

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	10 th December 2020
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 Support – proposal for additional DFC Food Funding
1.2	Peace IV – to note the Peace IV update
1.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community
1.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex
1.5	Community Planning -proposed Community Forum
1.6	Community Development – to note the update
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Support – Council has received a number of funding allocations from DFC to support people in poverty, a further allocation of funding for food poverty has been provided.
2.2	Peace IV – Council delivers on the Peace IV Action Plan through guidance and engagement with the Peace IV Partnership.
2.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community – Council has been engaging with the East Timorese community, following their presentation to the Special Committee of 29 th October 2020.
2.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex – Council has been engaging with a number of groups and organisations regarding flexibility of funding to allow for the sustainable development of community support and community facilities.
2.5	Community Planning – Community Plan Review: As part of the community planning process which Council facilitates, a review of the community plan must be carried out.

2.6	<p>Proposed Community Forum – Also as part of the community planning, a community engagement plan is required which is regularly reviewed.</p> <p>Community Development includes the following areas: Community Support, Good Relations, PCSP, Connecting Pomeroy and facilitation of Community Planning.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Community Support – proposal for additional DFC Food Funding</p> <p>As part of DFC funding support to people experiencing food poverty during Covid 19, Council has been provided with a number of tranches of funding to date, as per the update report to Committee in October 2020. A further allocation of funding is being proposed of up to £100,000 (final allocation amount to be confirmed). DFC is seeking to support people in food crisis over the Christmas period and into the first period of 2021. A final position will be known on 7th December.</p> <p>As per the report in October, Council has allocated funding to the foodbanks and SVP's across Mid Ulster. Through engagement with them over the last 6 weeks this is greatly appreciated and is going to support people in need. Additional funding is greatly appreciated as other means of fundraising currently are limited.</p> <p>It is proposed given the additional funding that a further allocation of funding is provided to the foodbanks and SVP to allow them to deal with financial crisis for people particularly at Christmas and into 2021 to seek to alleviate stress and debt where possible. The additional funding will provide for additional food packages and food vouchers to people presenting in need over this period. The additional allocations will be as follows based on need and people presenting for emergency food support and spend on food support, which is monitored monthly by Council. The proposal is based on confirmation of the funding from DFC as of 7th December 2020.</p> <p>Expenditure £90,000 Dungannon Vineyard Foodbank & SVP £20,000 Magherafelt Hope Food bank & SVP £20,000 Cookstown Foodbank /SVP £20,000 Coalisland Foodbank / SVP £10,000 Clogher Valley RBL Food Bank / SVP £10,000 Maghera Foodbank & SVP £10,000</p>
3.2	<p>Peace IV</p> <p>SEUPB is currently considering the proposal from Council, to address Peace underspend, for the town centre outdoor spaces as places for people to come together. Further detail has been provided regarding the proposal however a decision is not expected to end January 2021.</p>
3.3	<p>Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community</p> <p>Council members and officers had a follow up meeting with the East Timorese community to follow up on issues identified at the Special Committee meeting.</p>

It was agreed that Council would communicate with the Home Office, East Timorese and Portuguese Consulates, MLAs, MEPs and MPs regarding the issue of East Timorese residents of Mid Ulster not having access to services to update their passports or apply for a passport which is required for settlement status; this is going to be a crisis issue at the 1st January when the UK leaves the EU. A letter of special circumstances is required, due to Covid 19, for flexibility regarding this until the situation can be resolved. A commitment will also be sought from the consulates that they will come to Mid Ulster to provide consulate support, and Council will provide relevant facilities to accommodate this. Alongside this, to review if long term consulate support can be provided through a partnership with other consulate offices.

Council to write to businesses in Mid Ulster to promote and encourage all relevant employees to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme for Settle Status.

Council to work with the East Timorese group to identify suitable community premises that could be used for their support services and community activities.

An issue was raised by Council regarding the Group struggling to open a bank account; it was noted that a number of groups are finding similar experiences at this time. It was agreed Council would engage with the local banks and credit unions regarding community groups being able to open and hold bank accounts to identify what services are available.

A further meeting is to be held in December to follow up on other issues that are arising for the East Timorese community of Mid Ulster.

3.4 Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex

Council currently has a service level agreement with Fivemiletown Community Annex for the provision of leisure and sports facilities for the Clogher valley area; including a swimming pool. Due to closures and social distancing from April 2020, original targets and income for the facility has not been met. The management of the FMT Annex has sought to keep costs to a minimum whilst keeping the facility open, as per guidance with social distancing provision.

Council agreed in July 2020 (as part of the Head of Leisure Services report) to provide the same SLA funding to all of its partners; including Fivemiletown Community Annex. This support and flexibility for Covid 19 constraints will help provide for the sustainability of the facility to allow it to remain viable until it can operate at full capacity. The budget remains as is at £50,000 and verification of the funding allocation to expenditure will take place as normal.

Officers are working with the management committee of the Annex to regularly monitor costs to ensure the facility can be sustained and the committee are engaging the EA regularly also.

3.5 Community Planning

Community Plan Review: As part of the community planning process which Council facilitates, a review of the community plan must be carried out. In addition to the legislative requirement, the ongoing pandemic and its impact on our economy, health, education and communities, has reinforced the need to reassess our actions and determine their relevance in a Covid19 environment. A review of all actions has been completed by officers, detailing which actions are complete, should be paused and should be brought forward. These proposals have since been brought to and discussed by community planning partners at the latest round of thematic meetings in November. Final proposals will be brought to the Community Planning Strategic Board in January.

It is proposed to hold a workshop with members in January to update them on the Community Plan review.

Proposed Community Forum: Also part of Council's facilitation of community planning, community group engagement within the process is essential. Council established a community panel in 2017, of representatives from community groups across Mid Ulster; alongside a range of communication mediums and events to ensure the wider community are engaged. As part of the community planning process, regular reviews of the community engagement are must be undertaken. A review of the current community panel, through discussion and survey of members, has highlighted that due to the strategic level of discussions within the community planning process, the input from local groups from specific areas is not always relevant and further it is difficult for smaller groups to have the forums and networks to feedback to the wider community group sector.

In light of this, it is proposed to establish the following engagement forums to allow for involvement of community groups from across Mid Ulster:

1. To hold annual DEA meetings with groups alongside members on issues that need raised or addressed. There would be 7 planned as a minimum each year, with further arranged if these are required.
2. To host a forum of the Mid Ulster Community support groups, bi annually, to allow them to engage with the community planning process. These groups would include: COSTA/CWSAN, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster LGBT Group, STEP, Women's Group (representative), Mid Ulster Carers Network, Mid Ulster Youth Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network, Loneliness Network, Community Transport, Shopmobility, Volunteer Centre
The Forum would also provide a structure for Regular ongoing engagement e.g. for consultations that arise where community group input would be of value.

3.6

Community Development

Community Support –

The Community Support team is supporting groups both to access funding and to maximise Council grant awards.

Good Relations –

Good Relations continues to deliver the updated Plan through innovative and flexible models in line with social distancing requirements.

	<p>The teams are continuing to support in the development and delivery of Mid Ulster poverty initiatives.</p> <p>The PCSP team has commenced delivery of the action plan in alternative formats as agreed by 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>DFC funding allocation of up to £100,000</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Community Support – To consider and approve proposal for additional DFC Food Funding support, pending confirmation and letter of offer.
5.2	Peace IV – To agree the Peace IV Update.
5.3	Good Relations and support to the East Timorese Community – To agree the proposals of support.
5.4	Community Support Funding and Fivemiletown Community Annex – To note the update on the sustainability of the facility.
5.5	Community Planning – Proposed Community Forum: To agree the new community group engagement process.
5.6	Community Development – to note the update report
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None