

<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Days Out Event</li> <li>2. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</li> <li>3. Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</li> <li>4. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</li> <li>5. Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</li> <li>6. Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Great Days Out Event</b> This event was previously run by Tourism Northern Ireland, catering for group organisers, church groups, sports and social clubs, community groups, retirement associations, gardening groups, historical groups, rotary clubs and many more from across NI. Mid Ulster Council delivered our own version of Great Days Out in 2019 at Corick House Hotel and at HomePlace in 2020.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</b> Mid Ulster's fourth Enterprise Week is scheduled to take place between Monday 14 and Friday 18 November 2022. It is anticipated this year's event will incorporate a mix of online and in-person events.</p>
<b>2.3</b>	<p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> The Rural Business Development Grants Scheme offers rural based micro businesses capital grants of up to £4,999 for actions, which aid business sustainability, recovery and development. Mandatory funding workshops for this year's Scheme, which ran from late April through to mid-May 2022, were attended by over 420 businesses with 204 applications received by the call closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.</p>

<p><b>2.4</b></p> <p><b>2.5</b></p> <p><b>2.6</b></p>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The Mid Ulster LMP is industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</b> Council is seeking to develop 3 No. Place Shaping Plans that will provide a fresh strategic framework for economic growth and regeneration in the 3 main towns, Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis</b> The existing socio-economic analysis for Mid Ulster is out of date and requires renewal to ensure it captures, summarises and highlights all our District's key issues/sectors/data and sets these out in a simple and meaningful way with the use of infographics and text, etc.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p><b>Great Days Out Event</b> Great Days Out will directly target group organisers from across Northern Ireland and the border counties, such as church groups, community groups and retirement associations.</p> <p>The purpose of Great Days Out is to encourage these organisers to visit the Mid Ulster District by providing information on the wealth of fantastic group day visits available. It will showcase cultural experiences, heritage sites and special interest tours and will entice groups to visit locations, which may not be familiar to them.</p> <p>Great Days Out is designed to showcase the vast array of tourism businesses and experiences across the District. It will include attractions, activities and accommodation throughout the Mid Ulster Council area offering a range of great day trip experiences and overnights for a variety of groups from church, sports and social clubs to community groups, retirement associations and many more.</p> <p>Group trip organisers and group leaders will be given the opportunity to meet and sell directly to a range of exhibitors who can help them plan a day trip in Mid Ulster.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</b> It is proposed to deliver a mix of around 10 online and in-person events across Enterprise Week. Council is keen to build on the success of the previous three Enterprise Weeks held in Mid Ulster and deliver an equally impactful high quality programme of business focused events.</p>

A wide range of business topics will be offered to ensure all sectors of industry are supported. Feedback from last year's event was very positive with many attendees supporting the virtual format as this enabled them to attend with limited time away from their work commitments and without the need to travel to and from a venue along with the opportunity to access the event recording at a later date.

To build upon the success of previous years' events, it is proposed to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Partner who will report to Council throughout the organisation, co-ordination and delivery of a comprehensive range of actions to ensure the smooth delivery of Enterprise Week 2022.

### **3.3 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022**

The Rural Business Development Grants Scheme is administered by Council on behalf of DAERA through a contract for funding which sets out delivery milestones for completion of key phases of the Scheme, namely:

1. Assessment of all applications and issue of letters of offer by 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
2. Processing of promoter claim forms and submission to DAERA for payment by 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The value of grant requested within applications received for the 2022 call is approx. £696K, which far exceeds the initial allocation of £140,000. Additional funding may be allocated from DAERA but this will be subject to availability.

As letters of offer have to be issued by the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022, it will not be possible to bring a list of approved projects to Committee for ratification before the next scheduled Development Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Delegated authority is therefore sought for the Chief Executive to approve the issue of letters of offer to successful applicants under this Scheme. A full list of successful applicants will be brought to Committee thereafter for Members information.

### **3.4 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)**

Members will be aware that Council received correspondence from Department for Communities advising Mid Ulster LMP's annual budget for programme expenditure 2022-23 was reduced from £374,700 to £274,224.

As agreed Council officers have since liaised with representatives of Mid Ulster LMP to scale back the operational programme and associated budget following which a revised Action Plan 2022-23 was submitted to Department for Communities.

Furthermore, the Council previously agreed to proceed at risk to tender for programmes and initiatives included within the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022-23, and to hold-off on appointing delivery organisations until Council is in receipt of an official letter of offer from the Department for Communities. It is now recommended to approve delegated authority be awarded to the Chief Executive to appoint successful delivery organisations following procurement exercises to

allow work to commence over the summer months (subject to receipt of an official letter of offer).

### **3.5 Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans**

Place Shaping looks at how we can make our communities stronger and more resilient in the future through understanding what we have in terms of assets such as our buildings, brownfield sites, green spaces, skills & knowledge, communities, infrastructure and public services etc. We want to build on our history, our strategic geographic and economic location; our tourism potential to secure a sustainable social, economic and physical regeneration.

To achieve this aim, Council wish to make an application to the Department for Communities (DfC) to co-fund the development of 3 No. Place Shaping Plans for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, which will inform the delivery of a wide range of economic, social and regeneration initiatives over the next 10-15 years.

These plans will provide a fresh strategic framework for place based socio-economic growth and regeneration to help make our communities stronger and more resilient in the future. The Plans will also be a valuable resource for Council and others in making strategic funding bids over the next 10-15 years.

The development of such Plans will involve widespread stakeholder engagement and input from members of the public, community / voluntary organisations, sports, leisure & cultural organisations as well as from our local businesses, property owners and representatives from statutory agencies and government departments to agree the aspirations, direction and proposals for the 3 towns.

This is a major piece of work and may require to be delivered on a phased basis over the next few years but it is important that work commences at an early stage to develop such Plans.

### **3.6 Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis**

Mid Ulster District Council's current Socio-Economic Profile was completed seven years ago, in 2015. Since then, no professional independent research work has been undertaken to update figures and given the impact of EU Exit, Covid-19, the new Census data 2021 etc, it is now an opportune time to update our data and reflect on the corresponding impact these factors, and others, have had on our key sectors.

Mid Ulster's key sectors include: manufacturing, engineering, agri-food, construction retail, tourism (including hospitality), agriculture and services.

While research into the impact of the Pandemic and the EU Exit has taken place on regional and sectoral levels, there has been no research into the effect of these (in the medium and longer term) specifically on Mid Ulster's businesses, and with particular focus on its key sectors.

Furthermore, there has been no assessment of the emerging and future economic opportunities and challenges facing Mid Ulster businesses and their potential

	<p>impact on the District’s recovery and growth prospects, and how future interventions should be designed to address these.</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council anticipates that the data captured from the research and the associated interventions will be a significant contributor towards informing future decisions.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Great Days Out Event</b> Within existing budget, approximate cost - £2500</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</b> An estimated budget of £28,000 has been set aside for Enterprise Week 2022 from Council’s Economic Development budget. A proportion of these costs will be used to procure the services of a Management / Delivery Agent to co-ordinate, manage and organise all virtual events and promotion of Enterprise Week 2022.</p> <p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> None. Council will receive resource funding from DAERA equal to 10% of the value of letters of offer issued to successful applicants.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> LMP activity is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</b> It is anticipated that the 3 Place Shaping Plans will cost in the region of £135,000. 80% funding is being sought from DfC (circ. £108,000), with a match funding budget being required from Council of circ. £27,000 (which can be funded from within its existing economic development budget 2022-2024).</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis</b> It is estimated that the Mid Ulster Socio Economic Analysis will cost in the region of £15,000 and this can be funded from within the existing Economic Development budget.</p> <p>Human:</p> <p><b>Great Days Out Event</b> Tourism staff will deliver this event</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</b> Officer’s time will be required to work with a Management / Delivery Partner in the development of a suite of events and to ensure the smooth running of Enterprise Week 2022.</p>

	<p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> Officer time.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b> Officer time.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</b> Officer time</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis</b> Officer time</p>
	<p>Risk Management: <b>Great Days Out Event</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</b> Subject to funding approval by DfC</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: <b>Great Days Out Event</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> N/A - Equality and Good Relations screening has been carried out prior to commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: <b>Great Days Out Event</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b> N/A - Rural Needs screening has been carried out prior to commencement of the Scheme.</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
<p><b>5.1</b></p>	<p><b>It is recommended that Members;</b></p> <p><b>Great Days Out Event</b> <b>Approve</b> delivery of the Great Days Out Trade Event 2022 to be funded from Council's existing tourism budget at a cost of circ. £2,500.</p>

<p><b>5.2</b></p>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022</b></p> <p>5.2.1 <b>Approve</b> a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2022/23.</p> <p>5.2.2 <b>Approve</b> Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed at 5.2.1.</p> <p>5.2.3 <b>Approve</b> that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer period.</p>
<p><b>5.3</b></p>	<p><b>Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2022</b></p> <p>5.3.1 <b>Approve</b> that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve the issue of letters of offer to successful applicants in line with contractual timescales. A report will be brought to the Development Committee thereafter to update Members on the outcome of assessment and to note approved projects.</p>
<p><b>5.4</b></p>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</b></p> <p>5.4.1 <b>Note</b> update report.</p> <p>5.4.2 <b>Approve</b> for delegated authority be awarded to the Chief Executive to appoint successful delivery organisations following procurement exercises to allow LMP work to commence over the summer months (subject to receipt of official letter of offer).</p>
<p><b>5.5</b></p>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Place Shaping Plans</b></p> <p>5.5.1 <b>Approve</b> for Council officers to submit a funding application to Department for Communities (DFC) seeking 80% funding towards costs to develop 3 No. Place Shaping Plans for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt and that Council fund the remaining 20% of costs from its existing Economic Development budget 2022-2024.</p> <p>5.5.2 <b>Approve</b> that authority be delegated to the Council's Chief Executive to sign and accept a letter of offer from DFC, subject to Council's funding bid being successful.</p> <p>5.5.3 <b>Approve</b> for Council officers to proceed to procure professional expertise to manage and co-ordinate the development and production of 3 No. Place Shaping Plans for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, subject to confirmation of funding from DFC.</p> <p>5.5.4 <b>Approve</b> authority be delegated to Council's Chief Executive to appoint the successful organisation following the procurement exercise to allow work to progress on the Place Shaping Plans, subject to confirmation of funding.</p> <p>5.5.5 <b>Note</b> an update report will be brought to the Development Committee in the Autumn to update Members on progress.</p>

5.6	<p><b>Mid Ulster Socio-Economic Analysis</b></p> <p>5.6.1 <b>Approve</b> that Council makes provision within its economic development budget of circ. £15,000 to procure a professional consultant to undertake a comprehensive Socio Economic Analysis of Mid Ulster which will help inform a wide range of funding bids across Council departments.</p> <p>5.6.2 <b>Approve</b> that authority be delegated to the Council's Chief Executive to appoint the successful consultant following the procurement exercise which will allow work to commence on Socio-Economic Analysis over the summer months.</p> <p>5.6.3 <b>Note</b> a report will be brought to the Development Committee thereafter to update Members on the appointment.</p>
6.0	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None