

Title of Report:	Update on activities and funding request for Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
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:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	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 for the financial period 2021-2022 and seek approval for the support of the ongoing work of CCGHT during the current financial year 2022-2023.

2.0 Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council funded Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) for the period of 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022. The total amount of funding awarded was £35,000. This was awarded subject to the delivery of four key activity areas:

- Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.
- Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB.
- Administration of the Giant's Causeway & Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Steering Group and Action Plan and assessing the feasibility of the development of a Geopark.
- Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity and outdoor recreation related projects, engagement with landowners and establishing a volunteer programme.

The outputs from the 2021/22 work plan (**contained in Annex B**) were reviewed by the Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team. It has been confirmed that these outputs were completed as agreed, except for one requested activity relating to a review of the Causeway Coast Way Walking Experience. This activity is currently being delivered upon. Council Officers are recommending that this should be approved into any further funding arrangement.

The 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. CCGHT also has a role working on a regional basis to develop awareness of environmental management and to promote sustainable tourism.

Council's Coast and Countryside remit continues to be complimented by the activities provided by CCGHT. In addition, any financial transaction will be based on a single tender action for services that only the CCGHT can provide as specialists in this area of work. These services include the following:

- Developing sustainable and effective partnerships such as the World Heritage Site Steering Group and implementation of the new World Heritage Site plan for Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS.
- Key partner in the £4.5 million EU LIFE Rathlin project which focuses on natural heritage and community.
- Delivering protected area management provision through action plans for Antrim Coast & Glens, Binevenagh and Causeway Coast AONBs.
- Ensuring best practice in sustainable development principles delivered through the AONB action plans and assessing the development potential of a Co. Antrim Geopark.
- Undertake accessibility audits at nine key outdoor sites to better facilitate a variety of mobility and access needs for residents and visitors.

- Deliver sustainable, efficient, and effective core activity/management for CCGHT.
- Facilitating the delivery of a range of projects through the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme £3.4 million investment in the project area.
- Development of a digital map to promote sustainable tourism on Rathlin Island.
- Undertaking community engagement as part of the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership, with respect to outdoor recreation and heritage.

Council's financial support continues to play a vital role in sustaining CCGHT. Council's commitment will be subject to funding 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.

3.0 Update on proposals

CCGHT, in consultation with Council officers, have developed an activity plan with identified outputs for the current financial year 2022/2023 which is provided in **Annex A**. This builds on the existing work identified by Council and CCGHT, ongoing activity that is necessary with respect to AONB and World Heritage Site planning and reflects work identified within CCGHT's operational plan.

In addition, the work plan reflects new activity which is considered appropriate to landscape management and the development of further outdoor recreation product, contributing to the visitor experience.

This activity plan continues to set the direction of travel by CCGHT that will deliver landscape management and further compliment the Coast & Countryside and wider Tourism & Recreation remit.

An additional action to undertake a review of the wider walking product with the Borough was identified in the 2020/2021 plan. This was response to the increased level of interest in outdoor recreation, especially walking. This piece of work is progressing with an extensive initial audit of signage and trailheads along the Causeway Coast Way/Causeway Coastal Route having been completed.

4.0 Options

As work progresses on the delivery of the 2022/23 work plan, staff from Coast & Countryside are discussing potential actions and programming for the 2023/2024 work plan. This allows for actions to be included in CCGHT's operational plan and to ensure continued complementarity of work which Council wishes to be undertaken.

This work plan will be brought to committee for members' consideration early in 2023 with a view to providing sustained financial support to CCGHT and the actions it delivers on behalf of Council for the period 2023/2024.

Officers would suggest that the CCGHT is invited to Council to present on ongoing and proposed work, that is being completed on behalf of, and in partnership with Council.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council approval of funding to CCGHT for services being undertaken within the work plan at **Annex A** (22/23 Financial Year) which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

ANNEX A CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2022/2023

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	Activity completed to date
Implementation of the World Heritage Site plan	Maintain UNESCO World Heritage Site status at a key landscape feature and visitor attraction Contributes to Causeway Coast Way, Ulster Way and International Appalachian Trail experience.	●	●	●	●	Implementation of targets from WHS plan 3x WHS Meetings per year Periodic Reporting	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000	2 X WHS meetings held in May and October Action plan delivery update available early 2023. Geohazards workshops being held in November Public coffee morning in November – new approach to engagement Periodic Reporting – ongoing. Workshops due Jan 2023.
Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB	With partners, implement actions from reviewed AONB Management Plans	●	●	●	●	2x AONB meetings per year per AONB Combined AONB meeting with training element for all	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£6,000	Regular meetings held as per schedule. Ongoing delivery of action plans for each

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
					Complete monitoring and communication tasks for each AONB Review of membership and focus of the 3 AONBs			AONB. Update available March 2023.
Continue with the development of the potential Co. Antrim Geopark.	Present findings of assessment to inform key partners of potential benefits of geopark status and resource implications required to deliver this. This report will include both positive and potentially negative impacts that might arise from the implementation of this status. Seminars and information sources will be required to share with key stakeholders regarding the geopark agenda.		●	●	● Overall Activity Plan/Road map developed including proposals for governance. Raising awareness via WG and CCGHT media Participation in UK and ROI Geopark meetings to gain experience/best practice	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Driving the Visitor Economy	£5,000	2 x Geopark Meetings Held Roadmap agreed by March 2023 Attendance at GB and Ireland Geopark Fora
Support conservation of designated sites in the CCGBC area - especially of natural beauty or amenities and wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena through	Conservation of designated sites Biodiversity Enhancement Reducing invasive species			●	● Cregagh Wood Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restoration of path throughout Cregagh woods – removal of overgrowth, 	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£5,000	Cregagh Woods- path work completed Oct/Nov. Carving of owl installed along path. 4 events completed – Nature walk,

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
<p>delivering and promoting training and events to share information on best practice, provide training on identification of species and habitats, measures to enhance biodiversity, practical skills, tackling invasive species etc.</p>						<p>fallen trees, resetting mats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 x volunteer event. ● Improved interpretation via public voted natural art (e.g. wood carving or willow sculpture). ● 4 x nature or cultural events <p>Agnew's Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivery of biodiversity project ● 3 x habitat study ● 2 x public event 			<p>Glens Storytelling woodland event, Kids woodland art event, Heritage walk</p> <p>Agnew's Field – 3 habitat surveys complete with complementary public signage. Family pollinator and Art of your landscape events held in August.</p>

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to CCGBC by December 2022 			Summary report to be submitted in December.
Support renewal of Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Improved biodiversity in the CCGBC area	X	X	X	X	<p>Participation in biodiversity projects in the CCGBC area that contribute towards the intended outcomes of an emerging LBAP</p> <p>Support LIFE+ LifeRaft Project</p> <p>Undertaking feral goose management project on Rathlin Island.</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,000	<p>LIFE RAFT – ongoing support to RDCA and RSPB.</p> <p>LIFE RAFT steering group meetings 07/06/22, 19/09/22 and 20/10/22, participate, make decisions, shape project.</p> <p>Geese – follow-up training day with landowners arranged.</p> <p>Negotiations with landowners on new approach, developing management programme to be rolled out over winter 2022/23.</p>

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date	
Reduce Marine & Terrestrial Litter	Reduced litter and improved understanding of impacts of litter		x	x	x	3 x litter picks 1 x beach clean 6 x marine litter events	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,000	Events held at Ballintoy and Bushmills
Coins in the Causeway	Research into the impact of coins lodged in Causeway Stones by visitors to the WHS. Recommendations to address issue. This might include on site work.		x	x	x	To be determined	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	N/A	Work being undertaken with The National Trust
Improving environment around the WHS – Farm resilience plans for DLS	Undertaking resilient farming surveys and development of farm plans in the distinctive setting of the WHS			x	x	5-6 surveys/farm plans completed	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,000	Procurement of qualified consultant.
Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.	Series of outdoor and heritage events developed, promoted and delivered. Partners' events are promoted. New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access		x	x	x	At least 10 events organised across AC&G and Causeway Coast AONBs. At least 300 participants. New partners approached and supported.	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity	£5,000	Number of events: 14 Number of participants: 331 Briefing doc with details will be supplied to C+C Dec 22.

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
	and learn about the countryside.					Events to be published and promoted digitally.			All events promoted digitally.
Northword project	3 businesses supported with bespoke training Launch event Resources created			x	x	Development of promotional products for 3 businesses 3 Day story/showcase event at Flowerfield Arts Centre Promotion of NorthWord brand	Driving the Visitor Economy	£3,000	Project completed. CCGBC business: New images, stands, pop-ups and video for each business. Bespoke training on market reach, social media for businesses and developing your story. Launch event at Flowerfield in June with public participation workshops. Northword brand promoted via social

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
									media, newsletter, events and the lead partner efforts.
Creation of Rathlin Digital Map	Development of a Digital Map to promote sustainable tourism on Rathlin Island		X	X		On-line interactive map created and published	Driving the Visitor Economy Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity	£2,000	Digital map complete https://ccght.org/interactive-maps/
								Total: £35,000	

ANNEX B CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2021/2022

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	Activity completed to date
Implementation of the World Heritage Site plan	Maintain UNESCO World Heritage Site status at a key landscape feature and visitor attraction Contributes to Causeway Coast Way, Ulster Way and International Appalachian Trail experience.	●	●	●	●	Implementation of targets from WHS plan Raise awareness of walking product linking key visitor sites 3x WHS Meetings per year	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000	2 X WHS meetings held New action plan launched
Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB	With partners, implement actions from reviewed AONB Management Plans	●	●	●	●	2x AONB meetings per year per AONB Combined AONB meeting with training element for all Complete monitoring and communication tasks for each AONB Review of membership and focus of the 3 AONBs	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£6,000	Regular meetings held as per schedule. New 10 year action plan for Antrim Coast & Glens complete

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
									and launched.
Continue with the development of the potential Co. Antrim Geopark.	<p>Present findings of assessment to inform key partners of potential benefits of geopark status and resource implications required to deliver this. This report will include both positive and potentially negative impacts that might arise from the implementation of this status.</p> <p>Seminars and information sources will be required to share with key stakeholders regarding the geopark agenda.</p>		●	●	●	<p>Working Group establish - TOR 4 meetings per year</p> <p>Steering Group established – TOR</p> <p>Overall Activity Plan/Road map developed</p> <p>Raising awareness via WG and CCGHT media</p> <p>Initial general public raising awareness.</p> <p>Participation in UK and ROI Geopark meetings to gain experience/best practice</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£5,000	On target

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
<p>Causeway Coast Way (CCW) Walking Experience</p> <p>Identify best Practice for signposting to long distance walking trails from car tourism routes across Europe.</p> <p>Identify key locations along the CCR whereby signposting can be provided to access points</p>	<p>This project is to raise awareness and mark the many access points to the CCW walking experience from the CCR touring route.</p> <p>Procure a design house for an integrated design to maximise the visual connection of the current CCW branding that fits with DfI requirements for trail signposting off the CCR.</p>			●	<p>Provide report on best practice of long-distance trails.</p> <p>Report to cover local issues including land ownership, signage type, statutory requirements and costs for manufacture and installation.</p> <p>2 seminars to consult on benefits of improving the CCR for community and business sectors.</p> <p>Provide tender documentation for the appointment of design house for trail signage design and specification.</p>	<p>Access to the countryside through sustainable and healthy transportation.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p> <p>Driving the Visitor Economy</p>	<p>£8,000 – accrual from 2020-21 due to late agreement of 2020-21 SLA.</p>	<p>Work progressed.</p>
<p>Development of user friendly interfaces for access and the promotion of a range of walking experiences.</p>	<p>Working jointly with Council Officers this project will identify and prioritise, as per market demand, short, medium and longer walking opportunities within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. The</p>				<p>Enhanced quality of visitor experience</p> <p>Provision of links from settlements/attractions to trails.</p>	<p>Access to the countryside through sustainable and healthy transportation.</p>	<p>£8,000</p>	<p>Work progressed</p>

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
	<p>CCGHT will be responsible for methodology, design templates, identification of platforms including social media and research market demand. In addition they will identify and provide route description, mapping and associated narrative for 20 walks under 4 miles, 10 walks between 4 and 10 miles and 5 walks greater than 10 miles.</p> <p>CCGHT are also asked to develop an outline strategic approach to the development of community/core path networks to service resident and visitor alike.</p>					<p>Further promotion of opportunities for physical and mental well-being.</p> <p>Contribute to future blueprint for trail enhanced trail provision.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p> <p>Driving the Visitor Economy</p>		
Reduce Marine & Terrestrial Litter	Reduced litter and improved understanding of impacts of litter			●	●	<p>3 beach clean events</p> <p>3 marine litter event</p> <p>*May be impacted by COVID situation</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,000	Number of events complete

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
<p>Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.</p>	<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 10 events organised in AC&G and Causeway Coast AONBs.</p> <p>At least 300 participants.</p> <p>New partners approached and supported.</p> <p>Event programme to be published and promoted in digital format and promoted online (including social media). Events to be planned considering social distancing and COVID issues and individual events will be subject to change and alteration at short notice.</p> <p>Events to be a combination of virtual and face-to-face</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>In excess of 10 events held.</p>

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Support conservation of designated sites in the CCGBC area - especially of natural beauty or amenities and wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena through delivering and promoting training and events to share information on best practice, provide training on identification of species and habitats, measures to enhance biodiversity, practical skills, tackling invasive species etc.	Conservation of designated sites Biodiversity Enhancement Reducing invasive species			●	●	Training on identification and recording (working with CEDaR as they are appropriate body) Identify and encourage non-eco schools in CCAONB to join scheme via an environmental event Community GIS mapping event	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£1,500	Some completion. Work on target.
Support renewal of Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Improved biodiversity in the CCGBC area	X	X	X	X	Participation in biodiversity projects in the CCGBC area that contribute towards the intended outcomes of an emerging LBAP Support for the LIFE+ LifeRaft Project Undertaking feral goose management project on Rathlin Island	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£1,500	Work on target.

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Investigate the requirement for sensitive interpretation at Cushendall Seafront; including 3 interpretation panels featuring geology of the area, linkages with the Scottish Islands and the biodiversity of the area	To improve the quality of the CCR and the visitor experience offering in Cushendall.		X		Provide design, graphics and copy of 3 A2 interpretative panels in consultation with Council officers	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000 (this does not include manufacture and installation of the panels) – accrual from 2020-21 due to COVID restrictions	Work complete. Final sign off required.