

Title of Report:	Development Agreement – Village Renewal Programme
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18th February 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	Promoting the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit
Lead Officer	Head of Service, Prosperity and Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	To be agreed
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	No staff cost

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Not applicable

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to gain approval from Members to enter into an agreement with Cushendall Development Group for the maintenance of the townland signage that is their proposed project within the village renewal programme.

2.0 Background

In June 2016, the Leisure and Development Committee agreed to the match funding of two programmes within the RDP process – Basic Services, and Village Renewal.

Over the period of March to September 2018, Venture i Consultants worked with 22 villages who submitted expressions of interest to work up these Village Plans. Between then and now, council staff have been working to define the exact projects, based on the eligibility criteria, time available to the programme and size and scale of ideas.

The funding is held by the Local Action Group which administers the Rural Development Programme, while Council is the sole applicant to them for the Village Renewal project. Council then applies for funding to the LAG, the LAG agrees these projects, and Council – through its capital team – implements the individual actions. The project involving 22 villages has ultimately yielded a wide and varied range of actions.

The townland signage project in Cushendall is to place markers within the village and surrounding area identifying the townlands, preserving local heritage for future generations. The development agreement outlines that Council shall be under no obligation to, nor agree to maintain, repair, replace, or renew the signage at any time during the continuance of the agreement or otherwise, avoiding any future costs to Council. The Cushendall Development Group have agreed to cover maintenance costs going forward.

This agreement has been drafted with the assistance and input of Council solicitors.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee grants permission to enter into the agreement with the Cushendall Development Group.