

Report on	Regional Minority Languages Bursary Programme 2018/19 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2018/19
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Council on the proposed Regional and Minority Language Bursary programme 2018/19 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2018/19 and to seek decision from Council regarding approval to publicly advertise both schemes.
2.0	Background
2.1	The purpose of the Regional and Minority Language programme promoted to the public across Mid Ulster District Council is to assist residents of the district in attending approved residential summer courses in order to achieve fluency in a regional or minority language.
2.2	The purpose of the Irish language activity funding programme is to identify and to assist and support groups and organisations seeking to provide events and activities through the Irish language across Mid Ulster from April 2018-March 2019
2.3	During 2017/18 approximately 232 local people availed of a Regional and Minority language bursary from MUDC. It is anticipated that there will be an equally high level of interest and uptake in 2018/19.
2.4	During 2017/18, 23 voluntary and community groups, schools, sports, arts and cultural organisations organised events and activities in their local area through the Irish Language with assistance from MUDC Irish language activity funding.
2.5	The Action Plan for the Development of the Irish Language, as approved by Council identified the following key themes: Theme 1: <i>Promoting Opportunities to Learn Irish</i> , funding support would be made available for local people to attend recognised residential language learning courses and Theme 2: <i>Irish Language in the Community</i> , funding would be made available for external language, cultural and sporting organisations for the promotion of Irish language events.
2.6	A public call will be issued in relation to the 2018/19 Regional and Minority language bursaries, detailing funding support opportunities and individuals will be invited to submit funding applications. Officers within Culture & Arts Services will process applications for submission to Council.
2.7	A public call will also be issued in relation to 2018/19 Activity Funding detailing funding support opportunities. Groups/organisations will be invited to submit expression of interest applications. Irish Language Officers will follow up on Expressions of Interest with

	all interested groups to discuss their project ideas and to support and develop them before submission to council for consideration.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	MUDC has adopted an Irish Language Policy which commits Council to the implementation of an Action Plan to develop the language in the district, and the above actions are specified in the plan.
3.2	The proposed actions will help to fulfil Council's legislative obligations to promote the Irish Language.
3.3	The activities delivered in 2017/18 will be reviewed on completion to measure success and to shape future planning.
3.4	Community events and activities supported will complement existing Council services including Arts and Culture, Tourism and Community Development activity.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: The required funding to support the delivery of the Regional and Minority Language bursary scheme and the Irish language Activity Funding Programme has been budgeted from the 2018/19 Irish Language budget. Human: Irish Language officers and other relevant staff within Arts and Cultural Services will offer assistance and support in terms of knowledge and experience for all applicant groups and individuals where required.
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> The implementation of the Activity Funding and the Regional and Minority Language Bursary programmes will strengthen partnerships between Council and community, empowering communities at grass roots level and encourage greater collaboration among groups.
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> n/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Permission is sought to publicly advertise both the 2018/19 Regional and Minority Language Bursary Programme and to issue a call for expressions of interest for support under the Irish Language Activity Programme 2018/19
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	n/a