



March 3rd, 2022

Chairperson: Alderman A Grehan

Vice Chairperson: Councillor H Legge

Aldermen: D Drysdale and A G Ewart MBE,

Councillors: S Carson, J Gallen, A Givan, M Guy, D Honeyford, G McCleave, C McCready, R McLernnon, U Mackin, Jenny Palmer and A Swan

Ex Officio: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin
Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Development Committee will take place on **Thursday, 3rd March 2022 at 6:00 pm** in the Council Chamber and remote locations for the transaction of business on the undernoted Agenda.

For those Members attending this meeting remotely, the Zoom link and passcodes are contained within the Outlook invitation that has been issued.

Tea/coffee and sandwiches will be available in Lighters Restaurant from 5.30 pm for those Members of the Committee who have confirmed in advance.

DAVID BURNS
Chief Executive
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Agenda

Covid-19 Safety Measures

When attending meetings in the Council Chamber you are asked to observe the following measures to ensure the safety of your Council colleagues and members of staff:

Prior to meetings if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 please do not attend. Book a test and self-isolate.

Whilst not compulsory, you are encouraged to satisfy one of the three following conditions before attending meetings:-

- been fully vaccinated for more than two weeks; or
 - have had a negative PCR test or rapid lateral flow test taken within 48 hours of meetings (a lateral flow test taken at home will need to be reported into the public reporting system); or
 - evidence of a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 within the previous 180 days and following completion of the self-isolation period.

Please be reminded of the following measures which remain in place:

- Face coverings must be worn indoors unless seated at a desk. They must be worn when leaving the Council Chamber for any reason.
- Good hand hygiene should be adhered to and hand sanitiser is available in the ground floor foyer and the Council Chamber.
- Social distancing remains strongly advised. Desks will be distanced at 1m apart and you should keep face-to-face contact to a minimum.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council fully supports the NI Executive in its call for people to make safer choices.

1.0 Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

(i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)

(ii) Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest (Members to complete the Disclosure of Interest Form)

3.0 Report of the Director of Service Transformation

3.1 Performance/Budgets - Service Transformation

 *Performance and Budgets Service Transformation.pdf*

[Appendix 1\(a\) PerformanceSummary_2022-02-11.pdf](#) Page 4

[Appendix 1\(b\)Management Accounts Qtr 3 Transformation.pdf](#) Page 9

4.0 Report of Head of Economic Development

4.1 Interim Labour Market Partnership formation and planning - Update

[2. Interim Labour Market Partnerships Planning and Process November 2021...pdf](#) Page 12

4.2 Closure of NI Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020 and Lagan Rural Partnership Ltd Local Action Group

[3. Closure of NIRDP Programme and Local Action Group Board.pdf](#) Page 15

[Appendix 3 LRP NEWSLETTER AUTUMN21 v3.pdf](#) Page 18

4.3 Delivery of a new Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme (TRPSI)

[4. New Rural Business Development Grant Scheme.pdf](#) Page 26

5.0 Confidential Report of Director of Service Transformation

5.1 Assessment Panel Recommendations for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Call 3 ESF Match Funding Scheme

Confidential due to information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information)

[1Confid Assessment Panel REcs for ESF Match Funding.pdf](#) Not included

[Appendix 1\(a\) Programme Guidance Notes.pdf](#) Not included

[Appendix 1\(b\) Guidance and Scoring criteria.pdf](#) Not included

[Appendix 1\(c\) Assessment Panel Recommendations.pdf](#) Not included

5.2 Food and Drink Campaign Evaluation – 2022-2023 Proposal

Confidential due to information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information)

[2Confid Food Drink evaluationV2 \(003\).pdf](#) Not included

[Appendix 2\(a\) - MSFF2021 - Evaluation SummaryV2.pdf](#) Not included

Appendix 2(b) - Evaluation Summary RHFarmersMarket2021V2.pdf	Not included
Appendix 2(c) - Evaluation summary - RHCM2021_Edited.pdf	Not included
Appendix 2(d) - Dundonald CM)_2021_Evaluaiion Summary.pdf	Not included
Appendix 2(e) - Carryduff CM 2021_Evaluation summary.pdf	Not included
Appendix 2(f) - Food & Drink Summary of Traders.pdf	Not included

5.3 Request for Flexible Retirement

Confidential due to information likely to reveal the identity of an individual

3Confd Flexible Retirement Request.pdf	Not included
Appendix 3 Confd Flexible_Retirement.pdf	Not included

5.4 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme - Update

Confidential due to information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information)

4. Small Settlements Dev Committee report 16 02 2022.pdf	Not included
Appendix 4 LCCC - Covid Recovery Small Settlements LOO 16 02 22.pdf	Not included

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Independent Review of Invest NI

Attached for Members' consideration is correspondence received in connection with the Independent Review of Invest NI which was received by the Council earlier this week.

Independent Review of Invest NI.pdf	Page 29
call-for-evidence_0 (7).pdf	Page 30



Development Committee

3rd March 2022

Report from:

Director of Service Transformation

Item for Decision

TITLE: Performance/Budgets - Service Transformation

Background and Key Issues:

This paper deals with the following:

- Q3 2021/22 KPI's
- Q3 Summary budget reports

Q3 2021/22 Service Transformation KPI's

The Council operates a broad range of KPI's including statutory targets, for example, percentage of household waste collected that is sent for recycling (set externally and reported internally via Council Committees), performance improvement targets (set by Council and reported through Governance & Audit Committee) and operational metrics/service KPIs (set by Council and reported internally via Council Committees).

The operational metrics/service KPIs are internal targets to track and monitor aspects of service performance across the Council.

Attached (**see Appendix**) is an outline of performance for Q3 (October - December 21) for the operational metrics/service KPIs.

Directorate Summary Budget Report – Q3

Attached (**see appendix**) are the Q3 Service Transformation Summary Budget reports. Members will note the significant swing in expenditure from an overspend to an underspend. The adjustment reflects the expenditure associated with covid and the continuing trends on underspends in staffing due to resource shortage.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note and scrutinise the:

- Outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q3 (October - December 21)
- Q3 Summary budget reports

Finance and Resource Implications:

None

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations	N/A	Environmental Impact Assessment	N/A	Rural Impact Assessment	N/A
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SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1(a) - Operational metrics/Service KPIs for Q3 (October - December 21)
Appendix 1(b) – Q3 Summary budget reports

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

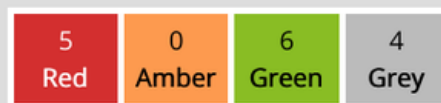
If Yes, please insert date:

Performance Summary

Service Transformation

(Type = 'Service')

Friday 11th of February 2022



Red = Target missed or measure overdue
 Amber = Measure due but not complete
 Green = Target met or exceeded
 Grey = Measure not yet due

Planning & Capital Development	2 Red
Assets and Technical Services	1 Grey
Economic Development	4 Green, 3 Grey
Portfolio Office	3 Red, 2 Green

PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST JAN 22

27 : Major Applications Average processing time for major planning applications. (Processed from date valid to decision issued or withdrawn within an average of 30 weeks). **Major planning applications processed within an average of 30 weeks.**

TARGET
30

ACTUAL
120

STATUS
Red

TARGET	30	30	30
ACTUAL	66.8	98	120

Notes: Similar to last quarter the number of proposals brought forward in previous months are subject to Section 76 planning agreements which remain in process. This has pushed out the processing time for the major applications presented in this quarter. Officers are not in total control of the timeline but continue to work with agents and statutory consultees to ensure applications are expedited as far as is practicable.

PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST JAN 22

28 : Local Applications Average processing time for local planning applications. (Processed from date valid to decision issued or withdrawn within an average of 15 weeks). **Local planning applications processed within an average of 15 weeks.**

TARGET
15

ACTUAL
17

STATUS
Red

TARGET	15	15	15
ACTUAL	15.4	17.1	17

Notes: 17 weeks average processing times continues to reflect a significant improvement in the timeliness of decision making for this category of application. The Unit remains focused on maintaining improved performance in relation to local applications. The KPI has moved out slightly as a consequence of annual leave commitments over the Christmas period and the impact of diverting resources to deal with a number of legal challenges.

ASSETS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

DUE 1ST APR 22

60 : Energy Consumption 3% Reduction of energy consumption .
Reduction of Electricity and Natural Gas consumption

TARGET
3%

ACTUAL

STATUS
Grey

TARGET	3%
ACTUAL	

Notes: Quarter 3 update - energy reduction figures are unavailable as the relevant data as proactive recruitment efforts for this vacant post have been unsuccessful.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST APR 22

178 : Regeneration - Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme Deliver initiatives in Lisburn City Centre to support a reduction in vacancy rates across Lisburn City Centre of 2% by 31 March 2022.. **Delivery of the Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme by end of March 2022**

TARGET
Yes

ACTUAL
No

STATUS
Grey

TARGET Yes
ACTUAL No

Notes: We are about 75% through the Covid Revitalisation funding - initiatives completed 6 ongoing. We have an extension from DfC until March 2022 for the remaining projects. Budget - £1,181,000 spend to date - £548,000 (48% of the expenditure) with remaining committed. Vacancy reduced by approximately 7% and 81 new jobs created through the first and second calls for the Urban Investment scheme.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST APR 22

194 : Tourism Deliver Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiential Programme by 31st March 2022 alongside all DAERA funded elements of the programme.. **Deliver Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiential Programme by 31st March 2022 alongside all DAERA funded elements of the programme.**

TARGET
Yes

ACTUAL
No

STATUS
Grey

TARGET Yes
ACTUAL No

Notes: RTCE project on programme and budget. Current phase is 1-2-1 capacity building with industry and developing collaborative themed packages.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST APR 22

206 : Strategic partnerships Number of partnerships. **Number of strategic partnerships that leverage resources**

TARGET
3

ACTUAL
3

STATUS
Green

TARGET 3
ACTUAL 3

Notes: PROGRAMMES - DAERA/TRPSI £98,340.07 PROGRAMMES - DAERA/NIRDP £72,843.20 Invest NI/ERDF

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DUE 1ST APR 22

38 : New Jobs Number of new jobs per annum. **Number of new jobs linked to business start activity and new investment**

TARGET
116

ACTUAL

STATUS
Grey

TARGET 116
ACTUAL

Notes: Number of new jobs reported for LCCC via GoForIt/Business Start Programme is 58 for period April to September 21 inclusive. This is against an annual statutory target of 85 new jobs and a Programme annual target of 116 jobs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		DUE 1ST APR 22		
39 : Business Solutions - New Business conversion Conversion of local businesses attending Council led business development events through to direct business support interventions . Conversion of local businesses		TARGET 20%	ACTUAL 20%	STATUS Green
TARGET	20%			
ACTUAL	20%			
Notes:				

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		DUE 1ST APR 22		
44 : Rural Development Planned Programmes Rural Investment. Planned TRPSI rural business programme investment		TARGET £98340.07	ACTUAL £98340.07	STATUS Green
TARGET	£98340.07			
ACTUAL	£98340.07			
Notes: Planned TRPSI rural business programme investment will be £98,340.07. There is a target for Planned NI Rural Development Programme investment of £72843.20 this is in progress.				

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		DUE 1ST APR 22		
44 : Rural Development Planned Programmes Rural Investment. Number of businesses and public sector organisation supported		TARGET 35	ACTUAL 35	STATUS Green
TARGET	35			
ACTUAL	35			
Notes:				

PORTFOLIO OFFICE		DUE 1ST APR 22		
180 : SMARTsheet Delivery of SMARTsheet Project Planning Pilot (linked to delivery of DEA Investment Fund) Completed by 8 Service areas during 2021/22. Smartsheet project pilot used by 8 service areas		TARGET 8	ACTUAL 8	STATUS Green
TARGET	8			
ACTUAL	8			
Notes: Service Areas: Portfolio, Community Services, Parks & Amenities, Waste & Operational Services, Sports Services, Economic Development, Estate Services and Environmental Health.				

PORTFOLIO OFFICE		DUE 1ST APR 22		
182 : Digital & Innovation Strategy Delivery of Phase 1 of the Digital & Innovation Strategy . Number of projects delivered during Phase 1 of the Digital & Innovation Strategy		TARGET 15	ACTUAL 5	STATUS Red
TARGET	15			
ACTUAL	5			
Notes: 5 by 1st November 2021 Projects include: Digital Devices, Customer experience journey mapping with 9 Services, Customer interaction Survey with 6 Services, Customer Engagement Survey				

PORTFOLIO OFFICE		DUE 1ST OCT 21		
183 : Full Fibre NI Council Sites connected to FFTP via FFNI . Number of Council Sites connected to FFTP via FFNI		TARGET 10	ACTUAL 11	STATUS Green
TARGET	10			
ACTUAL	11			
Notes:				

PORTFOLIO OFFICE		DUE 1ST APR 22		
184 : Belfast Regional City Deal Successful bids to BRCD. Number of successful bids to BRCD (1 Tourism & Regeneration bid to move to FBC stage & procurement, 1 Innovation & Entrepreneurship bid to move to OBC stage, 1 Complementary Fund bid to move to OBC stage)		TARGET 3	ACTUAL 1	STATUS Red
TARGET	3			
ACTUAL	1			
Notes: Hillsborough Forest & Heritage Village Project currently at case work. Funding request for £20M				

PORTFOLIO OFFICE		DUE 1ST JAN 22		
195 : IT Server Downtime. IT Server Downtime		TARGET 10	ACTUAL 30.48	STATUS Red
TARGET	10			
ACTUAL	0.22	12.2	30.48	
Notes: Telephony was down for 22hrs 29mins in total over the 3 month period which constituted one major outage when connectivity was lost due to a broken fibre cable. The Internet was down for 8 hours over the 3 month period.				

Transformation - April 2021 to March 2022

Month:-

Oct-21

Department

	Annual Budget	Budget to date	Total Actual & Committed	Total Variance
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Expenditure:

Payroll

Technical & Estates	1,560,930	906,561	802,372	(104,189)
Development	1,347,714	783,658	663,294	(120,364)
Planning	1,619,240	944,553	932,623	(11,930)
Director Transformation	763,960	445,437	391,662	(53,776)
Total Payroll Expenditure:	5,291,844	3,080,209	2,789,950	(290,260)

Non-Payroll

Technical & Estates	623,170	384,756	437,984	53,228
Development	4,391,640	2,400,026	2,503,578	103,552
Planning	241,280	130,773	433,698	302,925
Director Transformation	1,231,830	590,935	577,988	(12,947)
Total Non-Payroll Expenditure:	6,487,920	3,506,490	3,953,248	446,758

Total Expenditure

11,779,764	6,586,699	6,743,198	156,498
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Income:

Technical & Estates	(114,400)	(2,800)	(4,524)	(1,724)
Development	(2,861,464)	(1,459,362)	(1,273,421)	185,941
Planning	(1,268,410)	(735,841)	(734,262)	1,579
Director Transformation			(1,231)	(1,231)
Total Income:	(4,244,274)	(2,198,003)	(2,013,438)	184,565

Overall Net Position:

Technical & Estates	2,069,700	1,288,517	1,235,832	(52,685)
Development	2,877,890	1,724,322	1,893,450	169,128
Planning	592,110	339,485	632,058	292,574
Director Transformation	1,995,790	1,036,372	968,419	(67,953)
Net Overall Position	7,535,490	4,388,696	4,729,760	341,063

Department	Month:-		Nov-21	
	Annual Budget	Budget to date	Total Actual & Committed	Total Variance
Expenditure:				
Payroll				
Technical & Estates	1,560,930	1,038,659	917,683	(120,976)
Development	1,342,714	894,955	755,416	(139,539)
Planning	1,619,240	1,079,489	1,062,366	(17,123)
Director Transformation	763,960	509,071	451,135	(57,937)
Total Payroll Expenditure:	5,286,844	3,522,174	3,186,600	(335,575)
Non-Payroll				
Technical & Estates	623,170	425,416	492,376	66,960
Development	4,396,640	2,717,171	2,920,707	203,536
Planning	241,280	151,156	477,033	325,877
Director Transformation	1,231,830	711,423	662,052	(49,371)
Total Non-Payroll Expenditure:	6,492,920	4,005,166	4,552,168	547,002
Total Expenditure	11,779,764	7,527,340	7,738,767	211,427
Income:				
Technical & Estates	(114,400)	(3,700)	(11,782)	(8,082)
Development	(2,861,464)	(1,578,312)	(1,480,140)	98,172
Planning	(1,268,410)	(817,535)	(829,445)	(11,910)
Director Transformation			(1,231)	(1,231)
Total Income:	(4,244,274)	(2,399,547)	(2,322,598)	76,950
Overall Net Position:				
Technical & Estates	2,069,700	1,460,375	1,398,278	(62,098)
Development	2,877,890	2,033,814	2,195,982	162,169
Planning	592,110	413,110	709,954	296,844
Director Transformation	1,995,790	1,220,494	1,111,956	(108,539)
Net Overall Position	7,535,490	5,127,793	5,416,170	288,377

Department	Month:-		Dec-21	
	Annual Budget	Budget to date	Total Actual & Committed	Total Variance
Expenditure:				
Payroll				
Technical & Estates	1,560,930	1,168,757	1,027,512	(141,245)
Development	1,342,714	1,006,663	851,203	(155,460)
Planning	1,619,240	1,214,425	1,181,104	(33,321)
Director Transformation	763,960	572,755	503,032	(69,724)
Total Payroll Expenditure:	5,286,844	3,962,600	3,562,851	(399,749)
Non-Payroll				
Technical & Estates	623,170	489,734	559,715	69,981
Development	4,396,640	3,339,562	3,352,608	13,047
Planning	241,280	187,235	633,702	446,468
Director Transformation	1,231,830	829,983	720,646	(109,337)
Total Non-Payroll Expenditure:	6,492,920	4,846,513	5,266,672	420,159
Total Expenditure	11,779,764	8,809,113	8,829,523	20,410
Income:				
Technical & Estates	(114,400)	(4,600)	(11,782)	(7,182)
Development	(2,861,464)	(1,936,626)	(1,742,065)	194,561
Planning	(1,268,410)	(951,304)	(925,349)	25,955
Director Transformation			(30,689)	(30,689)
Total Income:	(4,244,274)	(2,892,530)	(2,709,885)	182,645
Overall Net Position:				
Technical & Estates	2,069,700	1,653,891	1,575,446	(78,445)
Development	2,877,890	2,409,599	2,461,747	52,148
Planning	592,110	450,355	889,458	439,102
Director Transformation	1,995,790	1,402,738	1,192,988	(209,750)
Net Overall Position	7,535,490	5,916,583	6,119,638	203,055
Total Net Overall Position	7,535,490	5,916,583	6,119,638	203,055



Development Committee

3rd March 2022

Report from:

Head of Economic Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: Interim Labour Market Partnership formation and planning - Update

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The Council has been working with the Department for Communities (DfC) and local partners in the design and development of an Interim Action Plan for the new Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership in order to secure a letter of offer. The Interim Action Plan was submitted and re-submitted to DfC for staged assessments in October, November 2021 and January 2022.
2. On 30 November 2021 a funding contract was received by the Council for administration and running costs associated with the LMP for the period 30 Nov 2021 to 31 March 2022. These contracts were issued to all Councils and are not linked to programme spend. This has enabled the appointment of an officer on an initial contract (up to March 2023) to work exclusively on progressing this programme of work within the Programmes Team.

Key Issues

1. A letter of offer for the 2022-2023 year (or part thereof) is anticipated in the next few weeks for programme expenditure, as is a letter of offer for the Administration spend for the same period. Unfortunately, the recent uncertainties around budget allocations in Stormont are once more creating uncertainties in the approach DfC will take in rolling this initiative out.

2. Nonetheless, officers are working to develop appropriate initiatives and programmes of support in advance of any letter of offer where this is possible and practical. This work includes preparation of draft procurement documentation, promotional content, building networks and liaising with potential participants.
3. It is anticipated that once some budget stability around the programme is established by DfC, that further reports to committee will include recommendations to secure an appropriate dedicated staffing resource within the Programmes Team on a multi-annual basis.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the committee considers this update, and continues to signpost any potential programme participants or contacts to the Programmes team.

Finance and Resource Implications:

A funding contract for £70,165.83 has been received to support the administration and running costs associated with the LMP for the period 30 Nov 2021 to 31 March 2022.

This is complemented by a funding contract to March 2023 for £50,000 from the Department for the Economy linked to the skills agenda.

The total additional potential budget that could be allocated to the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership on final approval of the interim action plan is £457,535 which is inclusive of an administration budget of £91,507.00 to support the staffing and running costs of the secretariat. This is anticipated, but not yet secured.

Screening:

Equality and
Good Relations

Yes

Environmental
Impact
Assessment

No

Rural
Impact
Assessment

Yes

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Development Committee

3rd March 2022

Report from:

Head of Economic Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: Closure of NI Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020 and Lagan Rural Partnership Ltd Local Action Group.

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. Lagan Rural Partnership Ltd is the Local Action Group (LAG) who have responsibility for the delivery of Priority 6 of the NI Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020 (NIRDP) in the rural areas of Lisburn, Castlereagh and Belfast. The NIRDP Programme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union. The programme administration is managed by the Programmes Team in the Economic Development Unit.
2. Chaired by Alderman Allan Ewart MBE, the LAG is comprised of 10 independent social partners and 9 Elected Members as detailed in the first page of the newsletter appended. The role of the LAG will come to an end with the completion of the NIRDP.
3. The LAG structure has remained in place for an additional period in order to allow a final evaluation of the programme outcomes in this region and an exit strategy to be developed in fulfilment of the DAERA's requirements. The exit strategy is in reality a transition to closure report cataloguing the electronic and physical data held by the Council in relation to both the NIRDP 2014 – 2020 and the NIRDP 2007- 2013 programmes. It must also establish post-closure audit and administration arrangements. In the meantime the last remaining projects have drawn down their final claims for retention.

Key Issues

1. It is now anticipated that the LAG will formally dissolve at the end of March 2022 as their contractual obligations will have been successfully discharged in full and the public funding for which they are responsible (**£3.27 million**) has been successfully delivered. The final Lagan Rural Partnership Newsletter is attached as (**see Appendix**). All four of the funding schemes operated by Lagan Rural Partnership have administered their final grant payments and the value of programme achievements is detailed below.

Funding Scheme	Number of Projects	LRP Grant Awarded
Rural Business Investment Scheme	30	£1,277,011.10
Rural Village Renewal scheme	8	£750,527.88
Rural Basic Services scheme	8	£818,403.93
All island Cooperation Scheme	1	£427,617.00

2. Lagan Rural Partnership has done much to improve the quality of life of our rural communities through the Basic Services and Village Renewal Schemes. In addition to investing in our rural communities the programme has generated significant results for our local economy in terms of new business, including the creation of 84 jobs.
3. On Monday 28th March 2022 the LAG will meet for the final time. Many of the LAG members have given up to 13 years of voluntary service to this organisation in order to improve the lives of rural residents and bolster rural businesses. The meeting will be followed by a meal in Lighters Restaurant attended by the Mayor, the Chair of the Development Committee and officers from LCCC.
4. An update report will be brought back to the Committee regarding any future replacement schemes arising from the Rural Framework Strategy currently being finalised by DAERA

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee considers and notes the plans for the closure of the NIRDP and the LAG Board and extends appreciation in the manner outlined for their contribution in managing this programme.

Finance and Resource Implications:

The anticipated cost of the hospitality in Lighters is estimated to be in the region of £1,500 and will be met from within existing budgets.

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations

No

Environmental Impact Assessment

No

Rural Impact Assessment

YES

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

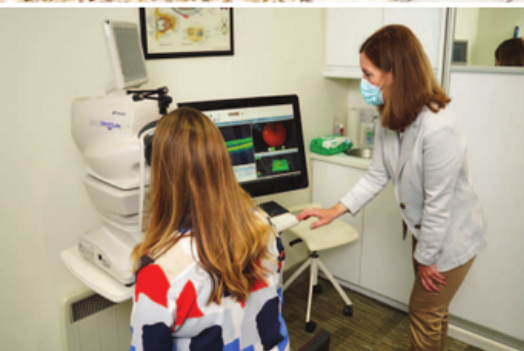
Appendix 3 - Lagan Rural Partnership Newsletter

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Newsletter showcasing the successful projects funded by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme in the rural Lisburn & Castlereagh and Belfast Council Areas.



Julie A. Robinson Optometrist

Local Optician transformed by LEADER Funding.

Page 3



Rustbusters NI

New machinery has helped this business to diversify into new markets.

Page 4



Vision Fabrications

Funding has assisted local rural business to increase employment.

Page 5

Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to our final edition of the Lagan Rural Partnership Newsletter which highlights many of the successful small businesses our Local Action Group has helped to sustain and establish with funding from Priority 6 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.



As the Programme draws to a close, now is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the excellent work completed by Lagan Rural Partnership in the rural parts of Lisburn, Castlereagh and Belfast City Council areas. As Chairman of the Local Action Group Board, I am delighted to report that we have successfully allocated our full commitment of Priority 6 funds to the value of £3.27 million across 47 projects.

The newsletter celebrates the achievements of our applicants who have hailed from all corners of our local rural area and from many sectors of our economy. The programme has done much to improve the quality of life for our rural communities through the basic services and village renewal schemes. In addition to investing in our rural communities, the funding has generated fantastic results for our local economy significantly enhancing export trade and creating 81 jobs.

I hope this newsletter will inspire others to develop their own projects with future assistance.

Alderman Allan Ewart, MBE
Chairman

Tribute to Councillor Margaret Tolerton

We wish to dedicate this Newsletter to Councillor Margaret Tolerton, former Chairman of the Lagan Rural Partnership Local Action Group Board who sadly passed away in February 2021.



Councillor Tolerton was a member of Lagan Rural Partnership from 2009, she played an active role in the delivery of two Northern Ireland Rural Development Programmes in this region. She volunteered an enormous portion of her time to participate in assessment panels, meetings and events. As the Chairman of the current programme during its initial years she was heavily involved in awareness raising and animation activities which were integral to the successful culmination of the programme we are celebrating today. Her steadfast contribution and local knowledge were an asset to Lagan Rural Partnership. Councillor Tolerton was a great advocate for rural communities and businesses, she will be missed and remembered by everyone who had the opportunity to work with her.

Local Action Group (LAG) Board Local Government Representatives

Alderman Allan Ewart MBE (Chairman)

Alderman Ewart has extensive experience of this programme since its inception. He has played a critical role as Chairman representing Lagan Rural Partnership at a Strategic Level as well as chairing the Monthly Board Meetings.

Alderman Jim Dillon MBE

Alderman Dillon has a strong interest in horticulture and rural affairs. He has been a member of the LAG Board since 2019.

Alderman James Baird

Alderman Baird is a long standing member of the LAG. He is a farmer, training provider and a rural dweller; in addition to representing LCCC as an elected member.

Councillor Uel Mackin

Councillor Mackin has expertise in accountancy and finance experience relevant to the management of public funds. He has been a LAG Board Member since 2011 and has a considerable interest in rural affairs.

Councillor Gary McCleave

Councillor McCleave was appointed to the LAG Board in 2019. He is an active member of a rural village community with an interest in community development.

Councillor Johnny McCarthy

Councillor McCarthy is focused on making sure that public services are accessible and equitable to all areas of society.

Alderman Owen Gawith

Alderman Gawith has spent over 30 years in the financial services sector, accumulating considerable experience.

Councillor Nathan Anderson

Councillor Anderson is an Elected Representative for Castlereagh South. He is focused on enhancing the economic performance of Northern Ireland.

Councillor Kate Nicholl

Councillor Kate Nicholl is the Elected Representative from Belfast City Council. Appointed in 2019, her aspiration is to effect real change.

Social Partners

Mrs Nessa O'Callaghan (Vice Chairman)

Nessa is an active participant across the Hillsborough Community. She volunteers much of her time to multiple community initiatives including the LAG Board.

Mr Jackie McQuillan

Jackie has played an active role within his local community including the management of Halftown Residents Association.

Mrs Lynne McCabe

Lynne started her businesses straight out of university and is a well-known local entrepreneur with a number of award winning hospitality businesses located in rural areas.

Mr Martin Busch

Martin is a valued Trustee Board member of a number of local and regional charities and voluntary community organisations, including the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU).

Ms Martina Crawford

Martina is the Chief Executive of Lisburn Enterprise Organisation. She was previously a self-employed business consultant and has also been employed by Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Princes Trust.

Mr David Dunlop

A local farmer from Hillsborough, David also runs Dunhill Cottage Bed & Breakfast which adjoins the family farm in Carnreagh.

Ms Diane Ewart

Diane works at TADA Rural Support Network as a Network Manager for Rural Lisburn, Castlereagh and Rural Belfast area (Hannahstown).

Mr Barrie Elkin

Representing the Castlereagh Farming Sector, Barrie is a business owner at Pitch Perfect NI as well as a beef and sheep farmer in Co. Down.

Mr Nelson Bryce

Being a chartered engineer and the owner of a farming business, Nelson has brought much experience and knowledge to the LAG Board.

Reverend John Farr

Reverend John Farr has been the minister of St John's Parish Church, Stoneyford since 2011, representing the wider community on multiple committees.

LAGAN

RURAL PARTNERSHIP

Successful Projects

Toye Doors Ltd

Founded in 1999 by Stephen McClenaghan, Toye Doors Ltd is a specialist door manufacturer located at La Mon Industrial Estate in rural Castlereagh. The company manufactures a range of high quality and bespoke doors for the private and commercial markets.

At the time of their application Toye Doors urgently required investment to respond to significant growth within the construction and housing markets. The company successfully applied to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme's Rural Business Investment Scheme to fund a 5 axis CNC Machine, which greatly reduced production time, allowing for a significant increase in output. It also enabled the

business to broaden the services available to customers, such as fitting high security locks, developing intricate door designs and bespoke orders which set them apart from others.

Lagan Rural Partnership awarded Toye Doors Ltd £50,000 to invest in vital production machinery. The funding had the desired effect of increasing capacity while reducing order turnaround time. The project led to the development of one full time permanent post to assist with the increased workloads. This was a direct result of the new machinery installed under NIRD funding. In addition the project has enabled the company to break into export markets in the UK Mainland.



Pictured is Stephen McClenaghan from Toye Doors Ltd.

"The CNC machinery has massively improved the overall efficiency of the business. We have successfully secured jobs in the UK Mainland which would have been impossible without grant assistance."

Stephen McClenaghan, Toye Doors Ltd.

Project Promoter: Toye Doors Ltd
Project Title: To further develop existing door-sets and create new door-set products
Location: Rural Castlereagh
Total Project Cost: £102,394
Grant Assistance: £50,000
Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Julie A. Robinson Optometrists

Julie A. Robinson Optometrists is an independent optician established in 1985 by Julie Robinson. There are two branches, located in Moira and Crumlin. Both are very well respected practices and have grown over the years, offering a full range of high quality ophthalmic services.

Julie wished to expand the services available at her Moira practice to include specialist Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scanning. This machine enables the optician to undertake detailed eye scans allowing the optician to look even deeper into the eye and the structures within it.

Julie A Robinson Optometrists successfully applied for funding assistance under the Rural Business Investment Scheme, administered by Lagan Rural Partnership (LRP) Local Action Group.

She was awarded £14,997.50 in grant funding to purchase dedicated equipment to enable the practice to offer Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scanning.

This expert piece of equipment enables precision scans of the eye to show fine measurable changes to the optic nerve and retina and can assist the early diagnosis of some eye conditions including glaucoma, Wet AMD and diseases of the retina.

Not all Optometrists offer this specialised service, therefore, the project has helped Julie to retain existing patients and diversify into a new market, thus attracting new customers. The specialist equipment added another element to the professional eye care services available at the practice and led to the creation of two part time jobs.



Pictured is Julie Robinson from Julie A. Robinson Optometrists

"The funding enables us to offer a comprehensive screening service, thus consolidating our position as a dedicated eye specialist offering the most up to date treatment. The OCT equipment enables us to offer immediate results to our patients, thus alleviating stress and anxiety that patients previously experienced when they were referred to the NHS waiting lists for further testing."

Julie A Robinson, Julie A. Robinson Optometrists.

Project Promoter: Julie A. Robinson Opticians
Project Title: Purchase of an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Machine
Location: Moira, Co. Armagh
Total Project Cost: £29,995
Grant Assistance: £14,997.50
Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Rustbusters NI Ltd

Rustbusters NI Ltd is a leading specialist in commercial, industrial and domestic shot blasting and powder coating. This pioneering company, managed by Simon Saunders utilised a gap in the Northern Ireland manufacturing sector to introduce a new service to Northern Ireland and to set themselves apart from their competitors.

The company made the decision to invest in state of the art technology to offer customers within specialist markets a more mechanised and evidence based method of production. This service of certifiable chemical treatment of materials is used consistently within the automotive, aerospace, medical and selected construction sectors which are exposed to rigorous regulations to ensure public safety.

Offering this unique facility enabled the company to become an integral part of the

supply chain. They can now undertake certifiable treatments complete with data sheet read outs necessary for specialist industries.

The applicant successfully applied to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme to purchase a Pre Treatment Plant and automated powder coating equipment. They are now the sole provider in the region to have this type of technology, making them a highly innovative and unique company.

Investment has permitted the company to enhance their capacity and speed of delivery to customers. The grant enabled the development of new services to their existing and new trading markets, by providing a dynamic service in the chemical treatment of materials in an automated, controlled environment.



Pictured is Simon Saunders from Rustbusters NI Ltd.

“Through the help of Lagan Rural Partnership, Rustbusters NI Ltd has been able to purchase the most advanced and efficient machinery, making us more competitive and allowing us to win new business across the NI and ROI markets. Since the grant was awarded we have created 5 jobs and grew our company to the next level”.

Simon Saunders, Rustbusters NI Ltd.

Project Promoter: Rustbusters NI Ltd
Project Title: Investment in new machinery to increase capacity and provide certification
Location: Rural Castlereagh
Total Project Cost: £83,310
Grant Assistance: £41,530
Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Glenclare Community Group

Glenclare Community Association applied to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Rural Basic Services Scheme for funding in 2017 in order to enable their hall to better meet the needs of local residents and appeal as a high spec events venue. They received a grant award from Lagan Rural Partnership to complete the following programme of improvements:

- Resurfacing the existing rough gravel car park thus ensuring improved access routes and usable space around the building
- Development of the external space

including the creation of a meditation garden and an interactive children’s play area

- Installation of new IT systems, presentation equipment and other capital improvements

The work has been completed to a very high standard. It provides a stimulating environment for increased community and cross community interaction. From early year’s groups to clubs for older people, the hall is a lively venue for a diverse range of residents’ activities and is at the heart of this rural community.



Pictured from left to right is Margaret Bradley, Donal Bradley, Terry Cormican, Colum Cormican, Máire Cormican, Denis Wilson, Paul O’Brien, Kevin Murphy and Jenny Cameron.

“St. Clare’s Community Hall is recognised as the hub of this rural isolated area. People of all ages and cultural backgrounds are coming together to socialise, learn and engage with one another in a comfortable shared environment. This project would not have been possible without the funding received from Lagan Rural Partnership!”

Paul O’Brien, Chairman of Glenclare Community Group

Project Promoter: Glenclare Community Group
Project Title: Refurbishment & Upgrade of Glenclare Community Hall
Location: Glenavy, Co. Antrim
Total Project Cost: £68,276.50
Grant Assistance: £50,000
Theme: Rural Basic Services Scheme

Vision Fabrications Limited

Vision Fabrications was a fledgling enterprise when Barry Lyttle approached Lagan Rural Partnership in Spring 2018. This new company had an urgent requirement for a number of key pieces of capital equipment. The business expanded rapidly and quickly established a reputation for delivering high quality services, specialising in both Architectural Metalwork and Structural Steelwork throughout the UK and Ireland.

At the outset, the company was reliant on outsourcing elements of their business which considerably restricted their production capacity and speed.

The company made a successful application for grant funding to the Rural Business Investment Scheme as a start-up business. The business invested in a CNC Hydraulic Press Break Machine and a CNC Plasma

Cutter to enable the company to fully manufacture their steel structures in house; this in turn supported them to improve their output and secure their market position as an export led business.

Lagan Rural Partnership awarded Vision Fabrications Ltd £30,000 in financial assistance. Investment has enabled the company to grow their workforce beyond their target of 8 full-time jobs to 13 full-time jobs. Furthermore they have surpassed their turnover target, predominantly from export sales, proving their investment represents an excellent return on grant deployed and will ensure the sustainability and economic growth of an innovative engineering enterprise.



Pictured is Barry Lyttle and his team from Vision Fabrications Ltd.

“The funding enabled the company to purchase the much needed CNC equipment that facilitate faster production, allowing higher volumes of work to be produced. This will enable the business to meet increased demand for its current product range as well as expand into additional markets, boosting sales, profitability and employment opportunities within the local area.”

Barry Lyttle, Director, Vision Fabrications Limited

Project Promoter: Vision Fabrications Ltd
Project Title: Investment in CNC Equipment
Location: Lisburn, Co. Antrim
Total Project Cost: £78,726.60
Grant Assistance: £30,000
Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Spence Engineering Ltd

Managed by the Spence Family, Spence Engineering Ltd have over 60 years' experience in the manufacturing industry primarily servicing the agriculture, quarry maintenance and recycling sectors.

Their business operations include the manufacture and repair of Excavator Buckets, including Hi-Tip Buckets, Quick Change Adaptors, Pallet Forks, Silage Grabs, HTS Cutting Edges, Bucket Pins and Bushes and Hydraulic Rams. As well as carrying out general repairs to excavator and hydraulic equipment both in-house and on-site.

Capitalising on changing market trends Spence Engineering Ltd identified an increased service demand for hydraulic repair work within their existing and potential client base; with additional scope to enter new export markets.

The business located at Tullynora Road, Hillsborough applied to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programmes' Rural Business Investment Scheme for grant assistance to expand the existing business offering through investment in additional capital equipment. The applicant secured funding to purchase 2 Manual Lathes for operation in the main workshop. The machinery has increased production both in number of units and diversity of new products and strengthened exporting avenues.

The company has enjoyed increased success in competitive markets, with a significant increase in turnover and the creation of 5 new jobs.



Pictured is Paul Spence from Spence Engineering Ltd.

“The grant has allowed us to fulfil and exceed our own expectations. The machines enable us to tap into new markets and remain competitive as we are able to meet manufacturing demand. The project led to the creation of 5 jobs which further contributes to the local economy.”

Paul Spence, Spence Engineering Ltd.

Project Promoter: Spence Engineering Ltd
Project Title: Investment in Lathe Equipment for Production and Exportation Expansion
Location: Hillsborough, Co. Down
Total Project Cost: £78,620
Grant Assistance: £39,310
Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Bells Lane Allotments

Bells Lane Allotments are owned and managed by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. The popularity of the allotments, the demand for a social space and increasingly diverse needs particularly from less able residents led to the development of this innovative project proposal.

Financial assistance was needed to improve the basic services infrastructure of the existing allotment space and to specifically create one plot for community use, a 'community hub' that would lead to increased accessibility for those with mobility issues. The Council applied to Lagan Rural Partnership for financial assistance to create the following infrastructural improvements:

- Meeting space which provides shelter
- Classroom area
- Toilets with disabled and baby changing facilities
- Raised and accessible beds

- Outdoor seating area
- Car park improvements

Complementary to this was the development of an engaging programme of educational, physical and events-based activities in collaboration with local community groups.

This was one of eight rural basic services projects delivered under Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme in the Lagan Rural Partnership area giving a combined financial assistance total of £818,403.93. Access to Basic Services Scheme supports capital investments which provide access to basic services or improvements in social infrastructure (including activities to reduce isolation or poverty) to improve the welfare and access to basic services of those living in rural areas. All projects funded were in line with their local council's community plan and created basic services infrastructure. Many of the projects supported the development of community hubs.



Pictured from left to right is Alderman Jim Dillon MBE, Nessa O'Callaghan and Alderman Allan Ewart MBE.

Project Promoter: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Project Title: Bells Lane Allotments

Location: Lisburn, Co. Antrim

Total Project Cost: £274,169.95

Grant Assistance: £180,364.05

Theme: Rural Basic Services Scheme

Streamvale Open Farm

Streamvale Open Farm, based at Ballyhanwood Road, operates as both a working and open farm. The farm is a family run enterprise which has become one of Northern Ireland's top visitor attractions receiving over 150,000 visitors per year.

Over the years the farm has transformed into a vibrant and dynamic tourist attraction which enables visitors to assist with feeding and caring for farm animals. Visitors can enjoy barrel and tractor rides. In addition, Streamvale provide a number of live shows to offer an interactive demonstration of the farming experience and a number of indoor and outdoor play areas. The onsite café produces delicious food and drinks that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Capitalising on their success, Streamvale sought to expand their offering to include a

state of the art play village for children, creating the only imaginative farm village in Ireland; setting Streamvale apart from the rest of the market as a unique family visitor destination. Streamvale Open Farm was awarded £38,975 of Rural Business Investment Scheme funding to achieve this vision.

Their grant application was the first step in their plan for growth and in doing so it has created a sustainable staff structure. In the 2 years post project, the applicant has achieved a phenomenal increase in sales which illustrates that the play village was instrumental in diversifying the farm's service offering. The business makes a substantial economic contribution to the local community. The project surpassed its estimated job creation target and generated 9 full time jobs in the local area.



Pictured are Helen and Chris Wilson with their son Jake Wilson from Streamvale Open Farm

Project Promoter: Streamvale Open Farm

Project Title: Streamvale Farm Play Village

Location: Rural Castlereagh

Total Project Cost: £77,950

Grant Assistance: £38,975

Theme: Rural Business Investment Scheme

"The team at Streamvale Open Farm are passionate about our vision to provide a fantastic family experience with many opportunities for children and parents to learn and play together. The assistance of grant funding has established us as one of the most recognisable and popular family visitor attractions in Northern Ireland. We are extremely grateful to Lagan Rural Partnership for this wonderful opportunity!"

Chris Wilson, Streamvale Open Farm

Hannahstown Village Renewal Scheme

Following community consultations with local residents and community associations, Belfast City Council applied to Lagan Rural Partnership for financial assistance under the Rural Village Renewal Scheme for two projects in Hannahstown and Edenderry. Only local Councils are eligible to apply to this scheme and they must provide all necessary match-funding to complete the project. The Hannahstown project created a seated amphitheatre event space complete with heritage information panels, hard and soft landscaping and boundary improvements. The works created the only outdoor meeting space in the area thus providing a much

needed civic space to improve the quality of life for local residents. The facility has been well used during the subsequent pandemic.

This was one of eight rural Village Renewal Scheme projects delivered under NIRDP in the Lagan Rural Partnership area giving a combined financial assistance total of £750,527.88. The Village Renewal scheme aims to enhance the lives of local village residents through a programme of capital improvements emanating from community consultation and the development of a Village Plan.



Pictured from left to right is Lord Mayor Councillor Kate Nicholl, Alderman Allan Ewart MBE, Jim McCormick (Hannahstown Community Association) and Nessa O'Callaghan.

Project Promoter: Belfast City Council
Project Title: Hannahstown Public Square
Location: Hannahstown, Co. Antrim
Total Project Cost: £91,276.00
Grant Assistance: £66,745.57
Theme: Rural Village Renewal Scheme

Dromara Village Renewal Scheme

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council applied to Lagan Rural Partnership for financial assistance under the Rural Village Renewal Scheme to create much needed recreational facilities for teenagers and young people in the Dromara area. The Council then embarked on a challenging project that dramatically transformed the facilities at Lagan Park and created a dynamic outdoor space for young people. Improvements were completed to a very high standard and included:

- Footpath improvements to allow safe access to the Lagan Park from the primary school
- Delivery of a new and innovative pump track for use in cycle sport (cycling, skateboarding etc)
- Large sculptural climbing frame

- Re-development of a derelict kick about space into a vibrant games area for football and basketball
- Installation of adult outdoor gym equipment
- Signage and landscaping improvements

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council received funding under the Rural Village Renewal Scheme to commission Village Action Plans and implement capital improvements in five local villages. The projects varied widely in terms of scope as they were tailored to meet the needs identified by the local resident populations. The projects were match-funded by the Council and deliver significant enhancements to the built environment of local rural communities.



Pictured from left to right is Alderman Jim Dillon MBE, Alderman Allan Ewart MBE and Nessa O'Callaghan.

Project Promoter: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Project Title: Dromara Leisure Park
Location: Dromara, Co. Down
Total Project Cost: £202,984.95
Grant Assistance: £127,062.19
Theme: Rural Village Renewal Scheme

All projects featured in this Newsletter were part funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union.

Registered Office

Lagan Rural Partnership
 C/o Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Civic Headquarters
 Lagan Valley Island
 Lisburn BT27 4RL

T: 028 9244 7447 E: sarah.johnston@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk
www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/business/rural-development

Programme Profile

Area Coverage	Lisburn & Castlereagh and Belfast Council area
Programme Duration	2014 - 2020
Programme Value	£3.27 Million
Projects Supported To Date	47



Funding Themes

Rural Business Investment Scheme	The Rural Business Investment Scheme provided investment support for the creation and development of micro and small enterprises (including farm diversification and private tourism businesses) in rural areas.
Rural Basic Services Scheme	The Basic Services Scheme supported capital investments which provided access to basic services or improvements in social infrastructure (including activities to reduce isolation and/or poverty) to improve the welfare and access to basic services of those living in rural areas.
Rural Village Renewal Scheme	The Village Renewal Scheme provided financial support primarily for the drafting of integrated village plans and also for the renewal of rural villages through Village Plans.
All Island Co-Operation Scheme	The Cooperation Scheme focuses on cooperation between LAGs in Northern Ireland and those in the Republic of Ireland. Cooperation is seen as a way of solving some local problems or enabling something to be done that the LAG could not do on its own.

Projects Funded by Lagan Rural Partnership

Rural Business Investment Scheme (RBIS)

Name	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Spence Engineering Ltd	Investment in CNC Equipment	£39,310
Ashvale Farmshop Ltd	Extension to Ashvale Farm and Coffee Shop	£50,000
KER Graphics Ltd	Digital Labels Printing Machine	£50,000
Crossen Engineering Ltd	Investment in CNC Milling Machine	£50,000
Linton Agri Solutions Ltd	Investment in CNC Abrasive Water Jet Machine	£50,000
Streamvale Open Farm	Installation of a Farm Play Village	£38,975
McGreevy Engineering Ltd	Investment in CNC Equipment	£50,000
Steelman Engineering Ltd	Investment in Machinery and Office Extension	£23,012.50
Wray Engineering	Investment in CNC Equipment	£49,450
Carolyn Perkins	Advanced Equine Dental Equipment	£11,186.50
Keys Brothers Horticulture Ltd	Investment in new machinery	£25,747.48
Rustbusters NI Ltd	Investment in new machinery	£41,530
Befab Limited	Investment in CNC Equipment	£48,231.50
Colin Glen Trust	Website Development	£9,890
Gillian Riley	Development of Ballymaglaff Kennels	£30,000
Somerville Shopfitting Ltd	Mezzanine Floor Extension	£49,387.50
Julie A Robinson Opticians	Purchase of an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Machine	£14,997.50
Peartree Barn Nursery Ltd	Extension to Existing Child Care Facility	£50,000
Jonathan Crawford	Purchase of Water Sports Equipment	£44,064.12
Christina McCartan O'Brien	Ballycanal Manor Upgrade	£46,506
Rainbow Signs	Introduction of CNC Router Machine	£34,950
Patricia Roberts	Development of Luxury Cat Boarding Facility	£30,000
Lisnacurran Country House	Installation of a Function / Dining Room Facility	£50,000
Toye Doors Ltd	Investment in CNC Equipment	£50,000
The Auld House	Extension at The Auld House	£50,000
Cozy Bedding Ltd	Mobile Animal Bedding Production Plant	£46,500
Larchfield Estate	Upgrade existing buildings into the 'Old Piggery'	£50,000
Joseph Higgins	Café Build	£30,000
James Turner Engineering Ltd	Investment in CNC Equipment	£33,715
Vision Fabrications Ltd	Investment in CNC Equipment	£30,000

Rural Village Renewal Scheme (RVRS)

Name	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Drumbo Village Renewal	£150,000
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Stoneyford Village Renewal	£22,232.51
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Dromara Destroyers Tribute Garden	£77,708.33
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Dromara Leisure Park	£127,062.19
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Aghalee Village Improvement Scheme	£70,822.50
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Glenavy Village Improvement Scheme	£169,716.37
Belfast City Council	Hannahstown Public Square	£66,745.57
Belfast City Council	Edenderry Village Renewal	£66,240.41

Rural Basic Services Scheme (RBSS)

Name	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Dromara Connect	Redevelopment Dromara Connect Hall	£50,000
Halftown Residents Association	Halftown Community Hall	£7,500
Glendare Community Group	Refurbishment & Upgrading of Glendare Community Hall	£50,000
Belfast City Council	Extension at Hannahstown Community Hall and Installation of Weather Protective Canopy	£29,769.18
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Service Improvements at Moneyreagh	£48,431.08
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Capital Works at Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence	£371,996.42
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Bells Lane Allotments	£180,364.05
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Hydebank Walking Trail	£80,343.20

All Island Co-operation Scheme

Name	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	The Waterways Co-operation Project	£427,617



'The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas'.

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

All projects featured in this Newsletter were part funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union.

www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/business/rural-development



Development Committee

3rd March 2022

Report from:

Head of Economic Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: Delivery of a new Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme (TRPSI)

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The above scheme is funded by DAERA as part of the TRPSI Programme. The scheme is administered by the Programmes Team within the Economic Development Unit, and has been successfully delivered for three consecutive years. The first two programmes enabled 43 local businesses to drawdown £127,500 in financial assistance. The third programme, which is currently at claims processing stage is administering grants to 35 local businesses.
2. DAERA has now confirmed the roll-out of a new scheme with a grant capped at £4,999 per eligible business, at a match funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from each participating business. The location of the business must be designated as rural under the scheme rules. Capital improvements will remain ineligible for support. DAERA has developed an online application portal for the scheme which is a welcome development for Councils and applicants. It is hoped that this will prevent incomplete and sometimes ineligible applications being submitted. It has yet to be determined if previous successful applicants will be permitted to apply this time round.
3. It is anticipated that budgets will be in line with previous allocations. The administration income provided to the Council to part-offset some of the running costs of the scheme will remain at 10%.

Key Issues

1. DAERA has indicated that the fourth call for applications under the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme is to open in May and expected to close at the end of that month. DAERA are currently developing a business case for the new programme so not all of the details are confirmed at this stage.
2. As with the current programme, it is proposed that the Council also administers the scheme in rural Belfast, for which it will receive an additional modest income. The third tranche of funding currently being processed is expected to result in approximately £6,000 of grant award to projects in the rural Belfast area and an administration contribution of £600 transferring to LCCC. The amount of grant available to BCC businesses will be capped by DAERA, and would be additional to LCCC’s allocation.
3. The budget for the scheme is yet to be finalised but is likely to remain in the region of £70,000 for LCCC.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the committee considers and agrees to the roll out of a fourth tranche of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme in the LCCC and rural Belfast areas, commencing in May 2022.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Administration resource funding is set at 10% of programme budget so circa £7,000 of administration income for Lisburn & Castlereagh rural areas, and circa £600 for rural Belfast area.

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations	No	Environmental Impact Assessment	No	Rural Impact Assessment	YES
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SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL: No

If Yes, “This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration”.

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Sir Michael Lyons
Chairperson
Independent Review of Invest NI
info@investnireview.org.uk

1st March 2022

Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland – Call For Evidence

As you will be aware, the Economy Minister announced an Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland on 26th January. The Review will provide an independent assessment of the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness as well as its capacity to strategically align with, and operationally deliver, the 10X Economic Vision.

I am pleased to be leading the Review and am committed to ensuring all voices are heard during this evaluation. The Review Panel wishes to actively seek widespread evidence and opinion on the responsibilities and performance of the organisation, so that the needs and ambitions of the different parts of Northern Ireland are fully reflected in our eventual conclusions.

We have today published an open Call for Evidence which can be found at:

<https://www.investnireview.org.uk/evidence/call-evidence>.

I would encourage you to submit evidence in relation to the issues identified in the Terms of Reference via our [Consultation Portal](#). We also welcome more open-ended responses if stakeholders wish to respond in this manner and would encourage you to submit these by email to info@investnireview.org.uk

I would also encourage you to share the Call for Evidence widely within your organisation and with any of your relevant key stakeholders to assist us in our deliberations.

The call for evidence will close on 1st April 2022 and I very much look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Michael Lyons
Chairperson
Independent Review of Invest NI



Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland

Call for Evidence

Context

On 26 January 2022 Economy Minister, Gordon Lyons MLA, launched the Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland

The Review will provide an independent assessment of the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness as well as its capacity to strategically align with, and operationally deliver, the 10X Economic Vision.

The Panel is chaired by Sir Michael Lyons, who is supported by Dame Rotha Johnston DBE and Maureen O'Reilly.

Have your say

The Review Panel is committed to ensuring all voices are heard during this evaluation. We are actively seeking widespread evidence and opinion on the responsibilities and performance of the organisation, so that the needs and ambitions of the different parts of NI are fully reflected in our eventual conclusions.

A Call for Evidence launched on 1 March and will close on 1 April 2022. We would encourage you to submit evidence in relation to the issues identified in the Terms of Reference via our Consultation Portal. The questions posed are also attached at Annex A.

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/independent-review-of-invest-ni-call-for-evidence/>

We also welcome more open-ended responses if stakeholders wish to respond in this manner and would encourage you to submit these by email to info@investnireview.org.uk

Annex A – Call For Evidence Questions

Questions

1. What is your name?
2. What is your email address?
3. What is your organisation?

Overall Invest NI Performance and impact

4. Do you feel that Invest NI is achieving its aims and objectives and do you feel these remain relevant in today's economic environment?
[Invest NI Business Plan 2021-2022 | Invest Northern Ireland](#)
5. Do you believe that the Invest NI support offering in its current form provides Value for Money in terms of achieving the best outcomes relative to its budget for the Northern Ireland economy?

Areas of Focus

6. How effectively do you believe Invest NI has performed in terms of the following key areas of focus?
 - Supporting companies to trade externally (Including adaptation to EU Exit)
 - Attracting Inward Investment
 - Supporting Research & Development and Innovation
 - Supporting Entrepreneurship/Enterprise
 - Developing Skills
 - Other (please specify)

Business Support Programmes

7. How effective are the current range of programmes and business support measures offered by Invest NI at delivering Economic Growth?
<https://www.investni.com/support-for-business>
8. Are there any programmes offered by Invest NI that you feel should be scaled up, redesigned or terminated as they are no longer relevant?
9. Are there any support programmes not delivered by Invest NI that you feel would be beneficial or would represent best practice when compared with other similar jurisdictions?

Supporting sub-regional development

10. How effective has Invest NI been at delivering Inward Investment and business support across all areas of Northern Ireland?
11. How do you view the future role of Invest NI's regional offices in the delivery of economic development support across the region going forward?

Future Strategic Focus, Delivery & Funding/Resourcing

12. What role do you believe Invest NI should play in the future delivery of economic development support in Northern Ireland and specifically in the delivery of the '10x Economy' Vision and its related strategies?
[10X Economic Vision \(Department for the Economy\)](#)
13. What role should Invest NI play in supporting the delivery of wider NI executive strategies and policies?
14. What are the most important strategic partnerships/collaborations that Invest NI should develop to support its delivery remit going forward?
15. Do you think Invest NI is adequately funded and resourced to support its remit currently and going forward?

Finally...

16. Are there any further comments you would like to make about Invest NI's efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling its remit and, looking forward, its capacity to strategically align with and operationally deliver the '10X Economy' Vision?
17. Are you content to be contacted by the Review Panel on any specific points of interest they may have regarding your responses?
18. On completion of the analysis, a list of respondents and summary of themes will be published in the final report. Further detail on how we process data can be found in the Privacy Notice. If you are an individual acting in a private capacity, please indicate whether or not you wish your name to be withheld or disclosed when responding.