditions many of our businesses are facing. Attendees requested that Mid Ulster District Council continue to assess the business environment and continue to provide events which are appropriate and relevant to the current situation.

6.0 Conclusion

Despite the significant challenges of the pandemic, the second Mid Ulster Enterprise Week provided a dynamic programme of virtual events for entrepreneurs, start-ups and established businesses across the district. Holding the events online provided a fantastic opportunity for attendees to sign in from their home or place of work therefore reducing the time commitment needed due to travel. As such the events were more accessible to a greater number of people. Furthermore, having recordings for each event available online to view at a later date received a positive response.

Feedback from attendees and the various economic stakeholders involved in Enterprise Week 2020 has been very positive indeed.

Plans are already underway for Enterprise Week 2021, which we hope will build upon the success of the last two year's events. Providing the pandemic is firmly under control and face to face events are restarted, 2021's events have the potential to be a blend of both physical and virtual events to meet the needs of all businesses across the district.

I would remind you to have a look at the short video on Council's YouTube Channel below which gives a flavour of the wide range of activities and events held during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2020 <https://youtu.be/HX3Uzuf12ok>

Highlights from the Week

Event	Feedback
Monday 16th November 2020 Introducing Your Company Quickly and Compellingly	Linda Boylan, WebsiteNI <i>"A good recap of how to effectively introduce your business and improve your listening skills."</i>
Monday 16th November 2020 Reinventing Retail in a Covid World	David Thompson, Thompson Footwear <i>"The timing and offering of webinars was very good and this years topic was extremely apt."</i>
Tuesday 17th November 2020 A Recipe for Recovery : Tourism and Hospitality	Mary Enright Gillies, SERC <i>"Invaluable insight, thoughts and opinions from one of N.Ireland's most passionate Tourism & Hospitality Leaders."</i>
Tuesday 17th November 2020 The MEGA Impact - One Year On	Leanne Ferguson, Specdrum <i>"Being new to the industry, it was a great insight to see the platform already established in terms of succession planning for the industry. The panellists were very useful and listening to their take on current issues within the sector such as COVID, BREXIT was very beneficial to gain a better grasp on the industry's current position."</i>
Wednesday 18th November 2020 It's a Zoo Around Here: A Guide to Better Communication in the Workplace	Adele McIvor , Network Personnel <i>"Great refresher on communication styles. Online workshops should continue"</i>
Wednesday 18th November 2020 LinkedIn to Win	Daniel McCartan, DMC Survey Services Ltd <i>"Topics are very current I feel, timing great as I could work it in around my lunch hour."</i>
Thursday 19 th November 2020 Leading Teams Through a Pandemic	Brian Murray, BM Business Services <i>"Excellent seminar with lot of takeaways- recognition of how all staff are impacted upon in different ways by pandemic."</i>
Friday 20 th November 2020 Business Funding and Support Event	Lucia Neeson, Agharan Motor Shed <i>"Excellent - from business grants available for Covid as well as consultancy support on a number of business areas. The Brexit readiness was extremely useful particularly the auto-enrolment to get the EORI Number to ensure we are Brexit ready. Today's session has really grown the To Do list, which is fantastic. Thank you"</i>

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week

16 - 20 Nov 2020

Survival, Recovery, Resilience

#GEW2020
#MidUlsterDC

Register Online

MON 16th November

Introducing Your Company Quickly and Compellingly

10.00am - 11.00am

Una McSorley, Marcomm Training

You've just bumped into a former client in the lift. He asks you what your new company does. You open your mouth, try to organize your thoughts when the lift stops and he's on his way. Missed opportunity and one where it would have helped to have had an "elevator pitch."

But how do you craft a pitch that generates interest in your product or service in just 30 seconds or less? This webinar takes you through writing an elevator pitch and what it should include.

EU Exit | Chemicals Regimes REACH / CLP / PIC

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Speakers from HSE/GB & DEFRA

Learn what your business needs to know about impending changes to labelling, packaging and chemical regulations which will apply from 1st January 2021. This event will focus on the chemical regimes of Registration Evaluation Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH); Classification Labelling and Packaging (CLP); and Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

Find out about the required procedures to be followed in relation to labelling and packaging of chemical products moving between GB and the NI(EU) and the export and import of designated hazardous chemicals and how this will work after the transition period.

Reinventing Retail in a Covid World

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Graham Soult, Convey Insights

Join Graham Soult, respected retail commentator and High Streets Task Force Expert as he focuses on practical hints and tips to navigate the Covid-19 situation, and trade as successfully as possible now and into the future. Learn how to effectively respond to trends and challenges affecting the high street during and post Covid-19, gaining expert advice on marketing messages, customer service and future proofing your store.

TUES 17th November

A Recipe for Recovery: Tourism and Hospitality

10.00am - 11.30am

Michael Deane, DEANES Restaurants

This webinar is especially suited to the hospitality and tourism sector. Michael Deane will share how he adapted his businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic and will outline his plans for moving forward. Michael is one of the most recognisable faces of Ireland's hospitality industry. As proprietor of seven diverse restaurants in Belfast, he shares the credit for transforming the city's food culture. Join this webinar for useful insights and suggestions on how to become resilient and get your business on the road to recovery.

The MEGA Impact - One Year On

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Panel Discussion with Manufacturing / Engineering Leaders from Mid Ulster

Come and hear about the significant progress and developments made by the Manufacturing and Engineering Growth Advancement (MEGA) network over the last 12 months. This includes the decisive positive impact made during this challenging period within the local manufacturing and engineering sector. Local celebrity Malachi Cush will compare proceedings with a live Q&A speaking to an expert panel including guest speaker Pat O'Neill - founding member of Powerscreen.

Confessions of a Start-up Business Owner

7.15pm - 8.15pm

Host: Cate Conway, Local Radio Personality

The Go For It Programme will host the first in a series of 'Confessions of a Start-up Business Owner' to inspire potential entrepreneurs. This one hour virtual workshop will provide honest and inspirational insights from experienced entrepreneurs including a Mid Ulster new start, Laura Irwin, Noble Spaces. Hear them talk candidly about their strategies and mistakes along their journey to success.

All events are online webinars and FREE to attend - register at:

midulstercouncil.org/enterpriseweek

* All information is correct at time of publication. Please confirm details online when registering.

WED 18th November

It's a Zoo Around Here: A Guide to Better Communication in the Workplace

10.00am - 11.00am

Una McSorley, Marcomm Training

This humorous presentation is perfect for leaders at all levels. Una McSorley will share her guide to better communication in the workplace. She will explain how to become a more effective communicator and ultimately a leader, by recognising the variety of communication styles used by the animals in your zoo and adapting your strategy accordingly.

LinkedIn to Win

1.30pm - 2.30pm

Louise Brogan, Social Bee

Learn how to maximise LinkedIn to build relationships and win new business. This webinar will provide insight on how to optimise your LinkedIn profile, understand types of content to share, and grow valuable networks. No more feeling lost, frustrated, or overwhelmed as you leave ready to use LinkedIn to WIN!

The 4 C's: Creating Content that Connects through Covid

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Gail Sheen & Clara Maybin, So Social Marketing

Gain an invaluable insight into creating meaningful online content that directly impacts and connects with your customers. This session will take into account the impact that Covid-19 has had on our customer relationships and how we can appropriately communicate with them during the pandemic.

If you attend any of our webinars your name will automatically go forward into a prize draw with the opportunity to win some great prizes. The more events you attend, the more opportunity you have of winning a prize!



THURS 19th November

Inspiring Entrepreneurs

10.00am - 11.00am

Q&A with Cormac Diamond (Blot Blinds), Mairead MacLide (Taras Enterprise) and Shane McCrory (ElectriCast Ltd)

Register for 'Inspiring Entrepreneurs', a webinar featuring some of the best business leaders from across the Mid South West region of Northern Ireland. Hear how they charted a path for their businesses during lockdown, pivoting to meet new challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities. This session will offer learnings for companies of all sizes and sectors, with growing relevance as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact businesses.

Leading Teams Through a Pandemic

12.00pm - 1.00pm

Jillie Allen Consulting

Over the past 8 months everyone has experienced challenges both personally and professionally. As a business leader learn how you can create the conditions in the workplace to foster resilience, innovation, and growth. This 60 minute webinar will focus on what is required to keep teams energetic, enthusiastic and emotionally connected through the pandemic.

FRI 20th November

Business Funding and Support Event

11.00am - 12.15pm

Comper: Karen Patterson, TV and Radio Personality

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to hear about the range of business support and funding available to businesses in these difficult times. Hear from Mid Ulster District Council, Invest NI, InterTrade Ireland and Mid Ulster Enterprise Agencies about their current support programmes. Cavanagh Kelly Accountants will also brief business owners on a variety of funding and support to help businesses navigate the pandemic. Not to be missed, this invaluable webinar will be hosted by well known and respected TV and radio personality Karen Patterson. Each participant will receive an e-booklet outlining the various support packages available.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



News Release

October 2020

Mid Ulster Goes Virtual For 2020 Enterprise Week

Enterprise Week (16 – 20 November) will go virtual this year, with a series of online, interactive events planned by Mid Ulster District Council.

A total of 12 webinars will take place across the week under the theme of ‘Survival, Recovery, Resilience’, reflecting the very different economic context in which businesses are operating as a result of coronavirus.

Retail and hospitality, two of the sectors hardest-hit by the pandemic, will benefit from the experience of the celebrated restaurateur, Michael Deane, and high street champion, Graham Soult.

Michael Deane, who is one of the most recognisable faces in Ireland’s hospitality industry, will be demonstrating resilience in action when he talks about how he has adapted his business during the pandemic, while Graham Soult will share hints and tips that the retailers of Mid Ulster can use to help them navigate and trade successfully through the COVID-19 situation and into the future.

Several expert panels will be convened online, with panelists providing insight and guidance over the course of the week and providing participants with an opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.

One panel brings together speakers from a range of organisations to bring clarity to the range of funding and support for business generally, as well as specifically related to the impact of COVID-19, while another will be providing very specific advice on what the EU Exit will mean for companies which source or produce chemicals.

The manufacturing sector is to the fore in a third panel session when some of Mid Ulster’s industry leaders, including guest speaker Pat O’Neill, founding member of Powerscreen, come together for a live Q&A.

In this event, organised by MEGA – Manufacturing and Engineering Growth and Advancement – participants will hear how the network’s vision to create a pipeline of skilled talent fit for industry needs is being put into practice and learn from the sector’s collaborative approach.

The ever-increasing importance of digital platforms for business is also reflected in the programme, with sessions covering effective use of LinkedIn and creating engaging online content to connect with customers.

And the experiences of others who have taken the plunge to start their own businesses through the 'Go For It' programme is set to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Launching Enterprise Week 2020, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Chair of the Council, said that while the events may be virtual, they will have no less impact:

"Both our approach and our content reflect the fact that we are delivering a this programme during a pandemic and while Enterprise Week may be virtual in 2020, the events will be no less impactful.

"Mid Ulster is renowned for an extraordinary level of entrepreneurship and while the current operating environment may be challenging for many sectors, many of our businesses are continuing to adapt, flex and innovate to meet those challenges.

"And of course there will be individuals who are continuing to explore possible business ideas or are in the early stages of starting a business.

"The programme is deliberately diverse to reflect different stages of business growth, and different areas of interest, as well as topics which will have broad appeal, regardless of your stage or sector."

For further information about Enterprise Week 2020 and to book for an event, visit www.midulstercouncil.org/enterpriseweek.

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