



APPENDIX 1

Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Work & Wellbeing Division
Department for Communities
Design Centre
39 Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3BA
Email: LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: LEP/ENI/10/22

Date: 01 November 2022

Dear Chief Executive,

LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) FUNDING 1st APRIL 2022 to 31st MARCH 2023

The LMP Letter of Offer issued on 15 April 2022 included an offer of funding for administrative costs and an indicative offer of funding for operational costs associated with the local LMP. I can now confirm, on behalf of the Department of Communities, an offer of funding of £368,009.25 to Mid Ulster District Council for costs associated with the local LMP for the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

I would be grateful if you could complete the 'Proposed LMP Budget 2022/23' column of the attached Budget Schedule to confirm the areas of the Action Plan that will be enacted. You will note that the Budget Schedule includes previously provided figures and an Active Budget including any change control requests received to date.

Specific conditions of the offer:

1. The funding provided is to be used solely for LMP expenditure.
2. This offer is governed by the conditions for LMPs funding as detailed in the LMP Financial Guidelines.
3. This offer is conditional on acceptance of and adherence to the terms and conditions contained in the LMP Funding Agreement.
4. The Department reserves the right to recover subsidies if required to do so.

Acceptance

Please complete the enclosed letter of acceptance with a copy of the budget attached within 4 weeks from the date on Letter of Offer, and return it to:

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

Additionally an electronic copy can be sent via email to LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk.

The Department for Communities requires acceptance prior to authorising the LMP first quarter grant claim.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deirdre Ward".

Deirdre Ward
Director
Work and Wellbeing Division

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

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

Date

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) FUNDING 1
APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023**

Mid Ulster District Council

This Council agrees the funding offer from the Department for Communities of £368,009.25 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 to administer and run the activities of the LMP, in line with the funding criteria.

The funding will be wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in running the activities of the LMP as detailed in the LMP Action Plan and budget schedule. The Council accept and agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the LMP Financial Guidelines and Funding Agreement. The Council understand that in accepting this funding offer, the previous funding offer made by the Department on 15 April 2022 in support of LMPs has been superseded.

Statement of Financial arrangements and control environment

I confirm the Council:

- has sound financial procedures and controls in place to govern the activities and expenditure of the LMP;
- will ensure all relevant documentation is retained to support all LMP expenditure claims;
- has arrangements in place to satisfy the requirement for providing assurance on the probity and proper use of funds;
- has effective Corporate Governance, Risk Management and operating policies referred to in the Financial Guidelines in place for the LMP; and
- will allow reasonable access to Council records relating to LMP transactions.

Signed.....

Date

Chief Executive, on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

DfC Reference No: LEP/ENI/10/22

Applicant: Mid Ulster District Council

Amount of Funding: £368,009.25

Period of Funding: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Please complete Bank details below:

Name of Organisation: _____

Billing Address: _____

Name of Account: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Sort Code: _____ Account Number: _____

Signed by (Chief Executive)

Name (Block Capitals)

Date



Progress Update Report

The implementation of MEGA’s new strategic action plan will deliver outcomes and positive impacts by 2025

Quarterly Review Number:	1	Period covered by Review	1 st April to 31 st September 2022
Network Name	MEGA – Manufacturing & Engineering Growth Advancement	SLA Start/End Date	1 st April 2022 – 31 st March 2025
Maria Curran	MEGA Project Director	maria.curran@midulstermega.com	

ACTION

1. Focus on People

Address the current deficit in human resources available to the manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster.

- Careers Portal - Collaborate with MUDC to develop a Manufacturing & Engineering online careers portal that showcases MEGA companies; career paths; “a day in the life of”; job vacancies etc.
- School Ambassadors programme rolled out. All ambassadors attend at least 1 school visit per year.
- Schools Projects – Year 1 pilot project with 5 schools/companies. Year 2 & 3 increased to minimum 8/10
- JBO Connections attend 2 MEGA meetings per year
- National diversity. Target marketing in native languages.
- Host an annual MEGA jobs fair targeted at specific recruitment groups.
- Workplace attractiveness. Design a self assessment questionnaire to baseline & score MEGA member working conditions. Consider the facilities necessary to support diversity in the operational workplace. • Encourage members to apply for funding support to address improvement action plans.

- PR & Marketing. Part time marketing resource to handle all social media, website content, PR and marketing activity. • Develop a new communications strategy. • Use PR to address misperceptions of the sector. • Maximise MEGA opportunities for press and media exposure. • Seek media training for key MEGA representatives

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

- Industry & Education engagement manager visited nearly every post-primary school in Mid Ulster, and several in the bordering areas for a total of 31 schools reached during the 2021-22 academic year. This resulted in a total of 1,270 students being informed about the career opportunities within the manufacturing and engineering sector.
- MEGA Ambassadors also attended post-primary schools: Engineers, HR Managers, Apprentices, Welders, etc. all spoke to students about their roles, what inspired them into the sector and what the highlights are of working where they do.
- Well-attended Education Sub-Committee meeting in May 2022 with 20 attendees: careers teachers, principals, technology & design teachers and industry. Many topics were discussed, such as: parents not wanting their children to take up careers in manufacturing & engineering; apprenticeship deadlines; increasing collaboration with schools & industry.
- The commencement of company tours for careers & technology & design teachers brought 20 teachers from Mid Ulster to industry to raise awareness of the career opportunities within the manufacturing & engineering sector.
- Two career information sessions held in Magherafelt & Dungannon during GCSE exam results day (Aug 22) to help inform students of the career opportunities within the sector.
- Schools newsletter August 2022 sent to all stakeholders highlighting all the industry/education activity that took place over the 2021-22 academic year i.e. Ambassador programme, Year 11 projects, Year 12 company visits, teacher tours, primary school outreach programme, etc.
- MEGA STEAM Train programme was a new initiative over the summer. Industry & Education engagement manager organised and helped deliver 4 summer scheme sessions, during July and August, at the Torrent Complex in Donaghmore. The 240 places were sold out within 48hrs.
- Regular communication with local JBO's and dept. for communities on upcoming events and opportunities.
- Recruitment event held in Dungannon, April 2022 to attract foreign national workers. Marketing materials created in four different languages. Poor turn out of potential applicants.
- 37 students now on degree apprenticeship course. Cohort 2 of degree apprentices are of mixed age, background and diversity
- Mentor engaged with 35 industry providers to secure 23 placements. New links established for next year's cohort.
- Article in Irish News and advertisement on Q Radio during GCSE exam week to promote opportunities in the sector and highlight Careers Information sessions.
- On completion of the 6-week welding academy course 85 people were employed at end of July. Currently, 66 welding, 4 engineering alternative role and 15 did not respond to employment update.

<p>ACTION</p> <p>2. Skills for the Future</p> <p>Adapt the provision of education of skills development to meet the changing needs of the sector over time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills demand planning. Conduct an annual survey of members to understand people & skills demands for the 12-18 months ahead. Collaborate with MUDC LMP to inform stakeholders of the rolling 12 – 18 month skills needs. • MEGA Skills Academy. Create a skills academy to deliver a range of short training courses (e.g. spray painting; robotic welding; CNC; Hydraulics). Leverage the supply base to loan training equipment & materials • Digital manufacturing & I4.0. Identify a training partner for digital manufacturing & automation (e.g. Digital Catapult, Dundalk AMTCE) adopt a clear curriculum relevant to MEGA members. Identify funding opportunities to support member training. Train members in emerging technologies • Skills investment programme. Signpost and encourage members towards grant support packages available for skills investment (e.g. Skills Advancement Grant for INI clients) 3 year span of project • Skills demand planning. Conduct an annual survey of members to understand people & skills demands for the 12-18 months ahead. Collaborate with MUDC LMP to inform stakeholders of the rolling 12 – 18 month skills needs. • MEGA Skills Academy. Create a skills academy to deliver a range of short training courses (e.g. spray painting; robotic welding; CNC; Hydraulics). Leverage the supply base to loan training equipment & materials • Digital manufacturing & I4.0. Identify a training partner for digital manufacturing & automation (e.g. Digital Catapult, Dundalk AMTCE) adopt a clear curriculum relevant to MEGA members. Identify funding opportunities to support member training. Train members in emerging technologies • Skills investment programme. Signpost and encourage members towards grant support packages available for skills investment (e.g. Skills Advancement Grant for INI clients) 3 year span of project
<p>ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Matt Murray, Head of Dept. NRC, resulted in discussion leading to creating an apprenticeship course in Magherafelt campus for Sept 2023 intake. (Currently only offered in Ballymena campus). This will help companies in that region to steer more students towards apprenticeships and for Mega to attract new members from the Northern region of MUDC. • NRC, SWC & AMTCE currently completing a course mapping document that Mega will collate and distribute to network members • 10 companies attended information session in Glenavon on SMDH Project. Business development officer has since engaged with Terex, Specdrum, Muldoon Transport, Edge Innovate, and SFM Engineering. Overall long-term impact of engagement in SMDH is the development of digital 4.0 knowledge and skills that support the transition of the sector into a new era of manufacturing. • 5 companies so far have agreed to get involved in SMDH project. Project team have to provide a solution and then get companies signed up to access their data. (verbally onboard) • Funding opportunities are available for companies participating in SMDH project
<p>ACTION</p> <p>3. Collaborate to win</p>

Build strong working relations with key delivery partners and leverage third party resources and budget to the best advantage of MEGA members.

- Education & skills alignment. Build strategic working relationships at board level with funded skills delivery partners (e.g. SWC, NRC) Collaborate with operational resource to devise new training and development offerings that are aligned to industry skills demands.
- Degree apprenticeships. Sustain the Engineering degree apprenticeship. Grow to 30 plus places per year
- Emerging skills programme. Build networks with Centers of Excellence to understand emerging technologies & skills requirements. Encourage Centers of Excellence to host awareness sessions in Mid Ulster
- Influence & communicate. Embrace Manufacturing NI as a collaboration partner to manage communications and influence with Government.
- MSW economic engine. Build relationships with the MSW programme team and stay abreast of developments under the Growth deal
- Assign two MEGA representatives to the ESIC working group
- NI Makers Alliance. Maintain representation with the Makers Alliance and provide periodic updates on MEGA activities and successes.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

- Meeting with Ciaran McManus, SWC & Matt Murray, NRC August 2022 to devise new training and development offerings i.e. SWC – Business in Engineering course NRC- Apprenticeships in Magherafelt campus
- Collaborating with Ryan Harkin, Justin Quinn UU to deliver CRF funded Engineering Skills Catapult for development of degree apprenticeship
- Mentoring officer collaborates regularly with UU, mentors, students, industry to ensure the provision of equal training and support opportunities
- SMDH Project - Improved industry cohesion through links with Cambridge, Catapult, Ulster University, Hartree, and Manufacturing NI will lead to improved industry collaboration to promote the overall competitiveness of the Mid-Ulster region in a global marketplace.
- Maria invited by Manufacturing Ni to take part in Q&A at the Leadership Summit Anchor High on 12th May 2022. New connections made within the sector and companies throughout NI more aware of the work being undertaken by the MEGA network.
- Darragh Cullen will contribute to the NI wide manufacturing agenda on behalf of Mega members and ensure our voice is heard when industrial strategy is being devised by Makers Alliance

APPENDIX 3

Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd - Service Level Agreement with Mid Ulster Council

Progress Report 2022/23

Progress Report No. 1 – April – September 2022

Project Development

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will continue to develop the following projects for member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC): -

Projects for Further Development	Progress
Marketing and promotion of Lough Neagh by sharing information with Tourism NI (TNI), Tourism Ireland (TIL) and visitmidulster.com on a regular basis, producing and distributing Lough Neagh newsletter for stakeholders and consumers online, attend and promote at trade fairs and exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listing of scheduled tours on TNI & TI website, TNI shared them on social media. This was in relation to the Lough Neagh Artisan Tour Series & Artisan Markets in May/June 2022.• Set up new social media platforms for LNP, merged Lough Neagh Tours with Love Lough Neagh on Social Media, extensive social media & marketing campaign for Lough Neagh Artisan markets – this project was shortlisted for the Embrace a Giant Spirit Awards, LNP attended• Produced 5 year report for stakeholders highlighting all the work carried out across LNP's various projects.• Production of Wonders & Legends of LN book & LN Atlas of the Natural & Built Cultural Heritage• Newsletters issued to monthly April – September 2022• Attended the Adventure Travel Show in San Francisco in May 2022 with Tourism Ireland. LNP registered to attend WTM, ITOA & Great Days out Mid Ulster.
Assist Mid Ulster District Council implement recommendations of a Heritage Cluster Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To meet Assistant Director to discuss recommendations in Oct 2022 et al.
Develop a Lough Neagh Artisan Food Programme, including the development of new and existing artisan members, identifying artisan event opportunities and promotion of both.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held two successful Artisan Food Markets in Toome during May & August 2022.• Increased group membership to 20, with 8 members from Mid Ulster Council area. Hosted an Artisan Tour Series in May/June, two of the tours included Mid Ulster artisans/venues.• LNP is working with MUDC for the Lough Neagh Artisans to run the Magherafelt Christmas Market in Nov 2022
Joint development of tourism and economic programmes with Mid Ulster District Council including links with ICBAN and MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held teams meeting with Shane Mc Kinney from ICBAN regarding inclusion of Blackwater River in Shared Island North Ulster Canal Proposal.

<p>groups, assist with access and recreational plans for school lands Derrytresk, Lower Bann Pathway and Traad Point/Ballyronan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to do presentation to ICBAN and to meet Shared Island personnel on feedback to rejected proposal • Meet with Waterways Ireland CEO, MUDC CEO and Northern Regional Operations Director regarding development of Lough Neagh, Blackwater River and River Bann including access. • Held two meetings with MUDC directors, elected representatives and local stakeholders to discuss potential development of Traad Point. Provided copy of previous Traad Point plan to MUDC. To follow up with advice on River Bann proposal
<p>Development of Blackwater River, providing technical advice associated with dredging, help with boating needs to council staff on river and lough, assist with EIA's and DfI business plans, link with ICBAN and Waterways Ireland to progress Ulster Canal development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped develop Blackwater Dredging Steering Group • Prepared Blackwater Study and did presentation to MUDC • Attended Blackwater Steering group in Oxford Island June 2022 • Coordinated and held Lough Neagh and Blackwater Dredging workshop in Ballyronan in June 2022. • Liaison with DFI rivers section and Fishermen's Co-op regarding dredging of Quays and River mouths • LNP Commenced EIA surveying of all quays and river mouths • Drew up basis spec for chemical analysis and topography for MUDC • Consulted with ICBAN regrading Shared Island North Ulster Canal proposal • Offered MUDC and Blackwater Dredging Steering Group to help with preparing and any DFI business applications. • Prepared and submitted Levelling Up application for new markers and dredger on Lough Neagh
<p>Continue to develop NIEA Shoreline Plan and securing funding for a management plan for Killycolpy and Killywoolaghan, community bird hides as per 2021/22, develop wet woodland and climate change strategy for Western Shores taking into consideration Mid Ulster District Council's climate change and biodiversity plans. Implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for Killycolpy complete • Wet woodland study being drawn up • Climate Change and Carbon study being developed • Transfer of Killycolpy nature reserve and School lands signed for and near completion. • Community Bird hide received funding from NIEA for stage 2 to prepare off the shelf project. • CRESI HLF application successful for new ranger to manage nature reserves. • NIEA major 5-year strategic project being prepared • SEUPB nature peatlands restoration project being prepared with RSPB • Islands conservation work and all bird monitoring continuing via new boat.
<p>Continue to develop and deliver an Environmental Farm Scheme on western shores of Lough Neagh by attracting new funding and through engagement with farmers, landowners, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Group Farm Scheme continues western shore • Major Nature Recovery Network being developed at School Lands and Killycolpy • 143 new members in group scheme

relevant stakeholders to improve conditions. Assist Mid Ulster District Council in development of an Agricultural Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £17,000 avg investment over last 5 years brought into individual farms • New policy engagement with DAERA Countryside Management for next programme. • Offer open for help with the development of new agricultural biodiversity and climate change strategies in new 5-year SLA from Mar 2023 – Mar 2028
Develop funding applications and attract investment from SEUPB for RSPB project, NPA for bicycle tourism development, Levelling Up for navigation aids and new dredger, examine Shared Island funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New independent strategy drawn up for LNP and sent to three main Councils with details of integrated investment strategy with major funders and Councils. • Levelling Up application made for new markers and dredger • Shared Prosperity application developed and ready to be made • Discussions held with RSPB and UWT regarding SEUPB peatland and Nature recovery proposals for Lough Neagh • Request for MUDC CEO and Monaghan County Council to meet with Shared Island people
Develop an Interdepartmental Committee for Lough Neagh and examine funding opportunities for technical developments of Lough Neagh ownership bid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting and presentation made to Minister O'Dowd in July 2022 • Request for him to set up interdepartmental group for Lough • NLHF expression of interest made for ownership of Lough Neagh • Follow up Letter sent to Minister regarding Interdepartmental Group sent in Aug 2022 • Request for DFI meeting made
Develop Moiled Cattle Scheme for Lough Neagh and western shore members and create a new food chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moiled Cattle scheme set up • Website under construction, promotional materials in production and marketing plan is being developed.

Roles and Responsibilities

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide the following services for the Council:

Roles & Responsibilities	Progress
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will assist with project identification, project co-ordination and financial management as agreed for relevant funding programmes.	Financial management and project coordination continues
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will represent the agreed vision of the region in responding to consultations relating to regional, international, and global issues	LNP meetings with CEOs and senior directors of new funding bodies and three main Councils
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.	EFS best practice meetings and dredging best practice meetings arranged
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will submit six monthly reports detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions.	This is first six-monthly report provided for 2022/23

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.	All funds recorded
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will facilitate the involvement of council staff and elected members in its work.	MUDC Cllrs attend LNP board meetings and AGM, and feedback reports provided.
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide ongoing support to council's objectives.	Continual liaison with elected and executive officers
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Strategic Manager will meet with Council's Tourism Manager at least four times throughout the year to review and monitor progress.	Manager regularly meets with MUDC Tourism Manager. Has met at least three times in last 6 months