

Title of Report:	Findings from Concept Development and Completion of Economic Appraisal for Mountsandel Experience
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th October 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets. Promote our tourist offering locally and internationally Prosperity, Health & Wellbeing and Cohesive Community
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£29,500 £15,000 plus VAT grant aided from SIB March 2017
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 9 Oct 2018
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 2 Jan 2019
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to the Leisure and Development Committee the findings from work carried out to advance the Mountsandel experience concept. Members will receive a presentation from the appointed consultants.

2.0 Background

In October 2016 Council Officers presented an internally produced document that looked at an assessment of potential future use of Mountsandel Wood and the surrounding public amenity on both banks of the River Bann.

The study area included all of Mountsandel Wood on the eastern side of the River Bann and from the Cutts through Somerset, Riverside Park to Christie Park on the western bank.

2.1 Key Potential Opportunities

The Blueprint Document for Mountsandel identified key areas for investigation that, if realised, could be beneficial for the area. These include:

- Improved public realm facilities and natural amenity for local residents and visitors.
- An educational resource based on the historical significance of the site.
- Development of infrastructure, to drive the visitor economy and to realise regeneration for the area.

From the presented blueprint, Council agreed to investigate further the development opportunities for the study area. These included:

- Options for development concept.
- Carry out stakeholder consultation.
- Complete an Economic Appraisal for identified options.

Doran Consultants and partners Parkhood Design and Cavanagh Kelly, were awarded the contract for services, with key outputs being advancement of development options presented in the Council's Blueprint document and the completion of an Economic Appraisal.