



December 22nd, 2022

Chairperson: Alderman A G Ewart MBE

Vice Chairperson: Alderman A Grehan

Aldermen: J Baird, W J Dillon MBE and D Drysdale

Councillors: R T Beckett, F Cole, J Gallen, A Givan, H Legge, G McCleave, C McCready, U Mackin, S Mulholland and A Swan

Ex Officio: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Development Committee will take place on **Thursday, 5th January 2023** 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.

A hot buffet will be available in Lighters Restaurant from 5.30 pm.

DAVID BURNS
Chief Executive
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Agenda

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 Head of Economic Development

3.1 New Tourism Strategy Proposals

📄 *1. Tourism Strategy.pdf*

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4.0 Report of the Head of Planning and Capital Development

4.1 Proposed Amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce Validation Checklists for Planning Applications

📄 *2. Consultation - Report Validation Checklist.pdf*

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5.0 Confidential Report of Director of Service Transformation

5.1 Service Transformation Estimates 2023-2024

Confidential for reasons of:

- a) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information), and
- b) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

📄 *1. Estimates report Jan 23.pdf*

Not included

5.2 Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme

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

 *2Confd Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability.pdf*

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 *Appendix 2Confd Tender Evaluation Report.pdf*

5.3 Business Growth and Entrepreneurship Support Programme Proposals

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

 *3Confd Business Growth and Entrepreneurship Support Programme Proposals...pdf*

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6.0 Any Other Business



Development Committee

5 January 2023

Report from:

Head of Economic Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: New Tourism Strategy proposals

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The Council's Tourism Strategy 2018-2022 is set to expire and needs reviewed, revised and updated to reflect the Council's vision for tourism for the next five year period. A copy of the summary document of the current strategy is attached and a copy of the wider Tourism Strategy document are available via the following links: [Decision Time](#) (Summary) and [Decision Time](#) (Wider Strategy).
2. The strategy sets an overall target of 10% growth in staying visitors and revenue spend over the period, which was significantly adversely impacted by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. That said, in spite of the pandemic, notable progress has been made in terms of tourism product development over the period by the Council and its industry partners, including:
 - The development of the Destination Royal Hillsborough programme (including the confirmation of the "Royal" designation), the ongoing physical development programme at Hillsborough Forest and the complementary investment by HRP at Hillsborough Castle.
 - Supporting the growing speciality food and drink sector, and delivering an established programme of artisan markets.
 - Delivering annual major and minor third party events programmes across the Council area.

- Working in partnership to develop and market product offerings such as the ongoing relationship with Visit Belfast and Tourism NI, working with key tourism products such as new events at Eikon Centre, and developing the Rural Tourism Collaborative Experience programme that has leveraged commercial buy-in to new Royal Hillsborough and historic Moira packaging concepts.
 - Growing tourism accommodation locally across the self-catering, bed and breakfast and guesthouse sectors, including a new city centre hotel, with a new hotel planned to open in Hillsborough.
3. The new strategy should take cognisance of the recent impacts and opportunities arising from the pandemic, the Destination Royal Hillsborough (Belfast Region City Deal) programme, and significant increases in the cost of living and energy costs. The overarching aim of the next 5 year strategy will be to continue to grow tourism bed-nights, visitor trips, and tourism revenue across the Council area.
 4. The new strategy should also reflect other government and Council wide strategies, including the Council's Community Plan, the new Corporate Plan, the draft Tourism NI Strategy, the Visit Belfast Strategy, and the Hillsborough Tourism Masterplan Review.

Key Issues

1. The new Lisburn and Castlereagh Tourism Strategy will be a document that is essential for applying for grant funding. It will provide strategic direction and a road map for tourism activity over the next 5 years as the tourism landscape continues to change.
2. It is proposed that strategic elements of the existing strategy will be rolled forward by officers, with some external technical support bought in to provide some additional analysis, challenge and introduction of contemporary best practice in terms of tourism policy and future visitor servicing provision. The objectives and indicative actions will have to be balanced against available resources, and will set the context to leverage third party financial support where possible.
3. The methodology will include formal engagement with the elected members and appropriate officers, stakeholder organisations such as the NI Tourism Alliance, Visit Belfast, Tourism NI, and the local commercial sector, as well as benchmarking the Council's programme against competitors.
4. It is anticipated that current tourism priority themes will carry forward – including:
 - sustainable tourism, and the development of the Destination Royal Hillsborough concept in line with the Belfast Region City Deal opportunity, and leveraging this opportunity for the wider tourism product across the Council area
 - the completion of the Council's proposals for Hillsborough Forest
 - the further promotion of Royal Hillsborough and historic Moira packaging, jointly with the commercial sector
 - the ongoing promotion of the Council's Food and Drink offering, including the seasonal delivery of a programme of artisan markets

- using high-quality events balanced across the Council area to drive visitor footfall, connected to packaging opportunities
 - using the Integrated Marketing Campaign to continue to drive awareness and footfall to the area, including Lisburn city centre
 - future proofing the promotion of the local tourism product offering through the use of digital technologies
 - a focus on growing the accommodation sector locally over the five year period
5. It is proposed to commission technical assistance in order to refresh and validate the evidence base for the drafting of the new strategy. It is important for the purposes of attracting and assisting funding applications for LCCC, that the strategy is aligned to the NI Tourism Strategy. It is critical that the new strategy can demonstrate how to assist in the post covid recovery and post Brexit era forecast growth for tourism in NI pertaining to our Council.
6. In addition Members should note that there have been a number of economic returns that have been realised from the existing strategy. This includes additional funding for new and existing businesses. Specifically for Royal Hillsborough, officers are working with Corporate Comms to celebrate the cluster of six new businesses in the village. A separate item on reinvigorating the planned Royal Hillsborough and Wider Tourism Offer to the Palace of Westminster will be brought forward to Members next month.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members consider and approve the technical assistance to assist officers in developing a new 5 year Tourism Strategy (2023 – 2028) for the Council area.

Finance and Resource Implications:

It is estimated that a budget of up to £15,000 will be required, which would be sourced from the existing Economic Development budget estimates for 2022/23 and 2023/24. This will involve stakeholder engagement, facilitation of workshops and data analysis to support Members determining the relative prioritisation of emerging actions.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

No

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

To be progressed.

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1
Screen out
without mitigation

Yes/No

Option 2
Screen out with
mitigation

Yes/No

Option 3
Screen in for
a full EQIA

Yes/No

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been
given to Rural Needs?

Yes

Has a Rural Needs Impact
Assessment (RNIA) template been
completed?

No

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

A full Equality Screening document and Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be completed if approval is granted to progress a new Tourism Strategy for the Council area.

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

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:

Appendices – see links (as indicated in the report) [Decision Time](#) (Summary doc) and [Decision Time](#) (Wider Strategy doc)

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

Yes/No

If Yes, please insert date:



Development Committee

05 January 2023

Report from:

Head of Planning and Capital Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: Proposed amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce validation checklists for planning applications

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The need to improve the quality of planning applications entering the planning system and the potential benefits this could bring in terms of improving processing times, the quality of decisions and in turn the delivery of development on the ground, was highlighted by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in a Review of the Implementation of the Planning Act (NI) 2011.
2. The DfI explain that the review, which was informed by a wide range of stakeholders, recognised the importance of front-loading the planning application process to ensure applications are accompanied with all necessary supporting documentation needed to reach a decision at the point of submission.
3. Validation checklists are part of the planning legislation framework in other jurisdictions, and an important tool in improving the quality and completeness of planning applications coming into the system. The need to bring legislation in Northern Ireland in line with other jurisdictions is recognised.
4. The consultation document further highlights reports on the Northern Ireland Planning System by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) (February 2022), and the Public

Accounts Committee (PAC) (March 2022), both of which reference the need for, and benefits of, the introduction of validation checklists.

5. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-changes-improve-quality-planning-applications>

6. Comments are sought and the closing date for responses is 06th January 2023.

Key Issues

1. The consultation document sets out the current statutory arrangements for making an application provided for by Section 40 of the Planning Act, while the detailed form and content of a planning application is specified in Article 3 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015.
2. It also details the information required to accompany an application for planning permission. This includes a written description of the development; an address or location of the land; the name and address of the applicant; a plan sufficient to identify the land; such other plans and drawings necessary to describe the development; a design/access statement, where required; a certificate of ownership/interest; and any fee.
3. It is noted in the document that the requirements are basic and many applications when submitted do not contain all the information needed to determine them. This can result in further request(s) to the applicant which can subsequently lead to delays in processing with a consequent negative impact on resources and efficiency.
4. The Department acknowledges that everything possible is done to keep improving the timeframes for processing applications and to do so jointly with Councils, statutory consultees and other stakeholders.
5. The validation checklist is intended to provide guidance to applicants about the level and type of information required to be submitted with a planning application. The requirements are intended to be proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal.
6. The proposed amended Order proposed by the Department would enable a planning authority to prepare and publish 'checklists', above the current minimum statutory requirements which would remain unchanged, setting out the additional supporting information/evidence which would be required to accompany different types of planning application.
7. The overall objective of such an amendment is to enhance the quality of applications entering the system, to front-load the decision making process, which should result in better processing times and more efficient consultee responses.
8. Applications will not be considered valid until they comply with the required information contained in the published checklists and, therefore, the clock will not start ticking in terms of meeting statutory processing time targets. Ultimately, the requirement to ensure

applications are accompanied by all necessary information should result in overall improved planning performance.

9. The report highlights the need for the introduction of validation checklists, and there would also require to be a 'validation dispute' mechanism, otherwise the only recourse available to an applicant would be judicial review proceedings. Two examples of dispute resolution processes operated in England and Wales are explained.
10. The Department seeks agreement in the consultation on the need to provide a statutory basis for planning authorities to introduce a Validation Checklist for planning applications and for a 'dispute mechanism' to be available to applicants.
11. The benefits of introducing a validation checklist on a statutory basis are to be welcomed by officers and consistent with a wider duty of continuous improvement. Front loading applications is preferred and a better and more efficient use of time and resources.
12. A dispute mechanism is important to protect the rights of applicants to a fair hearing without the need to consider judicial review proceedings. The example from England is preferred by officers and places the burden on the applicant to demonstrate why the information is not required and the dispute resolution process does always give rise to a formal appeal process.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee considers and agrees:

1. The amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce validation checklists for planning applications submitted to the Council.
2. To support the English based dispute resolution process associated with the proposed validation process.

Finance and Resource Implications:

There are no finance and resource implications.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

No

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

This is a report in relation to an amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce validation checklists for planning applications. EQIA is not required as this is screened separately by the Department.

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	N/A	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	N/A	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	N/A
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	No	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	No
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If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

This is a report in relation to an amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce validation checklists for planning applications. RNIA is not required as this is screened separately by the Department.

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

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:

Consultation document:
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-changes-improve-quality-planning-applications>

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

If Yes, please insert date:

Development Committee

Confidential

5 January 2023

Confidential Report from:

Director of Service Transformation

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

Reason for confidentiality:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when
report will
become available

Redacted
report
available

Following
initiation of
delivery contract.

Never

Item for Decision

TITLE:

Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The Council has been working with the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership in the design and development of an Action Plan in order to secure a letter of offer from the Department for Communities (DfC). The Action Plan was approved by the Regional Labour Market Partnership for Northern Ireland on 28th March 2022.

2. Under Strategic Priority 2, the Council has permission to deliver a suite of six programmes aimed at improving labour market conditions locally.
3. One of the approved employability programmes is the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme.
4. The programme has a budget of £78,768 (100% funded by DfC) and aims to support and connect a minimum of 24 people with disabilities / long-term health issues who are unemployed, back into employment.

Key Issues

1. The Programmes team recently undertook a procurement exercise to appoint a delivery agent to manage and deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability. The tender for the delivery of this programme closed on 16 November 2022.
2. The procurement exercise is now complete, with the consensus panel meeting to agree the scores on 13 December 2022. The panel findings have been approved by the Procurement Department (**see Appendix**).
3. Three tender submissions were received, and [REDACTED] were assessed to have provided the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) at a cost of [REDACTED].
4. Using the MEAT approach as a method of assessment, the selection panel fully evaluated all aspects of the set selection criteria. Whilst not the lowest tender, [REDACTED] scored highly on their quality which clearly evidenced sufficient skills and resources required to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme, thus providing the best value for money.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee considers and agrees the appointment of [REDACTED] to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme based on the evidence presented in the report.

Finance and Resource Implications:

A funding contract for £359,491.57 (£91,506.73 for administration and running costs associated with the LMP from 1 April 2022- 31 March 2023 combined with £267,984.84 for programme costs for the same period) has been received. The project is 100% DfC funded from the programme costs.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? Yes

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

<https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/publications/equality-section-75/equality-screening-reports>

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
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If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

N/A

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

Impact will be neutral – programme will be available across the council area, and provide benefit to both urban and rural residents.

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 2 – Tender evaluation report

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Tender Evaluation

Stage 1 – Mandatory Selection Criteria

In this stage tenderers were required to meet three items of mandatory selection criteria:

- Company Experience
- Insurance Requirement
- Pricing Schedule

The 3 tenders were evaluated on the information that they provided. 1 failed to submit a completed pricing schedule and were consequently eliminated from the competition.

The following is a summary of the tenders eliminated:

[REDACTED]

Stage 2 – Award Criteria

In this stage, the 2 remaining tenders were evaluated on the following:

Quality - 80%

- Understanding of the Project – 5%
- Methodology and Proposed Approach – 25%
- Project Team Experience – 25%
- Management of the Project and Contract – 15%
- Marketing and Recruitment – 10%

Cost – 20%

The remaining 2 tenders were evaluated on the information that they provided. All passed this stage and proceeded to Stage 3.

Company Name	Quality 80%	Price 20%	Submitted Cost	Overall % Score
Supported Employment Solutions/Action Mental Health	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the contract for Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme is awarded to [REDACTED] on the basis that this organisation provided the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT).

Development Committee

Confidential

5 January 2023

Confidential Report from:

Director of Service Transformation

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when report will become available	End of new tender period Est. Sept 2023	Redacted report available	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Item for Decision

TITLE: Business Growth and Entrepreneurship Support Programme Proposals

Background and Key Issues:

NI Business Start Up / Go for it Programme

1. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council leads on behalf of an 11 Council collaborative partnership in the delivery of the NI Business Start-up Programme (NIBSUP), the 'Go for It' Programme (GFI). The Council provides administrative lead on behalf of the 11 Councils, and employs three staff at a cost of circa £130K who are responsible for the delivery of the programme.

2. NIBSUP is currently funded by the EU European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Invest NI and 11 Councils and is currently contracted and resourced to 31st March 2023. This programme makes a major contribution to the annual achievement of each Council's statutory jobs targets.
3. It is anticipated that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - the UK Government's replacement for EU structural funds - will provide substantial financial support in bringing forward a new 11 Council approach to the delivery of enterprise, start-up and growth orientated business development activity going forward.
4. An appropriately developed, negotiated and procured delivery model will not be in place by April 2023, although progress is being made in terms of the roll out of the UKSPF, and officers across the 11 councils are working towards a new programme being in place in the latter half of 2023 into 2024.
5. Since the current GFI programme ceases on 1st April 2023, and there would have been no new programme in place to replace it until later in 2023-2024, the Council agreed in August 2022:
 - to continue to seek to identify new funding streams to replace the ERDF funding and Invest NI funding, and to identify the best way forward for the new programme
 - to fund a one year extension to the current GFI programme contract for the period 2023- 24
 - that the Council would continue its role as lead Council in the delivery of the contract for one further year, 2023-24
 - that if funding does not become available, the range of alternative programme options would be brought to Members for consideration
6. All 11 Councils have now agreed to extend the current GFI programme for a further 6 months (with the option to extend up to a further 12 months) to allow time for the replacement programme to be fully developed and for match funding to be negotiated. Contrary to the position reported in August 2022, Invest NI have recently indicated that there is likely to be an element of additional ERDF finance that will be made available to each council for the GFI contract extension, which will reduce the net cost to the Council for this programme.
7. The exact amounts are not yet confirmed, but initial indications suggest that this could be in the region of £150,000 of residual ERDF across the 11 Councils. Officers are actively engaged in negotiation with the current delivery organisation to agree terms for the contract extension. Should the arrangements for the new programme be established in good time, then a six month extension may be more appropriate (Councils' preference), or there may be elements of the new programme that could run alongside the extension of the current programme.

Correspondence from the Department for the Economy

8. The Department for the Economy has the responsibility of monitoring performance in relation to the NI Business Start-Up Programme against statutory targets.

Correspondence attached () shows the confirmed audit performance for 2021/22, and performance data for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

9. Overall the NI Business Start Programme performance has exceeded its statutory target of 1,625 jobs created with 1,868 jobs created for 2021/22. This is a significant achievement given the setbacks caused by the pandemic, and reflects very well on the collective work of Councils to promote support for business start-ups in their local areas over the period.
10. In relation to Lisburn and Castlereagh, for each of the years highlighted, the statutory jobs target (85) was substantially exceeded. The Council has previously agreed that its annual jobs target should be increased to 116 going forward.

Development of an Entrepreneurship Support Programme to replace NIBSUP

11. In parallel to delivering the Go for It programme, the 11 Councils, led by Belfast City Council, have completed a study into options around what a new successor Start-Up Programme should entail, in order to maximise economic growth across the region.
12. Drawing on research from comparator regions that outperform Northern Ireland's rate of business start-up, and looking at options as to how NI's start up performance could be improved, the 11 Councils have shared resources and produced a comprehensive Outline Business Case (OBC) to inform future proposals.
13. This evidence base will be utilised in support of match funding as a replacement for current EU and Invest NI contributions. sets out the business case for a new Entrepreneurship Support Programme, to be delivered by local government. This business case has regard for, and aligns to, the BRCD as well as other NI growth deals and importantly the Labour Market Partnerships.
14. The proposed business case analysis will take into account the following:
 - Governance and management arrangements ie roles, responsibilities etc across the 11 Councils.
 - Plans for project management, contract management and change management for the procurement and operation of the necessary procurement framework(s). This will also consider key reporting processes and tools.
 - Benefits realisation (benefits monitoring and measurement) plans.
 - Risk management plans.
 - Contingency arrangements and business continuity plan.
 - Plans for post implementation review and evaluation.

Members should note that the complexity of the enhanced programme proposals will require a new resource model to deliver the planned services, but will absorb the existing resources dedicated to the Go For It Programme.

15. DLUCH have stipulated that they wish to have a single point of accountability, a lead Council, for the entirety of the programme. That said, officers are of the view that the emerging risks are too significant for one Council to bear. Consequently it is proposed that

the risk is shared with appropriate back to back legal agreements across the 11 Councils for the service delivery elements of the programme, with a lead applicant for the funding.

16. In order to progress the funding application and the development of any subsequent agreements, the Committee are recommended to give consideration to an “in principle” position to lead on this with no definitive decision being taken until a further report is considered by the Committee. Should Members be minded to support this, officers will work up a clear set of recommendations informed by funding conditions, governance model and risk mitigation.
17. The Investment Plan (**see link in Appendix section**) includes provision for the new Entrepreneurship Support Service to be led by local government with £12m allocated towards the new service, and £5m allocated towards grants for businesses across the 11 Councils for the next two financial years to March 2025. There are no plans confirmed for April 2025 and beyond, which presents a clear risk for local government, and the lead Council in particular.
18. To secure the new funding detailed in the NI Investment Plan, a formal application on behalf of the 11 Councils will have to be issued in the name of the lead Council. It is planned that this application be submitted in February in line with DLUCH guidance.
19. Each of the 11 Councils including Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has contributed to this exercise in the sum of £5,000 to date. However to conclude the work an additional £5,000 apportioned costs is being sought. Given that planning for this type of large scale service provision is never static, it is proposed that an element of flexibility is built into the proposed budget to allow the Economic Development team to continue to respond to emerging research and future project planning needs associated with this new programme up to a maximum of £10,000. This will be met from existing budget estimates.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee consider and agree to:

1. Note the update on the proposed extension of the current NI Business Start-Up Programme.
2. Note the positive correspondence from the Department for the Economy regarding the achievement of the statutory jobs targets.
3. A further budget of up to £10,000 from existing budget estimates to assist in determining the appropriate management and governance structures required for the new Northern Ireland wide service as outlined in the report.
4. An “in principle” decision to take on the lead role Council, with the funding application being submitted in the name of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.
5. Consider a detailed report at a future Committee meeting for a final decision, in terms of the risks associated with the lead Council role and how they can be managed and mitigated.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Up to £10,000 from the Economic Development budget estimates to assist in determining the appropriate management and governance structures required for the new Northern Ireland wide service.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

The initiative is still under development but will require to be screened for both Rural and Equality.

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1
Screen out
without mitigation

Option 2
Screen out with
mitigation

Option 3
Screen in for
a full EQIA

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been
given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact
Assessment (RNIA) template been
completed?

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

The initiative is still under development but will require to be screened for both Rural and Equality

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

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:

[REDACTED]
Appendix 3c - UK SPF NI Investment Plan (link below)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-northern-ireland-investment-plan>

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

[Empty text box for date entry]