

7. DONEGAL TRADE MISSION 17-19 OCTOBER 2018

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the outcomes of the Trade Mission to Donegal on 17 – 19 October 2018.

The report advised that the Trade Mission in Donegal was organised through Udaras na Gaeltachta and included Irish Government, Allied Irish Bank and local agencies and businesses. Over the two days of the Trade Mission an extensive programme was put together details of which were included in the report.

It was advised that during the visit fears of what Brexit would mean for business featured in many discussions as it was explained that 80% of what they produced for the UK market.

It was announced through the Ministerial round table that Udaras would set aside space for any Scottish Company looking to set up a trading office from Ireland depending on the outcome of Brexit.

The report went on to advise that discussions with Udaras and their partners focused on start-ups, they were particularly interested in how West Lothian Council promote the service and provide continued support as they go through the growth stages.

The report concluded that this was a good start to building relationships in Donegal through the enterprise agency Udaras na Gaeltachta, which could be built on to share best practice to support local communities.

The Ministerial support from the Irish and Scottish Governments strengthened the relationship and through the commitment of shared office space would allow for ongoing collaborative work.

Work would continue with West Lothian Chamber of Commerce to support the collaboration and ensure benefits for West Lothian businesses.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Agree to the ongoing links with Donegal through Economic Development

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.