

Report on	1) Revitalisation Projects 2) Broadband Working Group 3) Mid Ulster Business Awards 4) Village Renewal Project 5) Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland 6) Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022 7) GDPR Business Seminar Update - 16 May 2018
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4th July 2018
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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 provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.

2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Revitalisation Projects The Department for Communities has requested Council to prepare and submit 'shelf ready projects' in anticipation of funding becoming available for 2018/19.</p>
2.2	<p>Broadband Working Group A Broadband Working Group is to be set up to develop proposals for Broadband enhancement within the Mid Ulster area and write to the Secretary of State to lobby for the release of the allocated funding to be spent on broadband provision especially in rural areas in Mid Ulster.</p>
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster Business Awards At the Development Committee meeting in June 2018, Members requested further information be sought from Johnston Press with regard to sponsoring an award category at the Mid Ulster Business Awards.</p>
2.4	<p>Village Renewal Project Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014 -2020. Council will make an application to the Local Action Group for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the</p>

	<p>implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to complement the funding from RDP.</p>
2.5	<p>Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland BT recently commissioned a report on “Fibre Broadband in Rural Northern Ireland”. This was presented at Parliament Buildings on 4 June 2018. It primarily focuses on the economic benefits that would be accrued by the rural areas particular in the west of Northern Ireland if Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) could be delivered.</p>
2.6	<p>Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022 At a meeting of the Development Committee in September 2017, the provision of Council match funding towards the following ESF Programmes was approved from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022: SUSE+ (South West College), Up for Work (Network Personnel), Job Match (Network Personnel) and Exploring Enterprise 4 (Enterprise NI).</p>
2.7	<p>GDPR Business Seminar Update - 16 May 2018 GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) was implemented from Friday 25th May 2018, replacing the Data Protection Act, but with greater scope. It will have fines for those who fail to comply with new regulations in relation to storage and handling of personal data.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Revitalisation Projects
3.1.1	<p>Magherafelt Project One of the projects identified within the Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project is the upgrading of two pedestrian walkways on Broad Street in Magherafelt, incorporating a public art project. The two pedestrian walkways are located from Broad Street to the Union Road Carpark on the West and Central Carpark on the East. It is proposed that an application is submitted to Department for Communities (DfC) for funding to deliver this project. The estimated cost of this project is approximately £180,000 (DfC £150,000, Council £30,000).</p> <p>As Magherafelt town did not receive any revitalisation funding from DfC in 2017/18, during the public realm scheme, the Department is keen to prioritise funding for Magherafelt first, should funding become available.</p>
3.1.2	<p>Cookstown Project The preferred project that Cookstown would require assistance with during the 2018/2019 financial year is the A29 roundabout project, located on a key gateway to Cookstown. The project would involve refreshing the ‘Cookstown’ brand, and associated works related to upgrading lighting and hard stand area. It is proposed that an application is submitted to DfC for funding to deliver this initiative. The estimated cost is approximately £40,000 (DfC £32,000, Council £8,000).</p>
3.1.3	<p>Dungannon Project Shambles Lane has been identified as the preferred project, should funding become available in the financial year 2018/2019. The lane provides a key linkage between Scotch Street and Irish Street / Ann Street within the town centre, particularly in light of the Council’s plans to develop the Ann Street site. The Dungannon Masterplan identifies the Ann Street / Irish Street area as a unique opportunity to create an area with a distinct character and poses an opportunity to develop a unique gateway into the town centre.</p>

There is currently a poor standard of public realm in Shambles Lane which is an integral linkage to allow pedestrians to circulate easily and safely between different areas of the town centre.

It is envisaged that the scheme will involve paving refurbishment, installation of street furniture, lighting, signage and associated landscaping works, and the work will greatly enhance the overall visual appearance of the street. All works will be agreed with Transport Northern Ireland (TNI) as the adopting authority. It is proposed that an application is submitted to DfC for funding to deliver this project. This estimated cost of this project is approximately £100,000 (DfC £80,000, Council £20,000).

3.2 **Broadband Working Group**

Council has agreed to establish a Broadband Working Group. Two options have been provided for membership of the Working Group based on the D'hondt system;

Option 1 - 5 Members – 2 SF, 1 DUP, 1 UUP, 1 SDLP

Option 2 - 10 Members – 5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP

Members are asked to consider which option they wish to proceed with and nominate the appropriate number of Members accordingly to serve on the Group.

3.3 **Mid Ulster Business Awards**

Following the Development Committee in June 2018, additional information was sought from Johnston Press with regard to funding a business category at the Mid Ulster Business Awards. Appendix 1 sets out details of how Johnston Press will provide additional support to address any deficiencies in coverage in the Clogher Valley area. From the information provided on available business categories to sponsor, it is recommended an update be provided at the meeting, as the current categories for sponsorship have been offered to last year's sponsors first, and the closing date for responses is 22 June 2018. Johnston Press have been asked to provide a further update once responses have been received and considered.

Members also sought details of Council business events during 2018/19, these are as follows;

- NI Chamber of Commerce Business Networking Event
- Mid Ulster Engineering Event 'Facing the Future'
- Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue College at Desertcreat
- Digital Seminars
- Social Enterprise Event
- SMART Construct Event
- Brexit Event – Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- Launch of Skills Study - Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- Launch of New Economic Development Programmes
- Enterprise Week – Event to promote new business starts

3.4 **Village Renewal Project**

Underspend has been identified from some contracts coming in under budget at tender stage in the procurement process. Approval is sought to reallocate £87,978 of underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes,

to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.

Knockloughrim/Curran	£40,000
Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush	£40,000
Dunamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan	£40,000
Ballymaguigan/Creagh	£40,000
Washingbay/ Killeen	£40,000
Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/ Donaghey	£40,000
	£240,000

3.5 Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland

An independent report was commissioned by BT and undertaken by economic consultancy Dot.Econ to assess the potential benefits from an investment focused in rural areas (Report available on Appendix 2). This was presented at Parliament Buildings on 4 June 2018.

It stated that the key beneficiaries would be the Fermanagh & Omagh District and Mid-Ulster District Council areas, currently the most disadvantaged in terms of high-speed broadband availability in Northern Ireland.

The report suggested that investing in ultra-fast broadband would help to realise several of the goals set out in the Department for the Economy's Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, which include reducing economic inactivity, improving collaboration, increasing global competitiveness and supporting digital intensive sectors.

The report found that increased employment would be the largest source of benefit, amounting to £890 million by 2033, or about £6 for every £1 invested.

The expansion of ultra-fast fibre broadband in rural areas could also lead to carbon abatement through home or teleworking, e-commerce and the use of cloud computing, while fibre broadband would also facilitate digital inclusion, improving rural communities' access to public services. The report also concluded that the economic, social and environmental benefits of the government's proposed £150m investment in ultra-fast fibre broadband in rural areas of Northern Ireland has been estimated at £1.2 billion and estimates that, for every £1 spent, there would be a benefit of around £8 to the region's economy over 15 years.

3.6 Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022

All four Programmes are now in receipt of Letters of Offer from the Department for the Economy and an Update Report on the final funding packages and targets to be achieved by each over the 4 years is included in Appendix 3 (attached).

3.7 GDPR Business Seminar - 16 May 2018

Prior to the implementation of GDPR, Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Workspace delivered a GDPR Business Seminar. This took place on Wednesday 16th May 2018, 8.00am-10.00am, Burnavon, Cookstown, with 120 businesses in attendance. Prestige HR GDPR delivered an overview of the regulations and how businesses can prepare and implement processes to comply with the regulation. Feedback from the seminar has been extremely positive.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p data-bbox="244 241 927 280">Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p data-bbox="244 302 371 331">Financial:</p> <p data-bbox="244 347 1326 450">Revitalisation Projects – If the three revitalisation projects are successful in being awarded 80% funding from DfC, provision of 20% match funding is required from Council’s Capital budget as follows;</p> <ul data-bbox="292 454 730 555" style="list-style-type: none"> • Magherafelt Project - £30,000 • Cookstown Project - £8,000 • Dungannon Project - £20,000 <p data-bbox="244 589 1382 656">Mid Ulster Business Awards – Sponsorship of an award category of £1,750+Vat from Council’s economic development budget 2018/19.</p> <p data-bbox="244 689 1410 792">Village Renewal Project - To reallocate £87,978 of underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes up to the value of £240,000, to the six villages which have not been allocated funding –</p> <ul data-bbox="292 797 943 1043" style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000 • Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000 • Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000 • Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000 • Washingbay/ Killeen - £40,000 • Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000 <p data-bbox="244 1115 1417 1182">ESF Programmes (4 No.) 2018-2022 – provision made in economic development budget for match funding of up to £271,596 over a 4 year period</p> <p data-bbox="244 1216 403 1283">Human: Officer time.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1317 491 1350">Risk Management:</p>
4.2	<p data-bbox="244 1406 719 1444">Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p data-bbox="244 1467 762 1534">Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p data-bbox="244 1568 580 1635">Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p data-bbox="244 1709 515 1738">Members are asked;</p> <p data-bbox="244 1771 563 1809">Revitalisation Projects</p> <p data-bbox="244 1809 1394 1977">To approve recommendation to prepare and submit ‘shelf ready’ applications to DfC for Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown revitalisation projects during 2018/19. Furthermore if the projects are successful in attaining funding from DfC, then approval is sought to provide 20% match funding from Council’s capital budget, of approximately £58,000.</p>

<p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p> <p>5.7</p>	<p>Broadband Working Group To select Option 1 (5 Members) or Option 2 (10 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group, based on the D'hondt system and nominate the appropriate number of Members accordingly.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Mail Business Awards To consider sponsoring an award category in the Mid Ulster Business Awards at a cost of £1,750+Vat.</p> <p>Village Renewal Project To approve reallocation of £87,978 underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000 • Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000 • Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000 • Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000 • Washingbay/ Killeen - £40,000 • Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000 <p>Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland To note report on Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022 To note ESF match funded programmes Update Report.</p> <p>GDPR Business Seminar - 16 May 2018 To note GDPR Seminar Update</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Business Awards</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Deployment of FTTP in Rural Northern Ireland</p> <p>Appendix 3 - ESF Programmes Update Report - July 2018</p>