

Title of Report:	Update on activities and funding of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th October 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£35,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the work of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) that has taken place over the past 12 month period, in conjunction with Council, and to outline potential partnership arrangements for delivery of services for 2019-2020.

2.0 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council funded Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) for the period of 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019. The total amount of funding was £35,000, subject to the delivery of outputs agreed by Council in the August 2018 L&D Report. In addition, the CCGHT was to deliver outstanding work that should have been completed prior to March 2018.

The agreed outcomes for April 2018 to March 2019 are detailed below:

- Development phase of Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme application to advance a suite of projects allowing for a second stage submission to National Lottery Heritage Fund unlocking a further £3.4 million of funding into the area.
- Development of a beach management guide for custodians and key stakeholders, including mechanism for stakeholder engagement.
- Series of outdoor and heritage events including mountain biking, walking, stargazing, angling, bird watching, wild flowers, geology, built heritage developed, promoted and delivered.
- Detailed market analysis of the mountain bike market with segmented niches. Completion of a report outlining viability and development options for the mountain bike sector within the Council area.
- Review of the AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB
- Support the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and engagement with 20 + farmers/landowners in resilient landscapes programme.

2.1 Outstanding Activities not completed from 2017/2018 year

In the August 2018 report, Officers detailed that activities to be completed by the CC&GHT were outstanding from the 2017/2018 year. This work involved the development of the Causeway Coast and Glens' geo-diversity opportunities, through hosting a conference inviting delegates from the education sector, specialist tour operators and local schools with a view to raising awareness of the geology of the area and promoting inbound travel from niche markets and universities. It was agreed that an extension would be given for the completion of this work until the end of November 2018, and if not completed then the allocation of £10,000 for this activity would be deducted from the funding awarded in the 2018/2019 year. This activity has not been completed and therefore £10,000 has been withheld from the 2018/2019 year.

The main focus of CCGHT continues to be based around the development and implementation of a number of environmental and landscape management plans including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Binevenagh, the Causeway Coast and the Antrim Coast and Glens. CC&GHT also has a role working on a regional basis to develop awareness of environmental management and to promote sustainable tourism. Council's financial support plays an important role in sustaining the CC&GHT and any commitment for funding will be

subject to funding being made available from NIEA, Tourism NI and Mid and East Antrim, who have all made an allowance for financial contribution for agreed services as in previous years.

Any financial transaction by way of funding will be based on a single tender action for services that the CC&GHT can provide as specialists in this area of work. The activities that will complement the Council's Coast and Countryside remit are detailed in **Annex A**.

3.0 Proposals

Council Officers have developed an activity plan with identified outputs for the current financial year 2019/2020 detailed in **Annex A**. This builds on the existing work identified by Council's Coast and Countryside team for ongoing activity that is necessary with respect to AONB landscape management and the promotion of sustainable development for the area. The work aligns with Council's Destination Management Strategy and the CC&GHT's implementation plans. Officers would recommend a contribution of £35k to support the CC&GHT's activities within this financial year, subject to successful completion of the outputs set out in **Annex A**.

4.0 Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee are asked to consider and approve Council funding for the CC&GHT for services proposed within Annex A. This is subject to staged payments and documented satisfactory delivery of the outputs as detailed in Annex A.

CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2019/2020

Proposed service activities for Council

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
		1	2	3	4			
Identify potential ways to reduce vehicular congestion on the Causeway Coastal Route (CCR) by developing sustainable transport options	<p>Assist the Council's Destination Management team by reviewing the recently drafted Causeway Coastal Route and Area Study.</p> <p>Assess current provision for passenger transport along CCR and identify ways to improve a sustainable transport approach along this corridor.</p>				●	<p>Report detailing the 'as is' provision. Examples of best practice.</p> <p>Potential interventions for delivery of a sustainable transport connection along CCR.</p> <p>Constraints on future delivery and an assessment on viability with cost benefit analysis.</p>	Sustainable prosperity	£9,000
Development of Causeway Coast and Glen's areas geo-diversity as a key opportunity for the development of tourism businesses, visitor experience, education and community engagement.	<p>Enhanced geo-diversity experience in the area targeting specialist groups and in particular schools and universities.</p> <p>Host a conference inviting delegates from the education sector, specialist tour operators, and local schools to raise awareness of the geology sites of significance and promote inbound travel from niche markets and universities.</p> <p>Completion of electronic brochure selling the area's geological unique interest to</p>			●		<p>Conference held in area with a minimum of 50 delegates from outside NI.</p> <p>Promotion of geological experience and direct expenditure within the economy.</p>		£10,000

ANNEX A

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
		1	2	3	4			
	delegates that is transferable to other media.							
Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.	<p>Series of outdoor and heritage events to include mountain biking, walking, stargazing, angling, bird watching, wild flowers, geology, built heritage developed, promoted and delivered.</p> <p>New opportunities for providers to further develop outdoor and heritage activities in the future is developed through the process.</p> <p>Partners' events are promoted.</p> <p>New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access and learn about the countryside.</p>			● ●	<p>At least 15 events organised.</p> <p>At least 250 participants.</p> <p>New partners approached and supported.</p> <p>Event programme to be finalised by Feb 2020, published and promoted through visitor information points and online (including social media).</p> <p>Organisation of 1 archaeology experience day opened to visitors, local tourism providers and community groups.</p> <p>Development of Heritage guiding across the council area.</p>	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity.	£3,437 Funded by Council. Funding also from other Partners.	
Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh	With partners, implement actions from reviewed AONB Management Plans			● ●	<p>Report to a Committee in Council detailing the achievements of the AONB Management Plans and provide an indicative plan as to how CCGHT envisages the next 10</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,900	

ANNEX A

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
		1	2	3	4			
AONB and Causeway Coast AONB						years management with predicted outputs/success indicator.		
<p>Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related projects</p> <p>Develop landowner engagement programme to encourage farming practices for positive management of designated landscapes</p> <p>Support conservation of designated sites in CCGBC</p> <p>Adopt a priority species – Otter</p> <p>Develop a new environmentally-focussed volunteering programme</p>	<p>Support the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Increased awareness of value of landowners as custodians of landscape and appropriate management techniques recognised.</p> <p>Increased awareness of designated sites</p> <p>Increased knowledge and understanding of issue relating to priority species.</p> <p>Improved habitats and access at key sites</p>					<p>Promotion of ‘Don’t Mow Let It Grow’ and other biodiversity projects.</p> <p>8 landowners engaged per year</p> <p>1 significant event per year to share and promote best practice</p> <p>Development of literature and on-line content. Engagement with 20 organisations</p> <p>Programme in place 40 volunteers engaged</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£9,663 from Council. Additional funding from other partners.