

# **Transforming Community Support and Involvement in Mid Ulster 2025 to 2030**

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# 1 CONTEXT

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Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with central government departments and agencies (Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Executive Office, Department of Justice, and Department for the Environment & Rural Development) delivers a range of support to the community and voluntary sector across Mid Ulster. This includes financial investment, support for group development and capacity building, facilitation of networking, and delivery of a range of programmes to support groups and communities to become more diverse, more inclusive, and safer, and for those communities which are the most marginalised to experience less disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion. More than £2.71m is directly invested into community support and involvement across Mid Ulster each year by the District Council and government agencies.

In this Community Support and Involvement Strategy, Mid Ulster District Council is seeking to take a transformative approach to collaboration between central and local government's community programmes, and to utilise a place-based and bottom up approach to identifying and shaping responses to local need. This strategy and action plan are framed within the ***Collaboration Test and Learn Initiative*** which encourages collaboration across different departments, agencies and community groups to test new approaches, gather evidence through small scale projects and ultimately implement the most effective solutions to complex social issues.

This innovative approach will facilitate collective ownership of outcomes, will increase the measurable return to government departments for their investment, and will streamline support to the community and voluntary sector.

## 1.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

This community support and involvement strategy is the culmination of a co-design process with community, voluntary and public sector stakeholders who have an interest in community development in the district. This iterative, co-design process which took place over a period of six months included:

- x3 co-design workshops with regional stakeholders (central government departments, regional funders and regional support organisations)
- x3 co-design workshops with local stakeholders (community development network and support agencies which are focused on Mid Ulster)
- x2 co-design workshops with Council staff across a number of sections which provide support to the community
- Collective co-design workshop with local, regional and staff co-design groups
- Survey of local community based organisations to identify needs and interests
- Survey of Mid Ulster District Council grant recipients to explore the grants process
- X10 community conversation events across the district
- Presentation and discussion with elected members
- Desk based analysis of models for grant aid, models for community development support, strategies and action plans impacting on community support and development.

## 1.2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – A DEFINITION

To ensure a common approach to supporting communities, Mid Ulster District Council, its partners and the community have agreed a definition of community development – ‘Community Development brings together those who share common interests to strengthen and enhance their collective well-being’.

## 1.3 THE RESIDENTS OF MID ULSTER

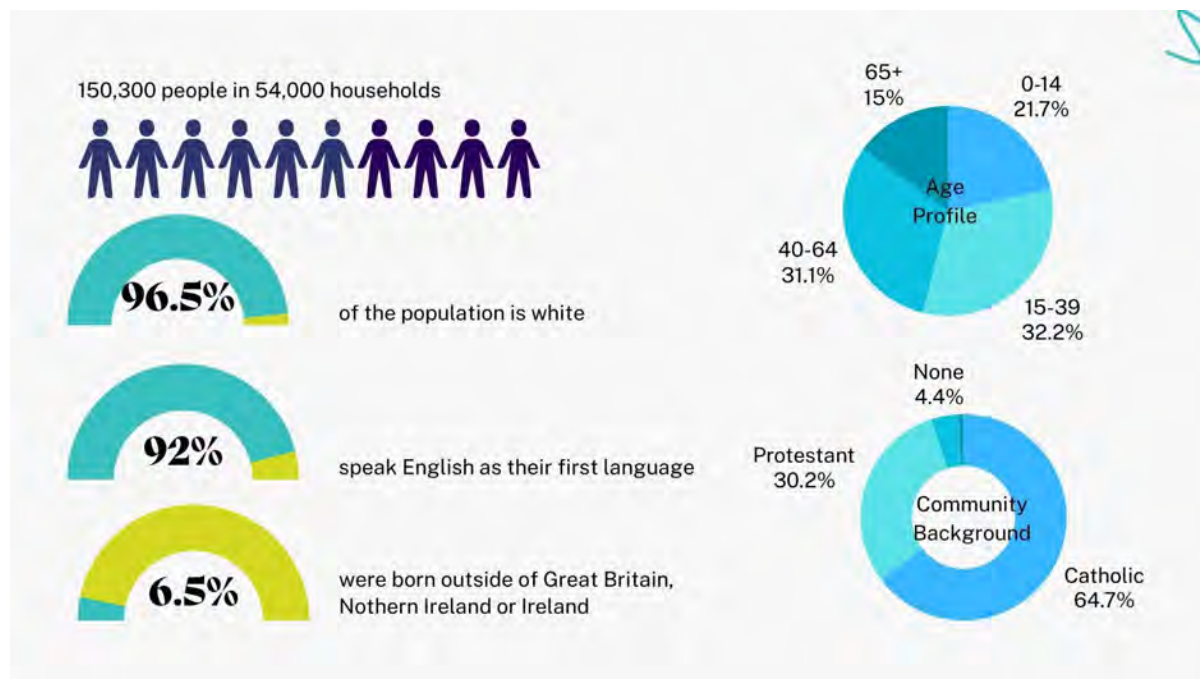


Figure 1 Population Information

## 1.4 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ECO-SYSTEM IN MID ULSTER

The community development eco-system is the network of individuals, organisations, resources and processes which work together to improve the quality of life of a community. This complex web of relationships and resource flows is illustrated in Figure 2. Acknowledging this complexity has been a catalyst for Mid Ulster District Council to convene partners to develop a more streamlined approach.

The effectiveness of the community development ecosystem depends on the collaboration and co-ordination across these various agencies to address the needs and challenges of the community. Currently the flows of funding and support within this ecosystem are administratively inefficient, and at times ineffective. Their siloed nature fosters competition and duplication rather than collaboration and risks duplication.

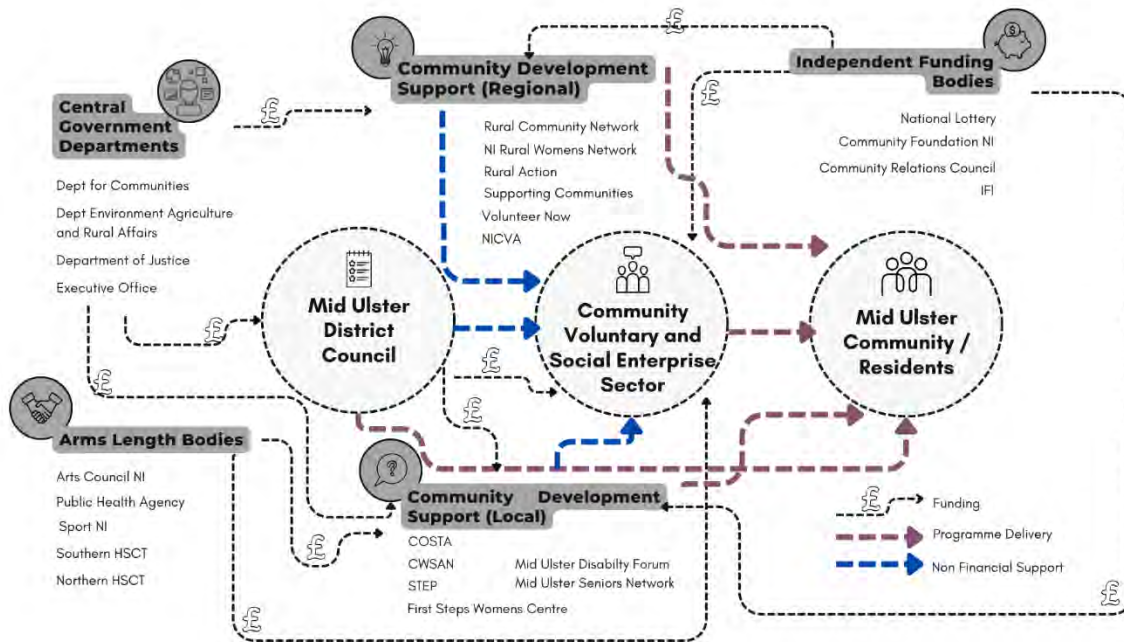


Figure 2 Community Development Ecosystem

### 1.5 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS IN MID ULSTER<sup>1</sup>

Mid Ulster benefits from a sizeable community, voluntary and social enterprise sector with some 1200 organisations listed on the Council’s community database. These organisations range in scale and focus from small volunteer led residents’ groups to large social enterprises. The spectrum of organisations is illustrated by the statistics below, and within this spectrum the support needs will vary considerably. The integrated approach to support and involvement is intended to be able to respond flexibly and appropriately to these different needs.

- 54% of applicants to the Council’s grant aid programmes are unincorporated clubs or organisations
- 38% have charitable status
- 4 out of 5 grant applicants have no paid staff
- Around one third have 10 volunteers or less
- 49% have an average annual income of less than £5,000 and 15% have an average income of over £100,000.
- 30% own their own building

The co-design process explored the current and potential support for the community and voluntary sector in Mid Ulster and identified the following challenges:

#### Policy and Practice

- There are a number of different strategies, policies and funding streams which have broadly the same goals. Community based organisations are required to apply separately and report separately to these different sources of support. This leads to duplication of paperwork and projects and puts a significant time burden on volunteers.

<sup>1</sup> Based on grant application data 2024 (n=609) and survey responses (n=69)

## **Resource Flows**

- Multiple grant applications are required each year across a number of different funds which is a drain on volunteer time.
- Funding is short term in nature creating a cycle of instability in the sector. Multi-year sustainable funding is needed to support the sector to plan and to deliver.
- Support needs differ between groups and the support provided should reflect this. Smaller, or potentially higher risk, groups should receive a greater level of tailored support.
- Support should be provided to groups throughout the grant process, from application, through delivery to evaluation.

## **Relationships, Connections, Influence and Accountability**

- There is a need for more trusting relationships between the public sector and the community and voluntary sector. This could take the form of a designated point of contact or point of support in the Council. The independence of the grant aid support from the developmental support is an important factor in this dynamic.
- Community based organisations know their communities well yet often funders set the agenda and priorities for investment. Improved dialogue between the community and voluntary sector and the public sector would improve understanding, increase mutual respect and potentially lead to better outcomes.
- Collective action plans, or place based plans, are a potential way to promote collaboration however there is work to be done building relationships and connections between groups and forums. The Council has a potentially important role to play in this.

## **Practical support Needs**

Mid Ulster has an established and skilled community and voluntary sector which considers its primary support needs to be:

- Financial Resources – not just access to grant aid from the Council but support in identifying and securing funding from other sources.
- Human Resources – support or training in the recruitment and retention of volunteers and the management of staff.
- Demonstrating Impact – support with establishing and using monitoring and evaluation systems to demonstrate the impact or social value of a project or programme.

## 2 A STRATEGY FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE (ONE PLAN ONE BUDGET ONE REPORT)

Mid Ulster District Council’s ambition through this strategy is to have a ‘one plan, one budget, one report’ approach to its community support. Throughout the co-design process, there has been a commitment to systemic change both in how the Council supports community based organisations in Mid Ulster and how it engages with central government to secure investment for the District.

Currently the primary sources of investment into the Mid Ulster community operate in a ‘siloe’d’ manner which is administratively intensive, increases the risk of duplication and does not provide the best possible value in terms of outputs or outcomes. Figure 3 below illustrates the current situation.

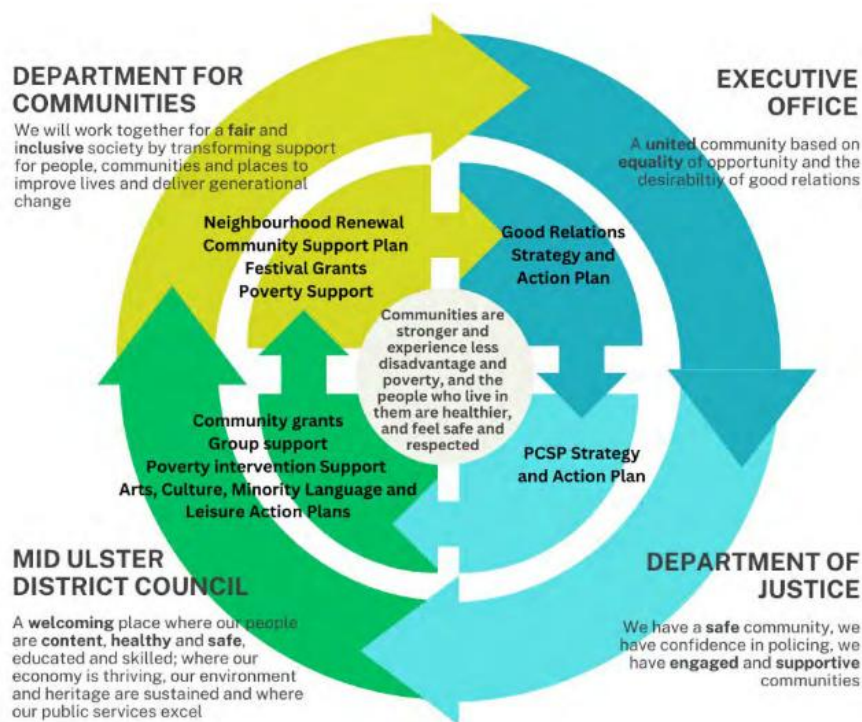


Figure 3 Central and Local Government Investment

However, these investments and their outcomes are not mutually exclusive, and in fact should be mutually reinforcing. As the core purpose of these programmes is to support communities and residents, Figure 4 considers the individuals these interventions are seeking to support. These individuals have a range of ‘needs’ which are interrelated, and which can be linked to different types of intervention. The hierarchy reflects the fundamentally important nature of the needs at the bottom of the pyramid being met before people can shift their focus to other interests or concerns.

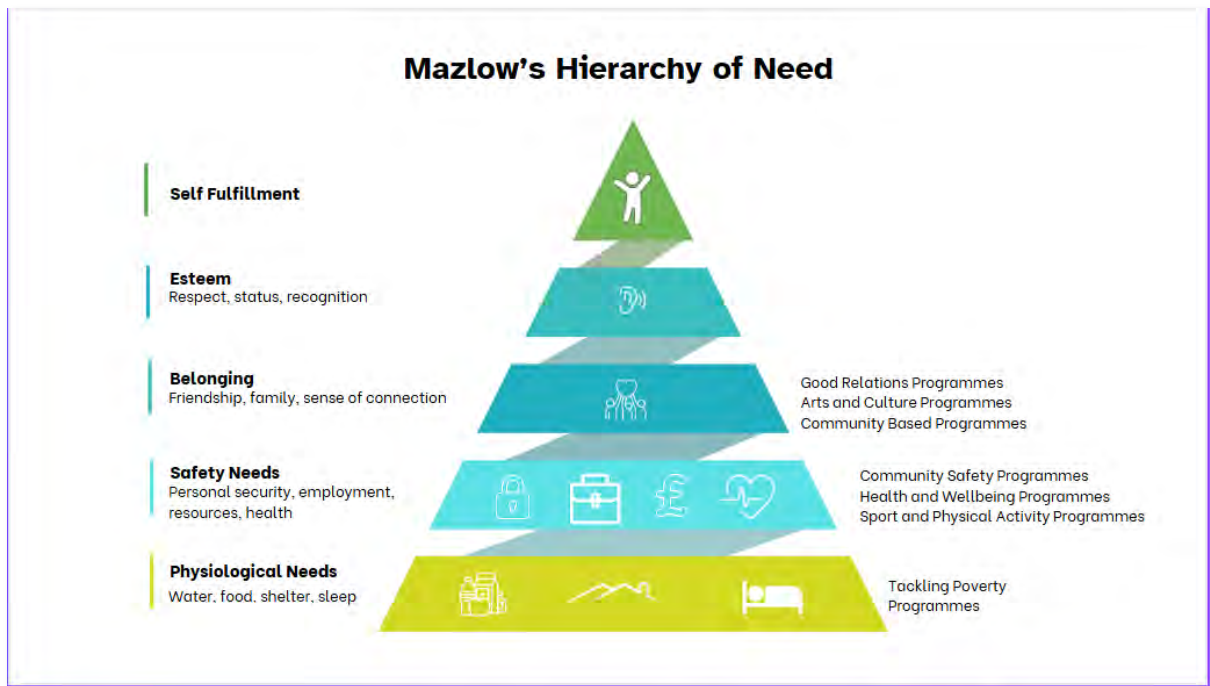


Figure 4 Maslow's Hierarchy of Need and Community Programmes<sup>2</sup>

In order to transform how community support is provided in Mid Ulster, it is not just necessary to review **what** support is provided but also to fundamentally reconsider **how** that support is provided. To achieve the level of change which Mid Ulster District Council aspires to for its community, a new approach to delivery and to relationship building is required in order to support the change in the 'system.' This will in turn support improved outcomes in local communities.

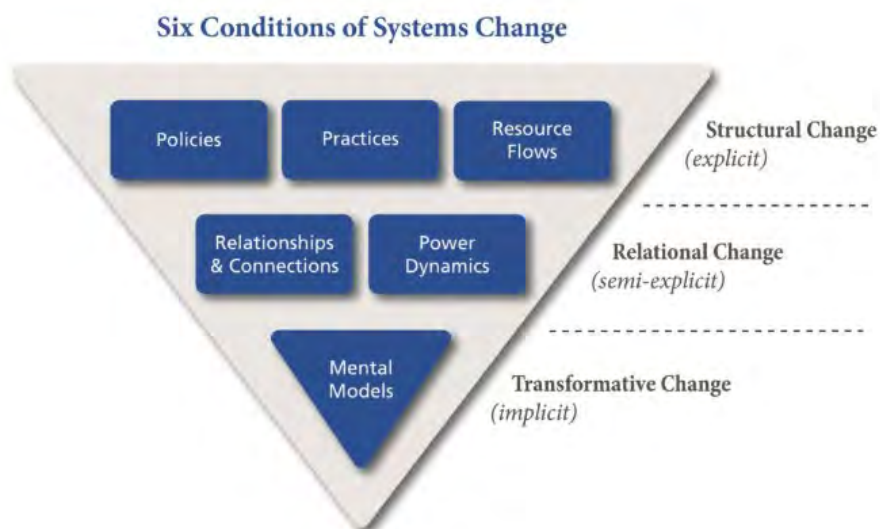


Figure 5 The Water of Systems Change (FSG 2018)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Maslow, Theory of Human Motivation (1943)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.fsg.org/resource/water\\_of\\_systems\\_change/](https://www.fsg.org/resource/water_of_systems_change/)

### **Transforming Policy**

Currently community support in Mid Ulster is regulated by the Council, the Department for Communities, the Department of Justice, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Executive Office – this strategy will bring this range of strategies into one overarching plan with agreed, shared outcomes and measurement.

*Our goal is to create a unified, outcomes-focused policy framework that aligns all departmental strategies under one overarching plan with shared goals and consistent measurement across Mid Ulster.*

### **Transforming Practice**

Currently each Departmental funder has different reporting mechanisms for expenditure and different monitoring and evaluation procedures. This strategy will progress towards a single reporting mechanism which is outcomes based, has headline actions with named lead officers and which reports on the totality of community-based activity in Mid Ulster.

With a focus on strengthening the sector and supporting local organisations to design and deliver solutions to local concerns, this new strategy will transform how the Council supports community and voluntary organisations. By working more deliberately and strategically with key partners, the Council will ensure that appropriate and tailored support is available to the sector which will enable them to sustain or develop what they do and how they do it.

*Our goal is to establish a single, outcomes-based reporting system with clear accountability and comprehensive monitoring that captures the full scope of community activity while strengthening organisational capacity for locally designed solutions.*

### **Transforming Resource flows**

Resources are not just financial, but rather include people, knowledge, and information. Figure 2 (page 5) illustrates the complexity of the flow of financial resources between the public sector and the community and voluntary sector in Mid Ulster. Mid Ulster District Council will simplify and streamline the investments which are within their immediate control and will work with Central Government Departments to facilitate the pooling of resources to deliver a shared vision and shared outcomes. The potential to share staff resources will also be developed further.

*Our goal is to simplify and streamline all resource investments—financial, human, and knowledge-based—through coordinated allocation, shared staffing arrangements, and collaborative funding approaches between Council and Central Government.*

*It is not sufficient to change policy and practice in how funding is invested, or how support is provided, to the community and voluntary sector. It is also vital to ensure that the relationships within and between sectors can support and sustain change.*

### **Transforming Relationships and Connections**

The quality of the relationships between the community and voluntary sectors, the Council, and central government departments is fundamental to the success of this new strategy. The further development of place-based working, and thematic networks will help to build these relationships and encourage connections and collaboration by bringing relevant organisations together to build a shared understanding of each other and purposeful action.

Clear, regular, and two-way communication will be key to building better connections between groups and between the Council and its partners. Sharing of information and signposting will

reduce duplication and will enable partners to be mutually supportive.

*Our goal is to build high-quality, collaborative relationships across all sectors through place-based working, thematic networks, and two-way communication that fosters mutual understanding and reduces duplication.*

### **Transforming Accountability and Influence (Power Dynamics)**

In developing this strategy, Mid Ulster District Council committed to a facilitated co-design process. That openness to co-designing initiatives with the community and voluntary sector will continue. In addition, a revised approach to programme delivery will enable closer working and co-delivery between the Council and community partners.

The Council is aware of the power imbalance which being a primary funder of the community and voluntary sector creates. However, the Council is committed to a refreshed approach to grant aid and to the development of a funding charter which is based on fair funding principles. Through these, and other mechanisms which may emerge over the lifetime of the strategy, it is committed to working in partnership with the sector.

*Our goal is to shift from traditional funder-recipient relationships to genuine partnership through co-design processes, co-delivery approaches, and fair funding principles.*

### **Behavioural and Attitudinal Change (Mental Models)**

These are the deeply held beliefs and assumptions that influence action. Community development support and grant aid are fundamental elements of how the public sector enables and facilitates community based activity. This strategy is committed to maximising the impact of public sector investment and community activity by challenging the assumptions which perpetuate ways of doing things which are no longer relevant, are inefficient and which undervalue the contribution of the community and voluntary sector to delivering change in Mid Ulster. In addition, the strategy acknowledges that the attitudinal change required in order to address prejudice and discrimination is not the responsibility of a single bespoke programme but rather should be intrinsic to all programming.

*Our goal is to challenge and change deeply held assumptions that perpetuate inefficient practices and undervalue community contributions, and to ensure that addressing prejudice and discrimination becomes integral to all programming.*

## 3 TOWARDS A MORE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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Community development is local people developing local solutions to local issues. It is important to make the role of the Council, government departments and agencies clear in this context, which is to support, facilitate and enable community development in local communities. The Council works in partnership with central government to direct additional funding and resources into local communities for initiatives and programmes which are regional in character, but which can address local needs.

An integrated approach to community support and involvement acknowledges the value of this partnership, not just in the resources it directs to communities, but also in the collective impact of this support and the outcomes delivered as a result. An integrated and coordinated approach will not only maximise the effectiveness of investment in communities but also minimise the potential duplication which can be enabled by poor communication.

Increasing demand for decreasing resources and a continuously evolving operating environment mean that the 'siloed' approach to the allocation of resources and the attribution of results is no longer sustainable. The evaluation of the Collaboration Test and Learn initiative found that the way forward is:<sup>4</sup>

- To plan collaboratively, maximising outcomes and efficiency and linking local actions to the broader strategic context.
- To pool resources using outcomes based budgeting in order to strengthen collaboration and achieve local outcomes which align with the Programme for Government (PfG)
- To build relationships and create pathways for local engagement and empowerment
- To share outcomes and reporting thus reducing duplication and lack of co-ordination

The integrated approach which Mid Ulster District Council will take to community support and involvement acknowledges this new and evolving context for community development and maximises the impact of investment from a number of departments into Mid Ulster as well as the investment from the Council itself.

### 3.1 PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT (PFG) 2024-2027

The PfG sets the strategic agenda and key priorities for Northern Ireland for the next three years.

#### 3.1.1 Missions and Cross Cutting commitment:

**People:** Working to support everyone at all stages of their life to ensure they have the chance to succeed by improving life opportunities.

**Planet:** Harnessing the potential of a green growth economy while ensuring we provide an equitable transition to a sustainable and affordable society as we take responsibility for decarbonising our economy and society.

**Prosperity:** Improving our economic productivity while making sure that we have an economy that works for everyone, and our story continues to be an inspiration to others. In

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<sup>4</sup> Based on the findings of the Test and Learn pilot in Aghnacloy

**Peace:** The cross-cutting commitment will make sure that everyone feels the benefit of a growing economy, improved environment, and a fairer society.

### 3.1.2 Immediate Priority areas:

Immediate priority areas have been set in support of the three Missions and the cross-cutting commitment. These immediate priorities are:

- Grow a globally competitive and sustainable economy
- Deliver more affordable childcare
- Cut health waiting times
- **Ending violence against women and girls**
- Better support for children and young people with special educational needs
- Provide more social, affordable and sustainable housing
- **Safer communities**
- **Protecting Lough Neagh and the environment**
- **Reform and transformation of public services**

### 3.1.3 Indicators (Wellbeing Index)<sup>5</sup>

Measurement of the progress of the PfG is based on a wellbeing framework which takes into account the combination of social, environmental, economic, and democratic factors which are essential for society to flourish. The Wellbeing Framework is made up of ten strategic domains of wellbeing supported by a selection of indicators, each of which is an official statistic which can be used to illustrate comparisons between different geographical contexts such as rural and urban areas, or different demographic groups such as gender or age.



Figure 6 Programme For Government Wellbeing Framework

Significantly, the community and voluntary sector are identified in the Programme for Government as a key partner in addressing the complex, interconnected issues which impact on local communities. The PfG commits to interconnected solutions and sustainable funding models.

<sup>5</sup> [https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/pfg\\_wellbeing\\_dashboard.html?tab=domains](https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/pfg_wellbeing_dashboard.html?tab=domains)

## 3.2 PARTNER OUTCOMES

Within this wider regional framework sit a number of departmental and local government strategies as outlined in the following sections. This strategy acknowledges the range of funding invested in Mid Ulster by a number of government departments, and by Mid Ulster District Council, and is intended to contribute to the delivery of the strategic aims of those Departments as well as to address local need.

### 3.2.1 Mid Ulster Community Planning 2017-2027

The Mid Ulster Community Plan, adopted in 2017 and reviewed in 2023, is a plan that all partners delivering in the District agreed. The Plan was developed after in-depth consultation with the community and delivery partners, alongside extensive statistical research and analysis, and sets out a vision for Mid Ulster which is shared by the Council, the community planning partners and the residents of the District. The people and communities of Mid Ulster are at the heart of the community plan which has five themes:

- Economic Growth
- Infrastructure
- Education and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- **Vibrant and Safe Communities**

The theme of Vibrant and Safe Communities incorporates the following objectives:

- Reduce poverty and deprivation by targeting resources to the most vulnerable in Mid Ulster.
- Ensure that Mid Ulster is safe, encourages respect for diversity and values community spirit.
- We have stronger communities

Alongside the Community Plan each Central Government Department has a strategy and vision that it works to in support of communities as follows:

### 3.2.2 The Executive Office (Together: Building a United Community)

**T:BUC Vision:** *a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.*

#### **T:BUC Shared Aims**

**Our Children and Young People:** to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.

**Our Shared Community:** to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

**Our Safe Community:** to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

**Our Cultural Expression:** to create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

### **3.2.3 Department of Justice**

*Mission: Working in partnership to create a fair, just and safe community where we respect the law and each other*

#### **PCSP Strategic Priorities**

To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

### **3.2.4 Department for Communities**

*Building Inclusive Communities Strategy 2020-2025: We will work together for a fair and inclusive society by transforming support for people, communities and places to improve lives, and deliver generational change*

#### **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategic Objectives**

**Community Renewal:** To develop confident communities which are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most disadvantaged areas.

**Economic Renewal** – To develop economic activity in the most disadvantaged areas and connect them to the wider urban economy

**Social Renewal** - To improve social conditions for the people who live in the most disadvantaged areas through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments.

**Physical Renewal:** - To help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most disadvantaged areas.

### **3.2.5 Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2024 to 2028**

#### **Themes**

- Our service delivery
- Leadership and partnership for local growth
- Being the best council possible

#### **Corporate Objectives include**

- Work collaboratively with central government to align existing community development and support programmes and implement our Community Development Strategy and Action Plan by March 2028
- Redirect wealth and public spending into communities by promoting a Community Wealth Building approach to local economic development

- Increase customer satisfaction and participation in our leisure, outdoor recreation and arts, culture and literary facilities by March 2028
- Co-design and deliver accessible community-based leisure and outdoor recreation facilities and programmes that meet our citizens' needs
- Collaborate with local and regional governments and jurisdictions to improve the services we deliver to our citizens and advocate on their behalf

***In Mid Ulster, delivery of the aims of these strategies is achieved through a number of interconnected and complementary, but currently individual, programmes.***

## 4 INTERCONNECTING AND COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMING

This integrated plan will bring under a single strategic framework, the range of strategies and action plans which the Council facilitates with the local community and voluntary sector. Each of these programmes includes element of support and capacity building as well as opportunities for community involvement.

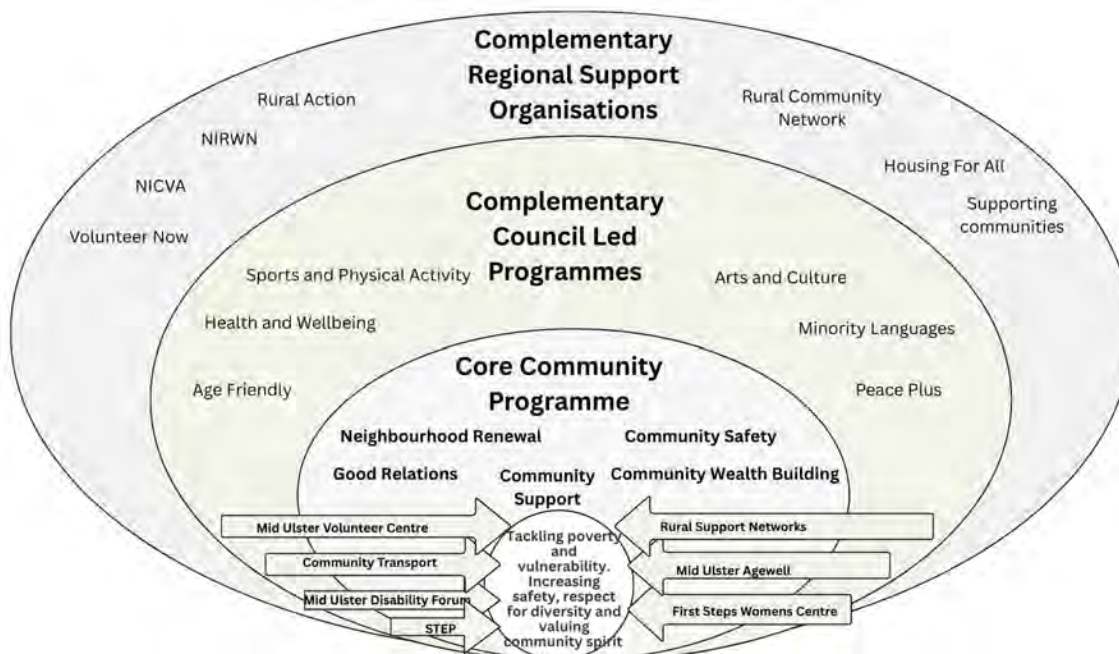


Figure 7 Interconnected and Complementary Programmes - a visualisation

### 4.1 PROGRAMMING FUNDED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The following action plans, which are funded by central government departments directly, and are match funded by the Council contribute to achievement of the outcomes of the Support and Involvement Plan in Mid Ulster, as well as contributing to the outcomes of the Programme for Government.

#### 4.1.1 Good Relations (GR)– currently a 3 year strategy, annual action plan funded by TEO

The Good Relations strategy and action plan focuses on improving relationships within and between communities in Mid Ulster with a particular emphasis on children and young people.

The community support and involvement strategy acknowledges that to achieve good relations outcomes, the GR action plan will include activity such as capacity building and grant aid which align closely with the community development framework.

The good relations programmes will respond to the needs identified in the good relations audit (which is carried out every three years) and will support communities to become more inclusive.

#### 4.1.2 Policing and Community Safety – currently a 3 year strategy, annual action plan funded by DOJ

A strategic priority of Policing And Community Safety Partnerships is to improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues. The PCSP elements of the integrated action plan will respond to the needs identified in the strategic review (which is

undertaken every three years) and will provide programmes which support communities to become safer.

#### **4.1.3 Neighbourhood Renewal – currently a 3 year strategy, annual action plan funded by DfC**

The goal of this targeted intervention is to improve the social, economic and physical wellbeing of residents of areas which most acutely experience deprivation. Responding to identified local need it provides programmes and interventions which support communities to address disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion.

#### **4.1.4 Tackling Poverty and Vulnerability**

Supported through funding intended to mitigate the impact of welfare reform and to address the increased cost of living in the District, Mid Ulster Council supports initiatives such as advice services, food poverty support and wraparound support services for individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet.

## **4.2 LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Mid Ulster has a strong community and voluntary sector. Listed below are the main strategic community development groups which currently work closely with Mid Ulster District Council to identify and address the needs of local communities.

**Cookstown Western Shores Area Network (CWSAN) and COSTA Local Rural Support Network** are partner community umbrella organisations which represents and support the interests of community groups within the rural areas of Mid Ulster and along the Western Shores of Lough Neagh. The network aims to support the activities of groups in the area through a range of measures which include training, facilitation, information access, brokerage and consultation.

**South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)** is a rights based community organisation providing services in advice, support, advocacy, social enterprise and strategic engagement, alongside community development support which is provided mainly in urban communities.

**First Steps Women’s Centre** provides education and training, support and guidance, and opportunities to women across Mid Ulster, working to remove barriers to inclusion and providing services such as childcare and transport to support participation.

**Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre** works with the community to encourage social inclusion and to help further personal development through volunteering and/or training, whilst empowering people to improve health and wellbeing and increasing individuals and communities’ control over their lives and their health.

**Mid Ulster Agewell** is a Partnership covering Mid Ulster District Council area working together to provide a provision of ageing well services to older and vulnerable people within our community, to remain as independent as possible, for as long as possible, in their own home.

**Mid Ulster Disability Forum** is made up of representatives from a range of disability organisations and groups who are working towards the inclusivity of people with disabilities and their carers. It is a consultative body used by the council and other agencies to inform strategies which impact on the lives of local disabled people who live in the locality, and aims to advance and promote equality and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of disability

**Mid Ulster Out and About Community Transport (Magherafelt) and Community Transport (Dungannon and Cookstown)** provide low cost accessible rural transport services throughout the Magherafelt District, aiming to provide members with a door to door transport solution so they can access local basic services.

### **4.3 ADDITIONAL COMPLEMENTARY /CONTRIBUTORY PROGRAMMES (COUNCIL LED)**

In addition, the following strategies and action plans are acknowledged as providing opportunities for community involvement and participation as well as contributing to the outcomes of this strategy.

#### **4.3.1 Arts Outreach Programme**

The Council, in partnership with the strategic community arts partners (Bardic, Craic, Glasgowbury, An Carn, Brantry, and The Hub), seek to support local communities and young people engage in the arts. The partners deliver a wide range of performances, and local arts focused drama and music. The strategic arts partners are located across Mid Ulster and are based in local communities with wide and diverse participation.

#### **4.3.2 Minority Language Support**

As part of its delivery of Irish language development, the Council partners with a range of local community organisations to support the development of the Irish language across the District. This includes support for a range of initiatives from language classes, inclusion of Irish in activities, Irish facilitated youth clubs and engagement with Irish medium in schools.

Council also partners a number of Ulster Scots cultural groups to promote cultural expression, focusing on music and heritage links.

#### **4.3.3 Peace Plus Action Plan**

The Peace Plus Action plan will deliver eight programmes across Mid Ulster over a three-year period, contributing to the PEACEPLUS themes of Thriving and Peaceful Communities, Building Respect for all Cultural Identities, and Local Community Regeneration and Transformation.

Projects to be delivered include Anti-Poverty and Health and Wellbeing programmes aimed at supporting people in poverty; Culture/ Heritage and Arts engagement with young children; Young People's Leadership and Development; a Women's Community Leadership and Empowerment Programme, a community led Environmental / biodiversity Programme, and a cross border heritage programme District wide capital project will be delivered at TRAAD in Ballyronan with the further development of a nature reserve.

#### **4.3.4 Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2023 to 2026**

The vision of this strategy and action plan is for Mid Ulster to be an age-friendly district where older people are valued, engaged and supported to live health, active and fulfilling lives. The plan is arranged under eight themes: outdoor spaces and buildings; transport; housing; social participation; respect and social inclusion; civic participation; communication and information; and community support and health.

#### **4.3.5 Sports And Physical Activity Strategy And Action Plan**

Mid Ulster District Council works in partnership with a number of sports governing bodies in the outreach development of sports across our communities. It currently has partnerships with Derry GAA, Tyrone GAA, IFA Irish Football Association, Ulster Rugby, Swim Ulster, and Ulster Hockey. The aim is to support local communities in the development of sports targeting young people to encourage participation and supporting sustained engagement.

#### **4.3.6 Health and Wellbeing**

The Council's Health and Wellbeing team works across the community, supporting groups and areas to engage in a range of programmes from healthy eating, cooking on a budget, to keeping active and supporting mental wellbeing.

#### **4.3.7 Community Wealth Building**

This people centred economic development approach is focused on creating inclusive, sustainable, and resilient local economies. It emphasises the empowerment of community organisations, social enterprises, and cooperatives, enabling them to drive economic growth and job creation. By prioritising local resources and ensuring that wealth generated within the community stays within the community, Community Wealth Building (CWB) aims to democratise the economy and build long-term prosperity.

Mid Ulster District Council have committed to the development of a CWB Framework for the district. It aims to play a pivotal role in delivering CWB by leveraging council assets and procurement processes to benefit local communities, support the establishment and growth of locally rooted enterprises, and promote fair employment practices.

### **4.4 ADDITIONAL COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORT (EXTERNAL TO COUNCIL) - REGIONAL**

**Supporting Communities** is an independent tenant engagement organisation in the social housing sector which has a strategic priority to empower communities to create diverse and inclusive place where people are proud to live. This includes training and support for community groups. SCNI also facilitates the Housing Community Network in collaboration with the NI Housing Executive

**Rural Community Network** (in a consortium with NICVA and CO3) is funded by the Department for Communities Regional Infrastructure Support Programme in a joint arrangement with DEARA to support the community and voluntary sector in respect of representation, training board members, capacity building, governance and income generation

**Rural Action** aims to 'inspire action and make a positive contribution to the everyday lives of rural people', which is achieved through championing the needs of rural communities and through design and delivery of community development projects,

**Volunteer Now** is funded by the Department for Communities Regional Infrastructure Support Programme to support, promote and maximise volunteering across Northern Ireland and create the conditions under which volunteering activity can develop and flourish

**Housing for All** is funded by the Executive Office and delivered through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive with the aim of creating inclusive, safe, sustainable neighbourhoods. The programme was previously managed by the Department for Communities. Housing for All initiatives include the development of good relations action plans through local advisory groups.

These five year plans provide investment into groups within a five mile radius of the housing for all development.

**NI Rural Women's Network** is funded by the Department for Communities Regional Infrastructure Support Programme in a joint arrangement with DEARA specifically to support women's groups and activity in rural areas

**NICVA** (in a consortium with RCN and CO3) is funded by the Department for Communities Regional Infrastructure Support Programme in a joint arrangement with DEARA to support the community and voluntary sector in respect of representation, training board members, capacity building, governance and income generation

***The Integrated Community Support and Involvement plan for Mid Ulster will streamline and co-ordinate the efforts of these various partners by aligning funding, planning, and reporting for the district. This single unified plan will:***

- ***Include District wide strategic goals and objectives and agreed shared outcomes***
- ***Pool budgets for implementation***
- ***Standardise reporting to track progress and ensure accountability***
- ***Facilitate the prioritisation of effort and the reduction of duplication by facilitating better sharing of information and expertise***

## 5 INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT

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This integrated plan focuses on the community / social wellbeing of Mid Ulster. Economic and Environmental wellbeing are complementary areas of work which are addressed in the plans of other departments in the Council and in central Government. The plan represents the shared vision of the Council and its partners for the people of Mid Ulster and the outcomes which they are seeking to achieve.

### 5.1 VISION

Communities are stronger and experience less disadvantage and poverty, and the people who live in them are healthier, and feel safe and respected.

### 5.2 MISSION

To transform community development in Mid Ulster by creating unified policies, streamlined practices, and coordinated resources, which maximise community impact.

### 5.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES<sup>6</sup>

- Reduce poverty and deprivation by targeting resources to the most vulnerable in Mid Ulster.
- Ensure that Mid Ulster is safe, encourages respect for diversity and values community spirit.
- We have stronger communities

### 5.4 SHARED OUTCOMES

This integrated plan takes an outcomes based approach. This evidence based approach identifies the desired outcomes for the communities of Mid Ulster and uses a small number of relevant population indicators to measure progress. The outcomes below reflect the needs and interests of the community as identified locally and regionally.

- **Communities are stronger and more resilient**

*Our goal is to build community capacity and self-reliance through evidence based investment, tailored support and collaborative partnerships.*

- **Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty**

*Our goal is to reduce inequalities through community led interventions which address root causes and improve life outcomes.*

- **Communities are safer**

*Our goal is to create securer environments for all residents through targeted interventions and programmes that address harmful behaviours and support vulnerable groups*

- **Communities are more shared and inclusive**

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<sup>6</sup> Mid Ulster Community Plan <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/your-council/community-planning>

*Our goal is to foster belonging and participation for all residents by expanding cultural access and ensuring meaningful connections across difference.*

These shared outcomes align with the Programme for Government, the ambitions of the central government investment, and with the needs and aspirations of the local community. Most significantly, they focus on improving the wellbeing of the residents of Mid Ulster.



*Figure 8 Shared Outcomes from Community Support and Involvement*

## 5.5 VALUES

This integrated plan is founded on community development values which have been based on the All-Ireland Standards for Community Work (AIEB)

**Collectivity** – focusing on the benefit to communities rather than to individuals

**Empowerment** – increasing knowledge, skills, confidence and awareness to enable genuine participation and involvement. Empowered communities are resilient, organised, included and influential.

**Social Justice and Sustainable Development** – challenging injustice, poverty, inequality, discrimination and social exclusion

**Rights Based approach** – human rights and equality are realised, and discrimination is addressed

**Participation** – policies cannot and will not be effective without meaningful participation by communities in their design, implementation and monitoring.

## 5.6 INDICATORS

To facilitate a shared measurement framework which meets the needs of all partners including the funding departments, the indicators which will be used to measure the success of the plan align with the indicators in the Wellbeing Framework used by the Programme for Government. This will enable the Council to demonstrate how the community activity which happens in Mid

Ulster is contributing to the population level outcomes for the Council area and for Northern Ireland.

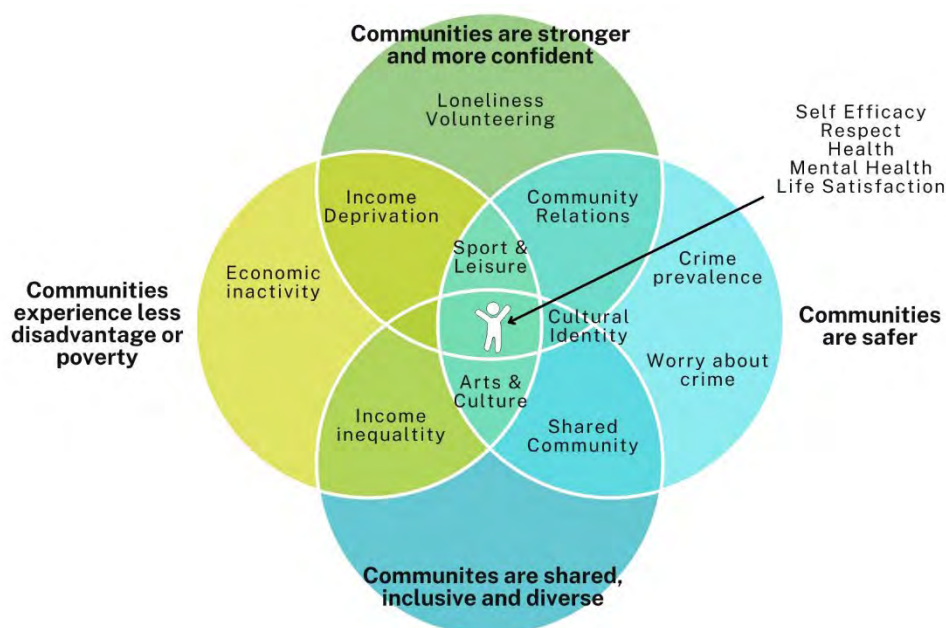


Figure 9 Indicators by Outcome

Appendix 1 contains a baseline for Mid Ulster which illustrates the trends over time of each of these indicators (or a relevant proxy if not available for the Mid Ulster District specifically)

Indicator	Baseline	Target by 2030
Arts and Cultural Activity	77% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 83%)
Community Relations	43.1% in 2021/2023	Maintain upward trend
Crime Prevalence Rate	6% in 2022/2023	Close gap with NI (currently 5.1%)
Cultural Identity	48.7% in 2021/2023	Increase to above 50%
Economic Inactivity	14.4% in 2023	Continue downward trend
Income Deprivation	14% in 2019/20 to 2022/23	Return to pre-pandemic downward trend
Life Expectancy	83.1 female / 78.9 male in 2020-2022	Maintain above NI figure
Life Satisfaction	7.8 in 2022/2023	Maintain current levels or improve
Loneliness	16% in 2022/2023	Continue downward trend
Mental Health	17-18% in 2023/2024 Trust level – local statistic TBC	
Personal Safety	4% in 2023/2024	Maintain or reduce (currently lower than NI)

Indicator	Baseline	Target by 2030
Respect	11% in 2021/2023	Return to pre-pandemic levels (30%)
Safe Towns	Data not available	Align with NI (currently 44.9%)
Self-Efficacy	21.7% in 2022/2023	Close gap with NI (currently 18.9%)
Shared Community	72% in 2021/2023	Close gap with NI (currently 74.5%)
Sports and Physical Activity	67% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 74%)
Volunteering	23% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 28%)
Worry About Crime	3% in 2023/2024	Maintain or reduce. (Currently lower than NI)

## 5.7 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this strategy has two complementary strands, **Delivery Of Change** and **Improvement Of Outcomes**. Section 5.7.1 outlines the planned transformation of **how** community support and development will be delivered in Mid Ulster; section 5.7.2 outlines the planned actions (**what**) with and within communities which will contribute to the strategy vision and outcomes.

### 5.7.1 Delivering change

#### Policy

- *One Plan One Budget One Report* pilot to be agreed by 2026
- All funded Action Plans to be aligned with One Plan One Budget One Report framework by April 2026

#### Practice

- Put in place a redesigned programme of financial investment in the community and voluntary sector which targets resources in an evidence-based way with a focus on improving local outcomes. (S&R1)
- Underpin the investment of funding with a strong locality focus, emphasising the importance of the collaboration and complementarity of local initiatives
- Co-ordinate and deliver a range relevant programmes and support which contribute to identified outcomes\*

#### Resource Flows

- Invest £2.7m per year (pending rates setting process) in community development support and involvement through pooling of budgets.
- Implement a staffing model which supports delivery across the district

- Implement a streamlined grant aid programme which facilitates a single annual application where appropriate. (S&R1) (appendix 3)

### **Relationships and Connections**

- Underpin community development, support and involvement work with a relationship based approach focusing on building strong connections and collaborative partnerships
- Work collaboratively with partners, to support the community and voluntary sector to achieve its goals, by providing appropriate capacity building support and advice. (S&R2 appendix 4)
- Transition, where appropriate, from ‘strategic grants’ to service level agreements with community partners by April 2026

### **Accountability and Influence**

- Recognise the value of the contribution of the community and voluntary sector by embedding co-design and co-delivery models in community development and support
- Foster purposeful collaboration between the Council and other community and public sector partners to address identified outcomes

### **Behavioural and Attitudinal Change**

- Place an emphasis on an evidence based and data-driven focus on improving local outcomes
- Challenge and change the ‘siloes’ approach to working with the community and voluntary sector
- Embed attitudinal change, including challenging sectarianism, racism, homophobia and other prejudices, in all programming.

## **5.7.2 Improving Outcomes**

### **Communities are Stronger and More Resilient**

*We will build community capacity and self-reliance through evidence based investment, tailored support and collaborative partnerships through:*

- Provision of financial support for local community based organisations to develop, deliver and evaluate evidence based projects in the local community
- Provision of tailored development support for community based organisations, which is based on their need and capacity.
- Provision of support for community groups to work together and share expertise through the facilitation of place based and thematic approaches.
- Provision of age specific programmes on the basis of identified need
- Provision of awareness raising or educational programmes on issues of interest or concern

### **Communities are Safer**

*We will create securer environments for all residents through targeted interventions and programmes that address harmful behaviours and support vulnerable groups through:*

- Provision of a programme of interventions to ensure women and girls feel safe in Mid Ulster

- Provision of targeted support for groups and individuals who are marginalised, excluded or vulnerable
- Provision and promotion of programmes which address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

### **Communities are Shared and Inclusive**

*We will foster belonging and participation for all residents by expanding cultural access and ensuring meaningful connections across difference through:*

- Widening of participation in cultural events and celebrations
- Provision of initiatives which support integration and cohesion for migrants, minoritised ethnic communities, refugees, and travellers across Mid Ulster
- Provision and promotion of opportunities for communities to become more cohesive

### **Communities Experience less poverty and disadvantage**

*We will reduce inequalities through community led interventions which address root causes and improve life outcomes through:*

- Facilitation of community based interventions which address poverty
- Facilitation of programmes which address health inequalities
- Provision of support to build local community wealth

## 6 RESOURCING COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT

### 6.1 FUNDING

Working together is at the centre of this strategy to enable efficient and effective allocation of public sector resources as it will enable:

- Strong communication and co-ordination which maximises outcomes
- Good collaboration which increases the possibility of considering outcomes in a collective and shared way.

The outcomes identified in this strategy cannot be achieved through the efforts of any one organisation but rather will be the result of a number of interrelating factors and interventions. A collaborative approach is required, and it is only through that collective effort and investment that the 'curve will turn'. (The curves in question are provided in Appendix 1)

Current investment (2025/2026) into community development in Mid Ulster is as follows

Investment source	Amount
Department For Communities – Neighbourhood Renewal Council match 30%	£60,000
Department For Communities – Community Support Council match 15%	£400,000
Department For Communities – Festivals	£30,000
Department for Communities – Hardship / Food Poverty Council match 50%	£200,000
Executive Office – Good Relations Action Plan Council match 30%	300,000
Executive Office – Violence against women and girls	£100,000
Executive Office – Refugee and Asylum Support	£50,000
Department Of Justice – PCSP Action Plan	£320,000
Mid Ulster District Council – community grants programme	£1,000,000
Mid Ulster District Council – community development activity	£250,000

The potential **collective** investment into ensuring that in Mid Ulster

- Communities are stronger and more resilient
- Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty
- Communities are safer
- Communities are more shared and inclusive

**is therefore £2.71m**

***Under the One Plan, One Budget, One Report approach, the link between the activity delivered and the relevant shared outcome(s) will be clear for monitoring and reporting purposes, however there will not be direct attribution of individual participants or individual budget lines to specific sources of funding. Collective ownership across all outcomes will increase the measurable return to government departments for their investment.***

## **6.2 STAFFING**

Council will align its workforce to support the delivery of this strategy and ensure that community development principles are embedded throughout their work.

Our team of Development Officers will get to know groups and their work and will be able to provide developmental advice and support, such as potential sources of funding and making connections with other groups in the area. An important part of the Development Officer role will be to establish and facilitate networking events on either a locality or a thematic basis.

There will remain a remit to support in good relations, policing and community safety, and arts development amongst other areas.

## **6.3 PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

This strategy outlines an approach which has the potential to transform how funding is directed through local government and into communities. As a pilot initiative, the ongoing involvement of partners in reviewing the effectiveness of the approach will be fundamental. To facilitate this, continued engagement will take place through community planning. Representatives of all key delivery areas (TEO, DFC, DAERA, NIPB/DOJ) will be represented on a forum which will come together bi-annually to review the delivery of the strategy and ensure maximising delivery of projects and programmes in local communities, to achieve:

- Outcomes based budgeting to strengthen collaboration
- Sharing of resources – people, knowledge and assets
- Maximisation of timeframes for funding
- Monitoring of outcomes in line with the Programme for Government (PfG)

The Forum will link to the wider Mid Ulster Community Plan through the theme of Vibrant and Safe Communities. It will also link to the People and Places Collaboration Test and Learn pilot which seeks to bring all key partners and agencies together to consider and act on the needs of the area.

Representatives of Local Area Partnerships participation in this forum will ensure that there is a clear line two-way communication between the public sector bodies and the local organisations delivering projects and programmes in local communities.

## 7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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### 7.1 MONITORING

Delivery of this strategy will be monitored and evaluated.

### 7.2 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Headline actions will contribute to one or more of the strategy outcomes whilst also having a specific delivery plan and key performance indicators.

In order to monitor progress of the strategy on an ongoing basis, the following key performance indicators will be used

#### **Quantitative (how much did we do):**

- Amount of funding invested
- Number of initiatives supported
- Number of grants awarded
- Amount (£) of grants awarded
- Number of groups supported in capacity building
- Number of forums facilitated
- Number of groups collaborating
- Number of groups participating in programmes (community wealth building, good relations, community safety, arts, community, wellbeing)
- Number of people participating in programmes (good relations, community safety, arts, community)
- Number of people volunteering
- Number of people support through poverty initiatives

#### **Qualitative (how well did we do it):**

- Level of positive feedback on community development support received
- % people who feel safer
- % women/girls who feel safer
- % people who feel respected
- % of young people who feel positive about good relations
- Number of areas are open and accessible to everyone.
- % people who feel their community development activity is strong
- % people who feel their community has respect for diversity
- % of people who feel improved health & wellbeing
- Level of incidents of ASB
- Level of crimes recorded with a domestic abuse motivation
- % of confidence in the work of the police
- % of people who stated that PCSP has helped to improve policing
- Level of additional investment levered
- % of people who increased their income and reduced debt

A standardised participant monitoring form and standardised end of project/ progress report form will focus on collecting the data relevant to track the above. The standardised approach will facilitate collation into an overarching approach which takes into account all activity which is supported through the plan.

**Outcomes (Is anyone better off?)**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target by 2030</b>
Arts and Cultural Activity	77% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 83%)
Community Relations	43.1% in 2021/2023	Maintain upward trend
Crime Prevalence Rate	6% in 2022/2023	Close gap with NI (currently 5.1%)
Cultural Identity	48.7% in 2021/2023	Increase to above 50%
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Shared Community	72% in 2021/2023	Close gap with NI (currently 74.5%)
Sports and Physical Activity	67% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 74%)
Volunteering	23% in 2023/2024	Close gap with NI (currently 28%)
Worry About Crime	3% in 2023/2024	Maintain or reduce. (Currently lower than NI)

### **7.3 SOCIAL VALUE**

Social Value is the impact an organisation or intervention has on society and the environment as well as its financial impact. It is a way to consider how resources are used to create positive change. By supporting the community and voluntary sector to measure their social value, the Council and its partners will be able to demonstrate not only the contribution made the achieving outcomes for the residents of Mid Ulster but also to demonstrate the financial value of that impact.

Mid Ulster District Council has invested in the Social Value Engine to assist in measurement of the social value of its investments. The measures (proxies) which can be applied to different elements the Community Support and Involvement Strategy include:

- Cost of Inefficient collaboration
- Savings from joint working
- Value of living in a good neighbourhood
- Regular attendance at a voluntary or local organisation
- Fear of crime
- Emotional cost of crime
- Value of reduced social isolation
- Value to an individual of participating in the arts
- Value to an individual of being in the audience of arts performances
- Value of donations to foodbanks from supermarkets
- Value of foodbanks signposting to relevant services

## 8 APPENDICES

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- Appendix 1 Mid Ulster Baseline of Wellbeing Indicators
- Appendix 2 Action Plan
- Appendix 3 Community Investment Policy
- Appendix 4 Development Support Plan

# Action Plan

In implementing this strategy, Mid Ulster District council will:

## Policy

- Adopt a *One Plan One Budget One Report* approach to community support and involvement in the District.
- Engage with Central Government departments to secure agreement to the *One Plan One Budget One Report* approach

## Practice

- Put in place a redesigned programme of financial investment in the community and voluntary sector which targets resources in an evidence-based way with a focus on improving local outcomes. **(S&R1)**
- Underpin the investment of funding with a strong locality focus, emphasising the importance of the collaboration and complementarity of local initiatives
- Co-ordinate and deliver a range relevant programmes and support which contribute to identified outcomes\*

## Resource Flows

- Invest £2.7m per year in community development, support and involvement through pooling of budgets.
- Implement a streamlined grant aid programme. **(S&R1)** (appendix 3)

## Relationships and Connections

- Underpin its community development, support and involvement work with a relationship based approach focusing on building strong connections and collaborative partnerships
- Introduce place based and thematic approaches across the District to support engagement with the community and voluntary sector, and encourage collaboration and networking **(S&R3)**
- Work collaboratively with partners, to support the community and voluntary sector to achieve its goals, by providing appropriate capacity building support and advice. **(S&R2 appendix 4)**

## Influence and Accountability

- Recognise the value of the contribution of the community and voluntary sector by embedding co-design and co-delivery models in community development and support
- Co design, with the community and voluntary sector, a Funding programme based on fair funding principles
- Transition, where appropriate, from 'strategic grants' to service level agreements with community partners
- Foster purposeful collaboration between the Council and other community and public sector partners to address identified outcomes

### **Behavioural and Attitudinal Change**

- Place an emphasis on an evidence based and data-driven focus on improving local outcomes
- Challenge and change the 'siloed' approach to working with the community and voluntary sector
- Embed attitudinal change, including challenging sectarianism, racism, homophobia and other prejudices, in all of its programming.

\*Programme delivery will ensure that

### ***Communities are Stronger and More Resilient by***

- S&R1: Providing financial support for local community based organisations to develop, deliver and evaluate evidence based projects in the local community (appendix 3)
- S&R2: Providing tailored development support for community based organisations, which is based on their need and capacity. (appendix 4)
- S&R3: Providing support for community groups to work together and share expertise through the facilitation of place based approaches for example local Area Partnerships (LAPs).
- S&R4: Providing age specific programmes on the basis of identified need
- S&R5: Providing awareness raising or educational programmes on issues of interest or concern

### ***Communities are Safer by***

- S1: Providing a programme of interventions to ensure women and girls feel safe in Mid Ulster
- S2: Providing targeted support for groups and individuals who are marginalised, excluded or vulnerable
- S3: Providing and promoting programmes which empower local communities to address crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour.

***Communities are Shared and Inclusive by***

- S&I1: Widening participation in cultural events and celebrations
- S&I2: Providing initiatives which support integration and cohesion for migrants, minoritised ethnic communities, refugees, and travellers across Mid Ulster.
- S&I3: Providing and promoting opportunities for communities to become more cohesive

***Communities Experience less poverty and disadvantage by***

- P&D1: Facilitating community based interventions which address poverty
- P&D2 Facilitation of programmes to address health inequality
- P&D3 Provision of support to build local community wealth.

## Policy

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Adopt a <i>One Plan One Budget One Report</i> approach to community support and involvement in the District.	Seek Council Approval in Autumn 2025  Secure partners' buy in Autumn 2025  Implement from April 2026  Review January-March 2027	Departmental Senior Management	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty  Communities are safer  Communities are more shared and inclusive		

## Practice

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
<p>Put in place a redesigned programme of financial investment in the community and voluntary sector which targets resources in an evidence-based way with a focus on improving local outcomes. (S&amp;R1)</p>	<p>Implement a streamlined grant aid programme which is outcomes based – April 2027</p> <p>Underpin the investment of funding with a strong locality focus, emphasising the importance of the collaboration and complementarity of local initiatives</p> <p><b>See appendix 3 for Grant Aid Policy</b></p>	<p>Community Development</p>	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Amount of funding invested</p> <p>Number of grants awarded</p> <p>Evaluation of project delivery against planned outcomes</p>	<p>Council DFC TEO</p>

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Support community groups to work together and share expertise through the facilitation of place or thematic approaches. <b>(S&amp;R3)</b>	<p>Facilitate and/or establish place based or thematic forums</p> <p>Engage with existing town and village forums on a quarterly basis</p> <p>Support current Council led strategic community forums</p> <p>Facilitate networking between the key strategic community development support agencies.</p>	Community Development	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of forums facilitated</p> <p>Number of groups collaborating</p> <p>Output(s) from forum meetings</p>	Council DfC

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
<p>Support the community and voluntary sector to achieve its goals, by providing appropriate capacity building support and advice, working in partnership with our strategic partners. (appendix 4)</p>	<p>Support referral / signposting for existing groups in need of capacity building training linking relevant organisations e.g. financial management, good governance, event management etc.</p> <p>Deliver support to new groups establishing on setting up groups, constitutions, bank accounts etc.</p> <p>Deliver a tailored support programme for established, higher capacity groups to assist with business cases, feasibility studies and similar activity</p>	<p>Community Development</p>	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of groups supported</p> <p>Feedback from groups</p>	<p>Council DfC DAERA</p>



High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Provide awareness raising or educational programmes on issues of interest or concern <b>(S&amp;R5)</b>	<p>Deliver training to support Nighttime Economy stakeholders and increase knowledge and understanding re trading responsibilities &amp; NTE issues such as drugs and alcohol</p> <p>Community safety awareness raising events targeting those who might be most vulnerable, particularly older people</p> <p>Raise awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural crime</li> <li>• Hate Crime</li> <li>• Crime Prevention</li> </ul>	PCSP	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of initiatives</p> <p>Number of people engaged</p> <p>Attendance feedback</p>	DoJ
Provide a programme of interventions to ensure women and girls feel safe in Mid Ulster <b>(S1)</b>	<p>Provide opportunities to grassroots organisations to prevent violence, harm and abuse against women and girls</p> <p>Promote Power to Change campaign</p>	PCSP	Communities are safer	<p>Number of initiatives</p> <p>Number of participants</p> <p>Participant feedback</p>	TEO Council

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Provide targeted support for groups and individuals who are marginalised, excluded or vulnerable <b>(S2)</b>	Support those who are most high risk domestic violence victims with security installations  Facilitate the Multi-Agency Support Hub  Engage with high risk youths to deter repeat behaviour and re-offending  Implement Refugee and Asylum seeker support action plan	PCSP    Good Relations	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities are safer  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of initiatives  Number of people engaged  Participant feedback	DoJ    TEO
Provide and promote programmes which address risk taking, anti-social or intolerant attitudes and behaviour <b>(S3)</b>	Engage with young people at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour	PCSP	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities are safer  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of people engaged  Number of initiatives  Participant feedback	DoJ TEO

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Widen participation in cultural events and celebrations <b>(S&amp;I1)</b>	Widen community participation in the delivery of Ulster Scots Piping and Irish Traditional Music by raising awareness and delivery  Facilitate delivery of cultural events and workshops at key times of the year to celebrate both traditions	Good Relations  Good Relations / Arts	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of initiatives  Number of people participating  Attendee feedback	Council DfC TEO
Provide initiatives which support migrants, minoritised ethnic communities, refugees, and travellers across Mid Ulster to be active participants in their local communities <b>(S&amp;I2)</b>	Foster collaboration with partners to develop initiatives and activities that support migrants, BAME communities, and travellers across Mid Ulster.  Engage Diverse and New Communities through a series of support initiatives that provide direct assistance to various migrant groups, refugees, and asylum seekers now residing in Mid Ulster. Engage with Honorary Consuls and agencies to connect with diverse communities.	Good Relations	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities are safer  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of groups engaged  Number of initiatives  Number of people supported  Participant feedback	TEO

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Provide and promote opportunities to become more cohesive <b>(S&amp;I3)</b>	Support community events and programmes which bring local people together	Good Relations	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of initiatives  Number of people attending  Attendee feedback	Council DfC TEO
Facilitate community based interventions which address poverty <b>(P&amp;D1)</b>	Co-ordinate community based interventions including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Supermarket</li> <li>• Debt advice project</li> <li>• School Uniform exchange programme</li> <li>• Food poverty supports</li> <li>• Advice Services provision</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Renewal</li> </ul>	Social Inclusion	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty	Number of individuals supported  Number of initiatives Participant feedback	DFC Council
Facilitation of programmes to address health inequality  <b>(P&amp;D2)</b>	Deliver the Age friendly strategy Facilitate the Age friendly partnership Coordinate the Aging Well programme Deliver the health and wellbeing programme Deliver the energy support programme Deliver home accident and prevention programme	Social Inclusion & Health and Wellbeing	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty	Number of individuals supported  Number of people supported	Council PHA

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Provision of support to build local community wealth.  <b>(P&amp;D3)</b>	Develop a community wealth building framework and action plan  Support groups to engage in Community Asset Transfer  Support groups to move to social enterprise development & delivery  Explore opportunities for community lending with community credit unions  Encourage Council procurement and support local business opportunities	Social Inclusion	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty	Number of individuals engaged  Number of Initiatives	Council

## Resource Flows

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Develop a model that pools resources from Council and central government to invest in community development	<p>Programme funding and expenditure pooled into a single programme delivery budget</p> <p>Collective support across the range of programme delivery.</p> <p>Integrated staffing model to work across all outcomes</p>	Departmental Senior Management	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Total value of budget</p> <p>Total number of people supported</p> <p>Total number of initiatives</p>	Council DfC TEO DoJ

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Develop a streamlined grant aid programme which is outcomes based <b>(S&amp;R1)</b>	Provide financial support to community groups which includes support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community activity,</li> <li>• Community venues</li> <li>• Community festivals and events</li> <li>• Capital investment</li> <li>• Good relations projects</li> <li>• Minority language projects</li> </ul>	Community Development	Communities are stronger and more confident  Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty  Communities are safer  Communities are more shared and inclusive	Number of grants  Number of groups  Number of initiatives  Number of people benefiting	Council DfC TEO DoJ

## Relationships and Connections

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Support collaboration and networking across the District to support engagement with the community and voluntary sector. <b>(S&amp;R3)</b>	<p>Establish networks/forums across the sector on place based or thematic approaches</p> <p>Support local community led responses to local issues</p>	Community Development	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of forum meetings</p> <p>Level of engagement with forums</p> <p>Output(s) from forums</p>	Council DfC DoJ
Work collaboratively with strategic community development/support partners, to support the community and voluntary sector (appendix 4)	Engage regularly with the strategic community development support programme to work together to avoid duplication and ensure partnership and shared working	Community Development	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of groups engaged</p> <p>Feedback from groups</p>	Council DfC DAERA

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Transition, where appropriate, from 'strategic grants' to service level agreements with community partners	<p>Support strategic investment (areas where the council requires activity to be delivered in order to achieve objectives / outcomes)</p> <p>Commission delivery partners for up to 3 years subject to confirmation of budget</p> <p>Adhere to community wealth building principles where possible / appropriate</p>	Community Development (applies to all service areas)	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Value of SLAs</p> <p>Number of SLAs</p> <p>Groups supported</p> <p>Feedback from supported groups and community partners</p>	Council

## Influence and Accountability

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Embed co-design and co-delivery into community development and support	<p>Council and partners to deliver a co design model (based on need and evidence) for identified programmes</p> <p>Empower staff in the delivery of a co design model to support local community delivery</p>	Community Development	Communities are stronger and more confident	<p>Number of initiatives</p> <p>Number of groups engaged</p>	Council
Foster purposeful collaboration between the Council and other community and public sector partners to address identified outcomes	<p>Facilitate a forum which brings together community and government partners at least twice annually.</p> <p>The focus of the meetings should be review and, where appropriate, re-calibrate the collective approach.</p>	Departmental Senior Management	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</p> <p>Communities are safer</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of meetings</p> <p>Level of engagement</p>	Council

## Behavioural and Attitudinal Change

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
Embed evidence based, data driven and outcomes focused approaches to community activity	<p>Include evidence of need in assessment of all grant applications</p> <p>Include consideration of contribution to outcomes in assessment of all grant applications</p> <p>Base SLA specifications on need and the desired outcomes of the contracts</p> <p>Support community organisations to develop the skills to identify and demonstrate need and how their activity aligns with outcomes</p>	Community Development	Communities are stronger and more confident	Number of grant applications scoring well on evidence of need	Council

High Level Action	Detail of Activity	Lead Service Area	Outcome(s) addressed	Measurement of Success	Primary Funders(s)
<p>Challenge and change the ‘siloes’ approach to working with the community and voluntary sector</p>	<p>Utilise pooled resources to maximise the engagement and impact of community based activity.</p> <p>Implement a cross departmental team approach to work with the community including sharing of information and resources</p> <p>Plan initiatives and interventions as a team so that good relations, community safety, community development and health and wellbeing elements can all potentially be included.</p>	<p>All service areas</p>	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>	<p>Number of initiatives which are delivered collaboratively across service areas</p>	<p>Council</p>
<p>Embed attitudinal change, including challenging sectarianism, racism, homophobia and other prejudices, in all programming.</p>	<p>Consider all planned initiatives from the perspective of what the range of team members (good relations, PCSP, community development etc) can contribute.</p>	<p>All service areas</p>	<p>Communities are stronger and more confident</p> <p>Communities are more shared and inclusive</p>		<p>Council TEO</p>



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## **Appendix 3**

# **Community Investment Programme**

## **(Grants Policy)**

## Contents

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## 1. Introduction

The streamlined Community Investment Programme consolidates 17 distinct grants schemes into 5 categories:

- a) **Community Development Grants** (up to £5000) - intended to support organisations to meet an evidenced need in their community by providing a programme of activity over a period of one to three years. The planned activity should link to the priorities of the area in which it is being delivered, and monitoring and evaluation will be required.
- b) **Strategic Events Grants** (up to £8,000) - intended to support to local community groups delivering a large community festival or event (over 2000 people) which receives regional visitor attendance and coverage. Events should utilize the potential of the culture, arts and leisure sectors to promote equality, and to tackle poverty and social inclusion.
- c) **Irish Language Activity Grants** (up to £6,000) – intended to support local community groups to deliver a range of initiatives to promote the Irish language in the Mid Ulster area over a period of one to three years. The planned activity should align with the Council’s Irish Language Strategy.
- d) **Community Infrastructure Capital Investment** (up to £50,000 for capital projects and up to £10,000 for feasibility studies for Pitches Strategy Grants only). Projects must clearly demonstrate how the facility and the planned activity will contribute to achieving the identified outcomes for the area and will address a clear gap in existing provision.
- e) **Bursaries** (up to £500) - for individuals and team sports representatives and regional and minority languages courses.

## 2. Grant Cycle and Funding Availability

Community Development, Strategic Events and Irish Language Activity Grants will now operate on a 3-year cycle subject to monitoring of outcomes and annual budget confirmation. Applicants should note that submitting a one-year funding application for these grants does not guarantee access to further funding within the same 3-year cycle. Additional funding calls during this period are not assured and will be strictly subject to the availability of funds. As such, organisations are encouraged to consider their funding needs for the full three-year cycle when applying.

Community Infrastructure Capital Investment Grants and Bursaries will continue to open annually.

These changes to the approach to financial support for the sector are in response to feedback from the sector which called for:

- Recognition of the contribution community groups make to delivering outcomes
- Multi-annual awards
- Simplification of the application process
- A proportionate approach to auditing and monitoring
- Advance payments to facilitate cash flow
- A streamlined application process for repeat applicants.

The changed approach to funding also widens the scope for funded organisations to design and deliver projects and programmes which are a clear response to community need and which contribute to the outcomes of the Community Support and Involvement Strategy:

- Communities are stronger and more confident
- Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty
- Communities are safer
- Communities are more shared and inclusive

### **3. Standard Eligibility Conditions**

To be eligible to apply for any of the grants (except individual bursaries) you must be a constituted community or voluntary organisation, or social enterprise (profit making not profit taking) based in Mid Ulster with no element of personal or private gain.

The governing document must be in the name of the organisation applying for funding and the funded activity must align with the objectives of the organisation.

Evidence of the following governing documents will be required with applications:

- Signed Constitution / Governing Document\*\*
- Most up to date Financial Statement or accounts\*\*
- List of Board / Committee members\*\*
- AGM Minutes\*\*
- Relevant Insurance Cover
- Safeguarding Policies (where applicable)

\*\*registered charities are not required to submit these documents if returns to The Charity Commission NI are up to date

### **4. Ineligible Items and Activities**

**The following activities are not eligible for funding:**

- Regional groups/organisations are not eligible to apply for grant aid
- Statutory organisations or organisations that are fully funded for statutory activity from a statutory agency are not eligible for grant aid.
- Fundraising activity
- The delivery of religious activity
- Activity which excludes or discriminates against people from a different religious, political or cultural background, of a different ethnicity or sexual orientation
- Political parties or political party activity
- Activity which falls in the scope of another statutory organisation
- Equipment costs which do not relate directly to delivery of the funded activity
- Bad debt, loans, bank charges, deficits or arrears in payments of any organisation, reclaimable VAT
- Flags, bunting or alcohol
- Gifts and Donations
- Retrospective or duplicate funding applications
- Hospitality which exceeds 20% of the grant award
- Cash payments over £50. Anything under must have petty cash receipt

## 5. Grant Information

<b>Community Development Grant (3-year cycle)</b>	
<b>Purpose of the investment</b>	<p>To support communities to provide local solutions to local issues through delivery of sustained programmes which run for up to 3 years (subject to monitoring of outcomes and annual budget confirmation).</p> <p>To contribute towards one or more of the following outcomes of the Community Support and Involvement Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are stronger and more confident</li> <li>• Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</li> <li>• Communities are safer</li> <li>• Communities are more shared and inclusive</li> </ul> <p>The Community Support and Investment Strategy document is available at <a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.com/">www.midulstercouncil.com/</a></p>
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to £5000 per year for up to 3 years
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Costs which relate <b>directly</b> to the delivery of the project, including but not limited to, venue hire, utility costs, facilitator/trainer costs, materials. All proposed expenditure must demonstrate value for money.
<b>Payments</b>	<p>For awards of £3500 or less per annum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed claim form for the previous year and the required monitoring/evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>For awards exceeding £3500 per annum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• The remaining balance will be paid on completion of the annual programme and receipt of the online monitoring and claim form with corresponding invoices and bank statement for full project expenditure.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed monitoring and claim form for the previous year.</li> </ul>
<b>Verification of Expenditure</b>	Council will undertake on-site verification on 10% of projects
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<p>An online monitoring and evaluation form should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the programme of activity delivered including what happened and when.</li> <li>• How many participants / attendees / volunteers (how much did we do)</li> <li>• What feedback was received about the project (how well did we do it)</li> <li>• How the project contributed to one or more of the identified outcomes (how are people better off)</li> <li>• What was learned from the project</li> </ul>

<b>Strategic Event Grant (3-year cycle)</b>	
<b>Purpose of the investment</b>	<p>To support the delivery of large (over 2000 people) community festivals which utilize culture, the arts and leisure to promote equality, tackle deprivation and social exclusion.</p> <p>To contribute towards one or more of the following outcomes of the Community Support and Involvement Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are stronger and more confident</li> <li>• Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</li> <li>• Communities are safer</li> <li>• Communities are more shared and inclusive</li> </ul> <p>The Community Support and Investment Strategy document is available at <a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.com/">www.midulstercouncil.com/</a></p>
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to £8,000 per year for up to 3 years
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Costs which relate <b>directly</b> to the delivery of the proposed event, including but not limited to, venue hire, facilitator/trainer costs, materials. A proportionate contribution towards utility costs. All proposed expenditure must demonstrate value for money
<b>Payments</b>	<p>For awards of £3500 or less per annum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed claim form for the previous year and the required monitoring/evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>For awards exceeding £3500 per annum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• The remaining balance will be paid on completion of the annual programme and receipt of the online monitoring and claim form with corresponding invoices and bank statement for full project expenditure.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed monitoring and claim form for the previous year.</li> </ul>
<b>Verification of Expenditure</b>	Each event will be subject to on-site verification at least once in a every three-year period
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<p>An annual online monitoring and claim form should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. The report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the programme of activity delivered including what happened and when</li> <li>• How many participants / attendees / volunteers (how much did we do)</li> <li>• What feedback was received about the project (how well did we do it)</li> <li>• How the project contributed to one or more of the identified outcomes (how are people better off)</li> <li>• What was learned from the project</li> </ul>

<b>Irish Language Grant (3-year cycle)</b>	
<b>Purpose of the investment</b>	To support the delivery of local initiatives which promote the Irish language in the Mid Ulster area. To contribute to one or more of the outcome of the Irish Language Strategy – available at <a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.org/">www.midulstercouncil.org/</a>
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to £6,000 per year for up to 3 years
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Costs which relate <b>directly</b> to the delivery of the project, including but not limited to, venue hire, utility costs facilitator/trainer costs, materials  All proposed expenditure must demonstrate value for money
<b>Payments</b>	For awards of £3500 or less per annum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed claim form for the previous year and the required monitoring/evaluation.</li> </ul> For awards exceeding £3500 per annum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the grant will be paid out on award each year subject to receipt of the form of acceptance and provision of any necessary documentation.</li> <li>• The remaining balance will be paid on completion of the annual programme and receipt of the online monitoring and claim form with corresponding invoices and bank statement for full project expenditure.</li> <li>• Payments for years 2 and 3 will be subject to budget confirmation and to receipt of a completed monitoring and claim form for the previous year.</li> </ul>
<b>Verification of Expenditure</b>	Council will undertake on-site verification on 10% of projects
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	An annual online monitoring and claim form should be submitted by 30 <sup>th</sup> April each year. The report should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the programme of activity delivered including what happened and when</li> <li>• How many participants / attendees / volunteers (how much did we do)</li> <li>• What feedback was received about the project (how well did we do it)</li> <li>• How the project contributed to the objectives of the Irish Language strategy.</li> <li>• How the project contributed to one or more of the identified outcomes (how are people better off)</li> </ul> What was learned from the project

<b>Community Infrastructure Grant (annual)</b>	
<b>Purpose of the investment</b>	<p>To support the delivery of strategic outcomes through capital investment in facilities for which there is a clear identified need and/or a significant gap in local provision.</p> <p>To contribute towards one or more of the following outcomes of the Community Support and Involvement Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are stronger and more confident</li> <li>• Communities experience less disadvantage or poverty</li> <li>• Communities are safer</li> <li>• Communities are more shared and inclusive</li> </ul> <p>The Community Support and Investment Strategy document is available at <a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.com/">www.midulstercouncil.com/</a></p>
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to £50,000 subject to match funding of at least £100,000
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of ownership and/or lease of 10+ years</li> <li>• Readiness of project to proceed within 6 months</li> <li>• Evidence of match funding</li> <li>• Project timeline (maximum 18 months)</li> <li>• Project management arrangements for the project</li> <li>• A planned programme of activity for the facility when complete and how it will contribute to the strategy outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Due Diligence Requirements</b>	<p>Evidence of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant insurance cover</li> <li>• Ownership of land</li> <li>• Relevant statutory provisions</li> <li>• Funding of programme activity once the build is complete</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	<p>Professional costs related directly to the capital project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architect costs</li> <li>• Quantity surveyor costs</li> <li>• Construction costs</li> </ul>
<b>Payments</b>	Contract payments will be made in up to three instalments at agreed milestones in the programme delivery.
<b>Verification of Expenditure</b>	100% onsite verification of expenditure
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Submission of online monitoring and claim form listing expenditure relating to grant along with associated procurement, certificate of works, invoices and corresponding bank statements.

<b>Pitches and Recreational Spaces Grants, Feasibility and Infrastructure (annual)</b>		
<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Pitches and Recreational Spaces Strategy <u>Feasibility</u> Development Grant (groups eligible for one award every 3 years)</b>	<b>Pitches and Recreational Spaces Strategy <u>Infrastructure</u> Development Grant (groups eligible for one award every 3 years)</b>
<b>Purpose of the Investment</b>	<p>To provide financial support to sports clubs/organisations for technical assistance costs that will assist in the delivery of their development plans. Specifically in the preparation of future capital funding applications that require Economic Appraisals/Business Cases, Feasibility Studies/Professional Design/Planning Consultant fees.</p> <p>To contribute toward one or more of the outcomes of the Pitches and Recreational Strategy available at <a href="#">Mid Ulster District Council Pitches Strategy Summary</a></p>	<p>To provide financial support to sports clubs/organisations for capital investment to improve facilities that will enhance community outcomes for the 5 identified sporting codes within the Councils Pitches and Recreational Spaces Strategy that was approved by Council in February 2022 (Association Football, Gaelic Games, Hockey, Lawn Bowls and Rugby).</p> <p>To contribute toward one or more of the outcomes of the Pitches and Recreational Strategy available at <a href="#">Mid Ulster District Council Pitches Strategy Summary</a></p>
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to 50% of eligible costs with a maximum grant award of £10,000	Maximum grant award of £50,000, with a match funding requirement of £100,000, to deliver schemes of a minimum £150,000 value.
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of ownership and/or lease of 10+ years</li> <li>• Readiness of project to proceed within 6 months</li> <li>• Evidence of other match funding</li> <li>• Project timeline (maximum 18 months)</li> <li>• Project management arrangements for the project</li> <li>• A planned programme of activity for the facility when complete and how it will contribute to the strategy outcomes</li> </ul>	<p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of ownership and/or lease of 10+ years</li> <li>• Readiness of project to proceed within 6 months</li> <li>• Evidence of other match funding</li> <li>• Project timeline (maximum 18 months)</li> <li>• Project management arrangements for the project</li> <li>• A planned programme of activity for the facility when complete and how it will contribute to the strategy outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Due Diligence Requirements</b>	<p>Evidence of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant insurance cover</li> <li>• Ownership of land</li> </ul>	<p>Evidence of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant insurance cover</li> <li>• Ownership of land</li> <li>• Relevant statutory provisions</li> <li>• Funding of programme activity once the build is complete</li> </ul>
<b>Who can apply?</b>	Any sports club/organisation that meets the standard eligibility conditions at Page 4 and is affiliated to a Sport Northern Ireland recognised governing body of sport; and their substantive area is one of the following 5 sporting codes as identified in the Pitches and Recreational Strategy:	Any sports club/organisation that meets the standard eligibility conditions at page 4 and is affiliated to a Sport Northern Ireland recognised governing body of sport; and their substantive area is one of the following 5 sporting codes as identified in the Pitches and Recreational Strategy:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association Football</li> <li>• Gaelic Games</li> <li>• Hockey</li> <li>• Lawn Bowls</li> <li>• Rugby</li> </ul> <p>Groups eligible for one award every 3 years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association Football</li> <li>• Gaelic Games</li> <li>• Hockey</li> <li>• Lawn Bowls</li> <li>• Rugby</li> </ul> <p>Capital projects must have a minimum value of £150,000. Groups eligible for one award every 3 years. Groups can not apply for this grant and the Capital Discretionary within a 3-year period.</p>
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Technical assistance costs, e.g. Business Cases, Feasibility Studies, Professional Design and Consultancy Fees.	Construction costs including labour, materials, equipment, overhead etc.
<b>Payments</b>	Payments will be made in three instalments at agreed milestones in the programme delivery.	
<b>Verification Expenditure</b>	<b>of</b>	100% onsite verification of expenditure
<b>Monitoring Evaluation</b>	<b>and</b>	Submission of online monitoring and claim form listing expenditure relating to grant along with associated procurement, certificate of works and corresponding bank statements. 100% onsite verification checks on outcomes and expenditure

	<b>Bursaries – Regional and Minority Language Courses (annual)</b>	<b>Bursaries – Sports Representative</b>
<b>Purpose of the investment</b>	To promote regional and minority languages by providing financial support to assist in the learning of Irish and Ulster Scots through study visits to recognised Summer Colleges.	To encourage increased participation in sport by providing financial support to local sports clubs or individuals who have qualified to represent the district/county at a provincial, national or international level.
<b>Award Level</b>	Up to £500	Up to £500 for teams Up to £250 for individuals
<b>Application requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course details including cost</li> <li>• How the course will develop your language skills</li> <li>• How you will use your skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of qualification</li> <li>• Location of event (must be outside NI)</li> <li>• Level of representation</li> <li>• Breakdown of costs</li> </ul>
<b>Due Diligence Requirements</b>	Evidence of identity Evidence of home address	Evidence of identity of individual Evidence of home address of individual / location of club Confirmation from governing body
<b>Who can apply</b>	Residents of Mid Ulster District Council area who are registered to attend a language course in Irish or Ulster Scots.	Any resident/sports club team based in Mid Ulster and recognised by Sport NI which has qualified to represent the district/county in a competition recognised by the governing body of their sport at a provincial, national, or international level
<b>Eligible costs</b>	Costs associated with attendance at the course	Costs associated with attendance at the event
<b>Scoring of applications</b>	Applications will be assessed on a pass/fail basis based on eligibility and allocation budget distributed among recipients	Applications are assessed on a pass/ fail basis based on eligibility and financial contribution accordingly
<b>Payments</b>	Payment will be in a single instalment upon receipt of relevant documentation	Payment will be in a single instalment upon receipt of relevant documentation
<b>Verification of expenditure</b>	Expenditure of bursaries is not subject to verification	Expenditure of bursaries is not subject to verification
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Attendance is confirmed with the Colleges	Successful applicants are requested to submit a short online monitoring and claim form.

## 6. Scoring Criteria

See appendix A Scoring Guide. All grant applications will be scored against the following criteria:

- 1. Project Management.** Demonstrates robust project planning with clear, realistic timelines, well-defined deliverables, appropriate methodology, and comprehensive risk management. Budget should be detailed and cost-effective.
- 2. Project Quality.** Assesses the scope, scale, and potential reach of the project, considering how much it will do, how many people it will involve and the quality of its engagement. It involves assessing factors like project longevity and impact, audience reach, and the extent of community benefit.
- 3. Evidence of Need.** Assesses the evidence of community need for the project including data sources for example demographics, surveys, existing research, community consultations, gap analysis.
- 4. Community Involvement.** Demonstrates meaningful community involvement throughout the project design. Clear evidence of community ownership and co-design. Diverse community voices included.
- 5. Outcomes.** Clear alignment with one or more of the target outcomes of the associated strategy. Logical connection between activities and expected results. Measurable indicators with realistic targets.
- 6. Rural/High Deprivation Area.** Assesses whether the project benefits rural communities or areas of high socioeconomic deprivation.
- 7. Partnership Working.** Evaluates collaboration with other organisations and multi-sector approaches. Clear partnership agreements, defined roles, and evidence of collaborative planning and delivery

Applications which do not meet a threshold of 40% will be deemed successful. Unsuccessful applications will be directed to Council strategic partners or Council development officers for further developmental support.

## **7. Appeals Process**

An appeals process will be available for unsuccessful applicants. There will be no right of appeal in relation to the level of funding granted however appeals can be made based on the view that:

The stated process has not been followed.

- The application has been rejected on the basis that eligibility criteria has been applied incorrectly.
- The scoring against the assessment criteria for the programme has not been undertaken correctly.

An appeal letter must be submitted to the grant administration team in writing within 10 working days of the date of receipt of an unsuccessful letter. This must make clear the basis on which the appeal is being made. This will be considered by the Strategic Director of Communities and Place who will review the process and application and present a recommendation. In all cases, the reasons for decisions will be given in writing along with any proposed recommendations.

**Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on  
Wednesday 25 June 2025 in Council Chamber, Dungannon & via MS Teams at 3.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Anne Forde (Chair), Councillor Eva Cahoon, Councillor Eimear Carney, Councillor Donna Mullin, Councillor Christine McFlynn, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Sean McPeake

Sue Chada, Robert Colvin, Niamh Doris, Ian Irwin, Martin Logan, Ciaran McElhone

Chief Inspector Will Brown (PSNI), Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Chief Inspector Ryan McConville (PSNI), Leo Quinn (EA), Karen Sinnamon (PBNI), Superintendent Peter Stevenson (PSNI), Denise Smith (MUDC)

**Apologies:** Miriam Bacon (SH&SCT), Grace Meerbeek (Vice Chair), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP), Councillor Deirdre Varsani

**In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP), Annette McGahan (PCSP), Martina McCullagh (PCSP)

The Meeting commenced at 3.32pm.

**PCSP360/25 WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor Forde welcomed all the meeting and thanked the outgoing PCSP Chair, Councillor McFlynn for her hard work and commitment during the past year.

**PCSP361/25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

**PCSP362/25 APOLOGIES**

The PCSP Manager advised Members that Pamela Stewart has resigned from Mid Ulster PCSP as she has secured full time employment and is unable to continue as an Independent Member. The NIPB are aware of her resignation, and they will appoint a replacement in due course.

Robert Colvin congratulated Councillor Forde on her appointment as PCSP Chair and wished her well for the year ahead. He provided an apology on behalf of Grace Meerbeek.

**PCSP363/25 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2025**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 were approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Councillor McFlynn  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Cahoon

**PCSP357/25 PROJECTS UPDATE – Fire Safety**

As Grace Meerbeek was unable to attend today's meeting and sent her apology, the PCSP Manager on her behalf wished to re-emphasise the importance of having an escape plan in place in the event of a fire especially within the East Timorese community and indeed all new nationals across the district. She wished to ask for further fire safety campaigns to keep this at the forefront of peoples' minds. The PCSP Manager advised that the Fire Service attended the E4C programme to highlight fire safety and the need for having an escape plan in place, this group of participants included members from the East Timorese community. There will be continued collaboration with the Fire Service and further fire safety campaigns are planned during the year.

Robert Colvin also raised this issue on behalf of Grace Meerbeek, referring to the East Timorese community specifically, stating that there are large numbers living in individual properties, with some people sleeping in attic spaces with one-bar heaters as their source of heat. The East Timorese community are not used to the climate here and, therefore, may not fully understand the danger they are putting themselves and their family members in by this practice. It is extremely important that fire safety in general and the need for an escape plan continues to be highlighted. Robert Colvin on behalf of Grace Meerbeek requested the amendment of TAIS, which was spelled incorrect in the minutes.

**FUNDING FOR A SID FOR ST MACARTAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLOGHER**

The PCSP Manager referred to an e-mail received from Councillor McConnell in relation to funding he has secured for a SID to be located at St Macartan's Primary School in Clogher. He advised that DfI have agreed to erect the necessary pole where the SID will be located. The PCSP Manager sought approval for PCSP to proceed with the purchase of the SID with the secured donation and that it will be maintained by PCSP.

Members were happy to approve the purchase of the SID with the secured donation and that it will be maintained by PCSP.

**Proposed by:** Councillor McFlynn

**Seconded by:** Councillor Mullin

**POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR PCSPs FROM THE DoJ FOR SIDs**

Councillor Cahoon referred to correspondence on social media in relation to funding available from the DoJ to PCSPs for the procurement of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and asked if Mid Ulster PCSP could write to the DoJ for clarification for future funding for additional SIDs and funding for the maintenance of our current SIDs.

The PCSP Manager advised that this has been discussed with the DoJ and the NIPB, they allow PCSPs to maintain the SIDs they currently have, but have put a hold on procuring any additional SIDs. There is an upcoming meeting with Sam Donaldson, Chief Superintendent for Roads Traffic Policing during which the possibility of funding for the procurement of SIDs will be discussed.

Members agreed that the PCSP Manager contact the DoJ seeking clarification around the availability of funding to PCSPs for the purchase of and/or maintenance of SIDs.

Councillor McFlynn referred to the need for a SID due to speeding vehicles close to Moneymore, to be positioned after traffic leaves the dual carriageway. As there is no pole at this location at present to erect a SID, Councillor McFlynn asked if this could be followed up with Dfl.

In response, the PCSP Manager advised that he would contact Dfl and seek clarification regarding the provision of a pole at the exact location outside Moneymore.

**PCSP365/25 DSM FOUNDATION – FUNDING FOR PERFORMANCE OF PLAY IN SCHOOLS ‘I LOVE YOU MUM, I PROMISE I WON’T DIE’**

The PCSP Manager referred to a letter received from DSM Foundation requesting funding towards Theatre in Education performances of ‘I Love you, Mum – I Promise I Won’t Die’ in schools across the district. Funding was provided last year; the performance was held in Cookstown High School. The play serves as a powerful way of engaging young people in the importance of drug education, strategies and decision-making skills. This verbatim play tells the story of Dan, who tragically died when he was sixteen having taken ecstasy, entirely in the words of his family and friends.

Members were supportive of this initiative, a discussion took place around the logistics of where the performance would take place to ensure as many students as possible get the opportunity to see it, while ensuring feasibility.

Members agreed that the PCSP Manager would contact DSM Foundation and negotiate the best outcome around the number of performances, the logistics and costings. The result of the discussions with DSM will be shared with the Chair, Councillor Forde and a decision will be taken regarding how to proceed.

**PCSP366/25 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Standing Orders**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the Standing Orders document, stating that PCSP has held hybrid meetings since Covid, it was noted that this was not reflected within the Standing Orders. Approval was sought to the draft amendment which has been added on page 3, section 4 to take hybrid meetings into account, details as follows;

*Members attending private meetings remotely must be in a private, quiet setting where conversations remain confidential, and meeting content is not visible to others. When necessary, headphones should be used to enhance privacy. To foster engagement and uphold the integrity of the meeting, all participants must keep their video cameras on, ensuring that members can see and interact with each other while maintaining a secure and private environment.*

The above amendment to the Standing Orders was agreed.

**Proposed by:** Councillor John McNamee

**Seconded by:** Councillor Christine McFlynn

### **Terms of Reference – ASB & NTE Combined and VVC Sub Groups**

The PCSP Manager reminded Members that the Terms of Reference are reviewed annually. The ASB Sub Group and the NTE Sub Group were discussed at the PCSP meeting on the 5 March 2025, where Members agreed it was more practical to merge these two groups allowing both areas to be discussed at the same meeting. Members were happy with the VVC Sub Group terms of reference document.

### **Terms of Reference – Shared Space Group**

The PCSP Manager referred to the terms of reference document for the Shared Space Group and asked Members if any amendments were required, the following amendments were requested.

Councillor McNamee stated that the Shared Space Group was set up so that all groups involved would show respect to each other, therefore, this should be included under how success will be measured.

Councillor Cahoon stated that the current content of the terms of reference can be tracked and recorded by statistics, it is important to keep this in mind in relation to any amendments to the document.

Councillor Cahoon asked if issues around 'flags & posters' fall within the remit of the PCSP, in response, the PCSP Manager stated that the Action Plan is to engage with local communities, and address issues which are of concern, where people may feel unsafe together with anti-social behaviour and vulnerable victims of crime.

Councillor McPeake stated that our Shared Space should be welcoming, homely and neutral ensuring that all residents, businesses and visitors feel comfortable and safe, this should be the aim we all be aspire to achieve for our shared space.

Ian Irwin agreed that showing respect is very important and asked if an amendment could be included stating that all flags should be respected during the designated times that they are up and not taken down by those who did not put them up.

The PCSP Manager will re-write the terms of reference document for Shared Space in relation to the section '*Main Purpose*' and '*Success will be measured by the following*' taking Members' comments into consideration. The document will then be circulated to Members for review. All 3 terms of reference documents, ASB & NTE combined, VVC and Shared Space will be brought back to the next PCSP meeting for approval.

## **PCSP367/25 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**

The PCSP Manager stated as PCSP is a statutory body, the Partnership is obligated to produce an Annual Report. The Annual Report for 2024/2025 has been completed using the new template provided by the NIPB and the DoJ. The introduction is currently being finalised with the outgoing PCSP Chair, and we await the final accounts from the Joint Committee, these will be signed off by MUDC Chief Executive and added to the Annual Report in due course. Following a page-by-page review of the document, Members made the following comments.

Robert Colvin stated that it was an excellent report and commended all involved in the wide range of projects and initiatives undertaken by PCSP

Councillor McFlynn asked for the inclusion of information relating to 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' (EVAWG) strategy.

The PCSP Manager will liaise with Denise Smith (MUDC) who is the lead for 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) strategy within Council and will add information on this initiative into the Annual Report.

The Annual Report 2024/2025 will be shared with Members once the Annual Accounts are included.

The Annual Report 2024/2025 was approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Robert Colvin

**Seconded by:** Councillor McFlynn

### **PCSP368/25 SHARED SPACE SURVEY**

The PCSP Manager advised Members that the approved Shared Space Survey was circulated by Economic Development to town centre businesses in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt as agreed. The PCSP Manager provided details of the key findings from surveys submitted.

In relation to the results to *Question 5 'Impact of Flags and Posters*, Councillor McNamee stated that the results relating to Cookstown which were 37% of respondents noticed them, 63% did not notice, this response may be because in previous years there were flags and posters displayed from early March/April right through Cookstown main street, which did not happen this year.

Ian Irwin commented in relation to the results to Question 5, stating apart from Magherafelt who recorded a greater % who noticed flags compared to those who did not, while Cookstown and Dungannon recorded a greater % who did not notice flags, given these results, is it necessary to spend time and resources on this as it would appear to be less of an issue in some areas.

The PCSP Manager advised Members that alongside this survey, Economic Development arranged a meeting with Dungannon Traders Forum which he and Inspector McNeill attended. The traders reiterated a lot of the same issues which are detailed in the results of the survey.

Councillor McPeake stated that the survey is an excellent piece of work focused on the businesses in the district and provides a snapshot of their views around community safety and neutrality in towns and suggested that the survey results should be utilised within Council's Community Planning section.

Councillor McGuigan concurred with Councillor McPeake's comments. He stated that towns across the district must be made more attractive and welcoming to help entice people to visit and shop and referred to the Town Centre Forums and the role they can play in achieving this. Results from the survey would also show that Magherafelt appear to be leading the way.

Councillor McFlynn commended the business survey on town centres and asked

for further information on the nature of the anti-social behaviour and street gangs and disorder referred to in the report. The location of CCTV cameras in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt were discussed and given that the only CCTV cameras in Dungannon are located on the Market Square, Councillor McFlynn proposed that a paper is brought to Council requesting additional CCTV cameras to cover NTE areas in Dungannon town.

Members agreed that the PCSP Manager will prepare a paper to present to Council in relation to installing additional CCTV cameras to cover NTE areas in Dungannon town.

**Proposed by: Councillor McFlynn**  
**Seconded by: Ian Irwin**

Members agreed that the PCSP Manager will arrange a meeting with Dungannon Traders Forum to discuss their areas of concern including anti-social behaviour and community safety issues. The PCSP Manager will prepare a report based on responses received in the survey and include statistics and trends from police in relation to Dungannon only, which can be discussed at this meeting.

Niamh Doris stated that she is concerned to see the number of mentions in relation to brothels especially given the ongoing high profile police strategy of 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' and asked if there is a pro-active police approach to deal with identified brothels.

In response, Superintendent Stevenson stated that they have received no reports in relation to brothels operating in Dungannon town centre, assurance was provided that if a report of activity of this nature is received it is robustly dealt with.

#### **PCSP369/25 PROJECTS UPDATE**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the quarter 4 projects update detailing projects and initiatives some of which are covered in the Annual Report 2024/2025. Projects are currently being pursued for this year including working with EA Youth on the 'Engage4Change' programme, looking at how to roll out the Positive Relationships programme and the continuation of Hi-Risk Domestic Violence. The SIDs should now all be in their new locations, if Members are aware of any area that was due a SID and it is not in situ, please make one of the PCSP officers aware and it will be checked. The PHA, DoJ and Police are considering installing bigger RAPID Bins, there is an upcoming meeting where clarification will be sought regarding who covers the procurement and installation costs of the bigger bins. When this information is to hand it will be shared with Members. The RAPID Bin located at Springisland in Coalisland is not being utilised to its full potential, other site options are currently being looked at that would encourage greater use.

#### **PCSP370/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Union Road Car Park / Garden Street, Magherafelt – Anti-Social Driving**

Ciaran McElhone raised the issue of ongoing anti-social driving in Union Road Car Park and Garden Street in Magherafelt which has been raised by

residents in this area. The residents are hoping for a multi-agency approach as it is not specifically a policing issue. Ciaran McElhone proposed that this issue is included on the agenda for the next ASB Sub Group meeting for discussion.

Superintendent Stevenson agreed that a multi-agency approach is the correct way forward and advised that the Neighbourhood Team in Magherafelt have already a 'problem solving' folder open, they are very aware of the ongoing issues in this area. There has been an increase in police presence and there have been efforts to have the car park locked at certain times which has been unsuccessful up until now.

The PCSP Manager advised that he is aware of this issue and has previously engaged with a number of the residents in the area, it will be raised at the next ASB Sub Group meeting. Previously, section 52 was used in Union Road car park which meant if an individual was caught anti-social driving on 2 occasions, their car was seized and they had to pay a fine to get it back, this was a deterrent, but it would appear that young drivers are more affluent and prepared to pay to get their car back. This will be discussed at the next ASB Sub Group meeting and options will be explored.

#### **Ashgrove Park, Magherafelt – Anti-Social Behaviour**

Councillor McFlynn advised that residents in Ashgrove Park, Magherafelt have been in touch regarding drugs related anti-social behaviour in their area. The PSNI and NIHE are both aware of the issues. Councillor McFlynn enquired on behalf of Sharon Crooks (NIHE) if an Anti-Social Behaviour Forum has been set up in Mid Ulster.

Denise Smith (MUDC) advised that Anti-Social Behaviour Forums are established in Council Districts, the information sharing protocols are already in place and the establishment of this forum in Mid Ulster will be discussed with Sharon Crooks (NIHE) next month.

The outgoing Chair, Councillor McFlynn took the opportunity to thank the PCSP staff and statutory agencies for their work during her year as PCSP Chair. She advised that she enjoyed the year and had met a lot of great people of all ages and expressed thanks to all the community groups who do so much work in their local communities. Councillor McFlynn wished Councillor Forde all the best for her year ahead as PCSP Chair.

#### **PCSP371/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 September 2025 in Council Chamber, Cookstown and via MS Teams at 3.30pm.

The Chair, Councillor Forde thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.40pm.