

Title of Report:	Strategic Direct Investment to Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to support healthy lifestyle choices for all citizens; Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough.
Lead Officer	Richard Baker

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£15k
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members a strategic direct investment in the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation.

2.0 Background

On Tuesday 18 May 2021 the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation (HGLF) made a presentation to Council's Leisure & Development Committee, outlining a capital legacy project for the late Harry Gregg. Inspired by the OnSide Youth Zone Model in England the project concept is for a Coleraine Youth Sport Zone which they estimate will require capital investment of £6 - £10million.

The project was presented in 3 development stages:

Stage 1 – Feasibility Study. This stage involves early design options, a review of possible project sites, a community survey and a visit to OnSide Youth Zones in the North West area of England. This stage is estimated to cost £15,000, will establish the principle of the project and seeks to secure buy in from external funding bodies.

Stage 2 – Pre-Application Notification (PAN) process. This stage is estimated to cost £5,000 and will enable the HGLF to make a formal planning application.

Stage 3 – Formal Planning Application. This stage involves full design, environmental studies, development of a full business case, legal advice and support. This stage is estimated to cost £22,000.

In response to the presentation, Members requested that officers bring a report to June L&D Committee with provision for Council to consider making an investment in the project.

3.0 Proposal

The Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation propose to conduct a feasibility study which will include:

- Developing a range of site options including Coleraine Town Centre and University sites.
- Identify the project components of the Youth Sports Zone.
- Management and governance options.
- Project funding strategy.
- Project running costs and income strategy.
- Identifying partners with defined roles and responsibilities.
- Technical assessment of the project (planning, costs, risks).

4.0 Options

Option 1: Do nothing – no investment is made in the project on the basis that this request for funding does not align to any existing grant programme, process or procedure.

Option 2: Develop a new technical support grant programme open to a range of applicants – this would require a significant budget to be set aside which has not been considered in any of the L&D budgets for this year. This option is not feasible in the 21/22 financial year.

Option 3: A direct strategic investment – the objectives of the Foundation should be strategically aligned to Council and the outputs/outcomes must also be aligned to Council strategies.

Project alignment to the Community Plan:

The outputs to be delivered by the Harry Gregg capital legacy project are aligned to the three main population outcomes in the Community Plan:

- A healthy safe community.
- A sustainable accessible environment.
- A thriving economy.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan has a number of intermediate outcomes that are most relevant. The first four fall under “A Healthy Safe Community” and Outcome 9 under “A Thriving Economy:”

Outcome 1:

- All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens area benefit from improved physical health and mental well-being.

Outcome 2:

- Our children and young people will have the very best start in life.

Outcome 3:

- All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently and access support services when they need them.

Outcome 5:

- The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

Outcome 9:

- The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee considers the options outlined in section 4.0:

Option 1: Do nothing.

Option 2: Develop a new technical support grant programme.

Option 3: Direct Strategic Investment of £15,000 in the Stage 1 feasibility study for the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation. Funding for Stages 2 & 3 (i.e. the Planning Process) being subject to Council’s consideration of the outputs recommended by the feasibility study.

Note that the separation of the stages and applying a ‘go / no go’ point generally aligns to Council’s Capital Project Management Process.