

Title of Report:	Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting	21 September 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them.
Lead Officer	Interim Head of Prosperity & Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	c£1.75m – 100% DfC Funding
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	Not applicable
Staffing Costs	Existing staff

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
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/ Background

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed into Stage 1 of the Capital Projects Management Process and appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) for the Ballymoney Town Centre Environmental Improvement Scheme.

2.0 Background

Following a review of the existing Ballymoney Town Centre Masterplan in December 2020, the Department for Communities (DfC) identified the need for:

‘Comprehensive public realm improvements focused on Main Street, High Street, Charlotte Street and Church Street. Interventions are required to address road safety concerns on Charlotte Street as well as improving movement and linkages between main street and western and eastern quarters, creating a safe and welcoming environment for pedestrians’.

This review supports the outcomes of meetings between Council officers and local Councillors in 2016 and 2017 where it was recommended that the scope of any public realm project should include the High Street area of the town centre together with adjacent streets.

To address these issues, DfC have allocated funding of c£1.75m for an Environmental Improvement Scheme in Ballymoney town centre in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

DfC officers have advised that there will be funding assistance of 100% of eligible costs subject to a positive economic approval, a satisfactory consultation process and approval for the scheme from Council. In the unlikely event of an overspend on the scheme Council will have to contribute to this cost but both a realistic optimism bias and strong project management of the scheme will mitigate against this risk.

3.0 Current Position

DfC requires Council to commission an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) and proceed with completing Stage 1 activities by March 2022 with both a high level concept design and corresponding economic appraisal.

DfC will fund the costs ICT associated with the Stage 1 activities. It is anticipated construction will begin in late 2022 subject to funding and Council approval. The estimated cost of the Stage 1 work to DfC is c£175k. This amount can be offset against the total project funding requirement.

4.0 Next Steps

Subject to Council approval, Stage 1 will commence by engaging Council’s Capital Team to appoint an ICT.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the commencement of the Ballymoney Town Centre EIS with the appointment of an ICT to complete the Stage 1 capital works activities during 2021/22.