

Report on	1) Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme 2) Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events 3) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund 4) Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group 5) Business Start Performance – Mid Ulster 6) Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Seminar 2018 7) Great British High Street Awards 8) Cookstown Town Centre Forum
Date of Meeting	11 October 2018
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme</p> <p>In May 2018, Members approved the submission of 4 applications from the Council to the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for the delivery of 4 business support programmes (2018-22). This included a 'Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme', at a total cost of up to £261,200 (including expenses and excluding vat), with grant aid of 80% £208,960 from Invest NI and ERDF; and the remaining match funding to be included within Council's existing annual economic development budget.</p> <p>The Tender Ready Programme seeks to develop the procurement capability of 130 businesses by December 2022 through the provision of support to micro and small businesses including a Procurement Audit and up to 5 days' support. A Tender Seminar will also be included as part of the Programme and will be available to all micro and small businesses across Mid Ulster. The Programme's performance indicators outlined in the Letter of Offer include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council will use all reasonable endeavours to create at least 195 jobs by November 2023 ▪ Council will use all reasonable endeavours to generate at least 20 quality referrals to Invest NI
2.2	<p>Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</p> <p>Historically, the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council supported Christmas events in Coalisland and Maghera over and above the Festive Lighting Grants that were offered to villages. In more recent years, both events have continued to be funded by Mid Ulster District Council and are well established and supported by local communities.</p>

<p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p> <p>2.7</p> <p>2.8</p>	<p>Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) have made funding available for projects that can deliver a fibre link capable of delivering gigabit (1,000 <u>mbs</u> per second). Connections must link Council buildings which will act as anchor tenants. Council's proposals are in Dungannon, Cookstown and Maghera. The fibre links will have chambers every 400m approximately that allow commercial providers to access so they can provide Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to adjacent properties. Projects must demonstrate that Telecoms providers can maximise what has been created which will benefit adjoining areas. Therefore urban and semi urban areas will be the main beneficiaries as opposed to rural areas. The LFFN project must be completed by 2021.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group A new Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group has been set up to deal with all matters related to improving Broadband provision in the Mid Ulster area.</p> <p>Business Start Performance – Mid Ulster Until 31 August 2017, Councils funded their own interim Business Start Up Programmes, following which on 1 September 2017, business start-up support has been delivered through the 11 Council collaborative NIBSUP (NI Business Start Up Programme) which is funded through the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme, Invest NI and the 11 Councils, and delivered by Enterprise NI. Until 31 August 2018, Councils were permitted to use the Regional Start Initiative conversion rate of 0.75762 for Business Plans – Jobs promoted; for the new NIBSUP the conversion rate is 0.6147.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Seminar 2018 In 2017, Workspace Enterprises Ltd were appointed by Council to deliver the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2017/19, designed to provide tailored support to 40 potential and existing social enterprises across Mid Ulster to enhance their growth prospects. As part of their Contract, Workspace are required to deliver two seminars, open to all existing and emerging social enterprises in Mid Ulster, to promote the growth of the sector and also profile the contribution of the sector to the local area.</p> <p>Great British High Street Awards The Great British High Street (GBHS) Awards 2018, run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, sponsored by Visa and supporting partners, is recognising and celebrating local achievements on our high streets and supporting the communities in which we live and work. The awards were open for application from 20th June – 18th July 2018.</p> <p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme Invest NI has approved Council's application and issued a Letter of Offer (Appendix 1) to Council for 80% of the total funding requested of £261,200 i.e. £208, 960. Due to the Programme's value it will be advertised in the OJEU and, as required by Invest NI, the procurement process will be managed by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), who will provide advice and guidance to Council Officers during the process.</p>

<p>3.2</p>	<p>Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events</p> <p>As per previous years in Coalisland, the CRAIC Theatre Company co-ordinate and deliver a variety of activities associated with the switch-on event, and have submitted their annual request of £4,200 (Appendix 2) to deliver same. Officers have requested further information on the proposals and when this is received and if deemed acceptable, it is proposed that from the £7,000 event budget, CRAIC Theatre Company be awarded funding of £4,200 to co-ordinate and deliver activities as part of the switch-on event on 2 December 2018.</p> <p>A variety of activities are also planned for the Christmas Lights Switch On event in Maghera on 1 December 2018. A budget of £7,000 has been allocated for the delivery of activities which are being co-ordinated and delivered by Council staff.</p> <p>Funding for both events has been included in this year's economic development budget.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund</p> <p>At the last meeting of the Development Committee, project route proposals were presented and agreed, subject to exploring a request from a member to change to the Dungannon/Coalisland route. This has been subsequently investigated and the new Dungannon/Coalisland route is contained on Appendix 3 as follows; commencing at the Hill of the O'Neill in Dungannon, travelling down Church Street on to Northland Row and Circular Road and picking up the proposed route on to Gortgonis in Coalisland.</p> <p>A further update on the wider NI bid, known as the Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) project follows. On 7 September 2018, the consortium team presented the outline NI bid to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in London. This was a pre-dialogue presentation. The feedback from DCMS was positive, confirming that the FFNI bid is in line with DCMS requirements. DCMS confirmed on the day that the FFNI Consortium will now be taken forward into the dialogue phase.</p> <p>DCMS will shortly appoint a Commercial Lead to work with our Consortium in the dialogue phase in developing the detail of the bid to the point where the Consortium will be ready to present to the DCMS Investment Panel.</p> <p>It is expected that the DCMS Commercial Lead will provide guidance about the level of detail to be provided to manage the Consortium bid development budget.</p> <p>The date for the DCMS Investment Panel review will be confirmed in due course, but it is expected that this will be in November 2018.</p> <p>Although the successful pre-dialogue presentation is a significant milestone, it is only an early step, and success is not yet guaranteed. It is important that expectations are not raised at this stage.</p> <p>The LFFN application process consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Pre-dialogue presentation to DCMS to determine that a project is suitable to be taken forward into the dialogue phase ▪ A DCMS Investment panel to evaluate detailed bids for approval ▪ An assurance phase to develop the 5 Case Model to complete the grant award process
<p>3.4</p>	<p>Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group</p> <p>The new Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group met for the first time on Monday 10 September 2018.</p>

A Terms of Reference for the group was agreed by those present at the meeting, and is attached on Appendix 4, seeking approval for same.

Members of the Development Committee will be kept updated on progress, by sharing the minutes of meetings from the Broadband Working Group.

3.5 **Business Start Performance – Mid Ulster**

In the 12 month period ending 31 March 2018, Mid Ulster was the highest performing region outside of Belfast delivering 326 Plans and 223 jobs, thereby exceeding the Council's Statutory Target of 210 jobs (106%). The Department for the Economy has written to Council to congratulate it on the programme's performance (letter attached Appendix 5).

3.6 **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Seminar 2018**

The focus of this first seminar's theme is 'Effective Marketing and Telling Your Social Enterprise Story'; the event will take place as follows:

Date: Tuesday 6 November 2018

Time: 9:30am (registration and refreshments) – 12:30pm (networking and lunch)

Venue: The Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown

This event will hear from high profile speakers including;

- Dave Linton, the founder of the inspirational social enterprise Madlug, whose core mission is to help "Children in Care to carry their Lives with Dignity". Dave will share his experiences, providing an insight into what marketing strategies have worked and how Madlug has evolved into an iconic brand and successful social enterprise.
- Debbie Rymer, the founder of SAND Marketing and an award winning marketer who has helped numerous community and voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises build their profile and customer base.
- Patricia Elliott from Workspace will also explain how social enterprises can exploit opportunities offered by social media to more effectively profile their work and promote their products and/or services.

This event is FREE to attend and is open to all community and voluntary groups, social enterprises and charities in the Mid Ulster area and registration will be via Eventbrite. Members will be emailed event details and the link to circulate to any interested parties. A number of key support agencies will also be exhibiting at this event including the Charity Bank, Rural Support and Social Enterprise Northern Ireland.

3.7 **Great British High Street Awards**

An application was submitted to the Great British High Street Awards on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council for Cookstown Town Centre under the Champion Category. It was announced on Monday 17th September 2018 that Cookstown was one of three shortlisted towns, under the Champion Category in Northern Ireland. The Great British High Street Awards judging panel will be in Cookstown on Tuesday 16th October 2018, and their assessment / input will account for 70% of overall vote, with the other 30% accounted for through social media support. Shortlisted finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony in London in November 2018 where the winners will be announced, celebrating the high streets that are succeeding and influencing change.

3.8	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2018 are attached at (Appendix 6).</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme – total cost of £261,200 with 80% grant aid (£208,960) from Invest NI/ERDF funds over the period to March 2023. Council to fund the remaining programme costs from its economic development budget.</p> <p>Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Events Both Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Switch On Events have been allocated a budget of £7,000 for the delivery of activities at each event. As per previous years, it is proposed the request from CRAIC Theatre for £4,200 to deliver activities at the Coalisland event, will be subsumed within the £7,000 event budget for Coalisland.</p> <p>Human: Officer time.</p> <p>Risk Management: Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme The Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme is scheduled to deliver support to 130 businesses until December 2022. While Invest NI’s Letter of Offer commits funding of up to 80% (£208,960), this offer has been issued in line with existing legislation at time of issue. The relevant legislation which will apply post-Brexit is currently not known. Given the potential risks surrounding future EU funding, the Council will include a Clause in the Specification and the Contract to enable the Contract delivery to be reviewed / ended, should funding be withdrawn or reduced, in a way which will minimise impact on programme beneficiaries.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme</p> <p>a) Accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 7 August 2018) for the Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme offering up to £208,200 (80%) grant towards total programme delivery costs of £261,200.</p> <p>b) Approve that Officers commence work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme at a cost of up to £261,200 (including expenses and excluding vat).</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>5.8</p>	<p>Coalisland and Maghera Christmas Lights Switch-On Events Approve that CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland be awarded £4,200 to deliver activities associated with the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-on event from the allocated £7,000 budget, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.</p> <p>Approve that officers work up a programme of activities related to the Christmas Lights Switch on in Maghera at a cost of up to £7,000.</p> <p>Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund Approve the amendment to proposed Dungannon / Coalisland route.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group Approve the Terms of Reference for the Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group.</p> <p>Business Start Performance – Mid Ulster Note letter from the Department of the Economy and write to Council’s delivery partners, to congratulate them on their excellent performance against targets to March 2018.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Seminar 2018 Members to note social enterprise event on 6 November 2018 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown.</p> <p>Great British High Street Awards Members to note Cookstown is shortlisted under the Great British High Street’s “Champion Award”.</p> <p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Members to note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum, dated 15 May 2018.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached & References</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Letter of Offer – Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme (dated 7.8.18)</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Request from Craic Theatre re Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch on</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map - Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund – amendment to proposed Dungannon / Coalisland route</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Mid Ulster Broadband Working Group Terms of Reference</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Business Start Performance – Letter from Department for the Economy</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting -15 May 2018.</p>