

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coalisland Town Centre Forum – Mins 09.10.24 2. Cookstown Town Centre Forum – Mins 25.09.24 3. Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report 4. A5/N2 Cross Border Committee Minutes 16.12.2024 5. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 May 2025
Reporting Officer	Economic Development Service Manager Strategic Programmes Service Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – Meeting Mins 09.10.24 Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in 2018 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.2	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – Meeting Mins 25.09.24 Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.3	<p>Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report Council secured funding from The Department for Communities in 2019 to deliver a major capital public realm scheme to the value of £3,722,298 in Coalisland. In accordance with the funding terms and conditions Council were required to complete a post project independent evaluation in partnership with the Department for Communities.</p>

2.4	<p>A5/N2 Cross Border Committee Minutes 16.12.2024</p> <p>The A5/N2 Cross Border Committee was established in 2019 to lobby for the delivery of infrastructure improvements and upgrades to the A5/N2 route from Dublin to the Northwest and serving the border region and Northern Ireland, with a particular emphasis on projects on the A5/N2 corridor in the border region and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>There are 5 Councils represented - Derry City and Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Monaghan County Council – each Council nominates up to 4 Members to the Committee</p>
2.5	<p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</p> <p>The Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities (DfC). The Mid Ulster LMP was established in 2021 and aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The LMP provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council’s priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future.</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – Meeting Minutes 09.10.24</p> <p>To present the minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 9 October 2024 see Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – Minutes 25.09.24</p> <p>To present the minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum meeting held on 25 September 2024 see Appendix 2.</p>
3.3	<p>Coalisland Public Realm Project–Evaluation Report</p> <p>Following the completion of Coalisland Public Realm and a settling in period, the Department for Communities requested Council to appoint an independent company to undertake surveys with Coalisland town centre businesses and users. The survey replicated a benchmark measurement that was undertaken in September 2018 prior to the commencement of public realm works.</p> <p>This public realm project involved the demolition of a derelict building in the town centre, creation of a new civic space, installation of new street lighting, street furniture, high class sandstone paving and granite kerbs along with the creation of a new car park on Barrack Street and introduction of a one-way system on Main Street, along with other interventions.</p> <p>The survey work was undertaken on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 4th and 15th March 2025. In total 50 face to face interviews were completed with businesses in this area and 103 face to face interviews with members of the general public within the town centre on Fridays and Saturdays.</p>

	<p>Appendix 3 attached is a full copy of the report which illustrates the % responses from the benchmark study conducted in 2018.</p> <p>A presentation was delivered to the Coalisland Town Centre Forum on the 9th April 2025, positive feedback was received from Forum members present.</p> <p>3.4 A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee Minutes 16.12.2024 The above Committee meets quarterly, and the role of Chair is rotated annually, with the Chair's Council providing the secretariat. Councillor Gael Gildernew from Mid Ulster District Council undertook the role of Chair for 2024, with Mid Ulster District Council providing the secretariat. On 16th December 2024, the Committee agreed that the lead Council for 2025 would be Donegal County Council, with the position of Chair to be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee in 2025. Members expressed thanks to Councillor Gael Gildernew for her leadership as Chair and Mid Ulster Council officers for the work undertaken throughout Mid Ulster's tenure in 2024 to progress the projects.</p> <p>Minutes of the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee meeting on 16 December 2024 are attached see (Appendix 4).</p> <p>3.5 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Council received an Interim Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DfC) to the value of £42,517.98 for the period of 1 April to 30 June 2025 (see Appendix 5). The funding amount has been calculated using the Mid Ulster LMP 2025-26 Action Plan and represents 25% of the total for salaries, running costs and Strategic Priority 1 activities. This is to ensure continued administration of the 2024-25 Action Plan as the delivery period runs until 30 June 2025. There is no funding allocation towards operational costs and therefore activity must relate to continued delivery of the 2024-25 Action Plan only. In January 2025, Council approved that delegated authority be awarded to the Chief Executive to sign and return the Letter of Offer from DfC.</p> <p>Following Stormont approval of Departmental budgets, the Minister for Communities is working to determine the allocation of his budget which will provide clarity on 2025-26 funding for LMPs.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) An Interim Letter of Offer has been received by Council from DfC to the value of for £42,517.98 to cover costs associated with the LMP for the period of 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.</p>

	<p>Human:</p> <p>Town Centre Forums Officers manage the delivery of Town Centre forums in line with current governance arrangements.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Officer time.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Town Centre Forums Officers manage the delivery of Town Centre forums in line with current governance arrangements.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) The risk level is mitigated as LMP activity is 100% externally funded.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Equality and Good Relations Screening has been completed for the period 2024-27.</p> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report A screening assessment was completed.</p>
4.3	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Rural Needs Screening has been completed for the period 2024-27.</p> <p>Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report Rural Needs assessment was completed.</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – Meeting Minutes 09.10.24 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum 09.10.24</p>

5.2	<p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – Minutes 25.09.24 Note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum 25.09.24</p>
5.3	<p>Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report Note copy of independent evaluation report for Coalisland Public Realm Project</p>
5.4	<p>A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee Minutes 16.12.2024 Note A5/N2 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 16.12.2024</p>
5.5	<p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 5.5.1 Note Content of the report.</p> <p>5.5.2 Note Interim Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities of £42,517.98 to support the Mid Ulster LMP for the period of 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting 09.10.24</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting 25.09.24</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Coalisland Public Realm Project – Evaluation Report</p> <p>Appendix 4 - A5/N2 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 16.12.2024</p> <p>Appendix 5 - DfC interim Letter of Offer for LMP funding</p>