

1718 Emigration Working Group Programme & Legacy Monument	11th December 2018
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Cultural Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	Unknown

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the work of the 1718 Migration Working Group and to make recommendations regarding a legacy monument / land markers as potential projects.

Background

Following a Notice of Motion to Council in August 2017 with regard to the three hundredth anniversary of the emigration of over 700 Presbyterians from the Bann Valley to Boston in 1718, Council approved the establishment of a 1718 Emigration Working Group.

Role of the Working Group

The purpose of the group was to act as an advisory group, supporting the development of a proposed programme of activity that takes cognisance of the Notion of Motion and its amendments to recognise the three hundred year anniversary of the emigration from the Bann Valley to America. The specific remit includes:

- To identify resource requirements to deliver an agreed programme of activity;
- To share best practice in terms of existing initiatives and approaches;
- To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort.

Programme Update

Throughout 2018, Council's Museum Service, community and cultural groups, and church organisations have successfully delivered a varied programme of activities to commemorate the anniversary. These have included exhibitions, festivals, talks, tours, trails, conferences, workshops, publications and open days. Details of all the programme activities and organisers are included in **Annex A**.

Permanent Monument or Land markers

The Notice of Motion asked that Council consider providing a legacy to the 1718 Emigration by way of a permanent monument or land markers. In October 2018 The Ulster Scots Agency (USA) identified a potential funding source through the Department for Communities (DfC) for a monument, subject to application and an Outline Business Case for a maximum of total project value of £50,000, match funded by Council to the value of £25,000.

Additional requirements for Council would include management of the installation process, including the provision of a site, site works and seeking the necessary consents, with a substantial proportion completed and spent by 31st March 2019. In addition, the USA felt it would strengthen the business case should the monument be sited in Portrush where they feel it would be seen by the many tourists in the area during The 148th Open in July.

The USA also proposed to bid separately for an additional £25,000 to provide up to five land markers. No additional funding from Council would be required for this element of the project.

Having discussed this proposal from the USA, the working group agreed that the timescale imposed (31st March 2019), would be insufficient to carry out the necessary project activities, i.e. a community and other relevant stakeholder consultation, commission an artist, seek planning permission and completion of the Equality Screening Process. The group was also in agreement that should funding be available, the monument should be sited/located at an agreed site in the Bann Valley area which has more relevance and meaning to the 1718 migration.

The group were in favour of pursuing funding through USA for the land markers as it was felt that these could be delivered within the timescale. It also agreed that the monument should continue to be a long-term goal and that it should begin the process of consultation and seeking agreement on the location should resources become available in the future.

Recommendation

Due to the time constraints, Council should not pursue DfC funding through the Ulster Scots Agency for a 1718 monument at this stage but should continue to pursue this as a long-term goal

That Council should support the Ulster Scots Agency's bid to seek funding from DfC for the provision of land markers at key 1718 sites.

ANNEX A

1718 What's On Programme commemorating the 1718 Bann Valley Migration.

Date	Organiser	Event
Ongoing	Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society	Townland Database & DNA Project
17 April	Scotti Rooms	Talk: 1718 and the Petition to Governor Shute
May – August	Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society	Genealogy Advice
11 May – 20 June	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services	Causeway 1718: Society in Transition exhibition
12 May	Garvagh Museum	1718: Penal Laws, Poverty and Migration conference
22 May	Scotti Rooms	Talk: Tha Lee'in
26 May	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	Living history tour and service in Agivey Old Church
20 – 24 June	First Presbyterian Church Dunboe	In Search of a New World exhibition
23 June	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	Open day in Aghadowey area and driving tour
24 June	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Anniversary Service
26 June	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Talk: 1718 - The Journey Begins
27 June	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Talk: 1718 Exodus - Local Connections and Consequences
28 June	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Talk: The 1718 Emigration from East Londonderry to New Hampshire
28-29 June	Ulster University	Ulster 1718: Culture, Family & Space conference
29 June – 25 August	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services	Causeway 1718: Society in Transition exhibition
July – August	Aghadowey Presbyterian Church	Tours of church, halls and exhibitions
21 July	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	Aghadowey area open day
4 August	Scotti Rooms	Bus tour of 1718 heritage trail
14-18 August	Maine Ulster Scots Project	Conference
18 August	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	Aghadowey area open day
5-12 September	Ulster historical Foundation	Tracing ancestors course
15 September	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	Aghadowey area open day
20 September	Kilrea Ulster Scots Group	Commemoration event
24 November	Aghadowey Rural Kinship	McGregor's Rant Thanksgiving festival