

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Support for Causeway Coast &amp; Glens Heritage Trust</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 September 2023
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision
<b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b>	NO

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
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

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£35,000 p/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>YES/NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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 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 2022-2023 and seek approval for the support of the ongoing work of CCGHT for a three-year period from 2023 to 2026.**

## **2.0 Background**

At the February 2023 Leisure & Development Committee meeting it was recommended that Council approve funding to CCGHT for services being undertaken within the 2022 - 2023 work plan subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed and that Council looks at increasing funding in line with inflation in the next financial year (24/25).

Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team reviewed the 2022-23 work plan and can confirm that these outputs were completed as agreed, attached at **Annex A**.

The focus of CCGHT continues to be based around the development and implementation of environmental and landscape management plans for the three 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.

Any agreement to provide financial support will be based on a single tender action for services that only 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.
- 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.
- Undertaking community engagement as part of the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership, with respect to outdoor recreation and heritage.

## **3.0 Update on proposals**

To adopt a more efficient and sustainable approach, it is recommended that Council agrees to provide appropriate funding for CCGHT for a three-year period from 2023 – 2026. This will allow for further project work to be undertaken that will compliment the wider Tourism & Recreation remit, especially in the context of Destination Management. Additionally, a three-year agreement will allow for more efficient long-term planning for the Trust which will in turn benefit Council through the services delivered on its behalf. Members will recall that at the February 2023 meeting of Leisure and Development Committee it was recommended that funding should be increased in line with inflation from 2024 -2025.

CCGHT, in consultation with Council officers, have developed an activity plan with identified outputs for the three-year period 2023 to 2026 which is provided in **Annex B**. 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 a further development the plan includes research into Community Tourism which will link directly to community engagement programme in the context of the Destination Management Plan.

A three-year agreement will be subject to regular review and be flexible to incorporate additional project work where necessary or appropriate.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of funding of £35k p/a to CCGHT for services being undertaken within the work plan at Annex B (for the period 2023 - 2026) 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	<p>Maintain UNESCO World Heritage Site status at a key landscape feature and visitor attraction</p> <p>Contributes to Causeway Coast Way, Ulster Way and International Appalachian Trail experience.</p>	●	●	●	●	<p>Implementation of targets from WHS plan</p> <p>3x WHS Meetings per year</p> <p>Periodic Reporting</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000	<p>2 X WHS meetings held in May and October</p> <p>Action plan delivery update available early 2023.</p> <p>Geohazards workshops being held in November</p> <p>Public coffee morning in November – new approach to engagement</p> <p>Periodic Reporting – ongoing. Workshops due Jan 2023.</p>
Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens	With partners, implement actions from reviewed AONB Management Plans	●	●	●	●	<p>2x AONB meetings per year per AONB</p> <p>Combined AONB</p>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£6,000	Regular meetings held as per schedule.

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date	
AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB					meeting with training element for all Complete monitoring and communication tasks for each AONB  Review of membership and focus of the 3 AONBs			Ongoing delivery of action plans for each 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	Conservation of designated sites Biodiversity Enhancement Reducing invasive species			●	●	Cregagh Wood Improvements  ● Restoration of path throughout	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£5,000	Cregagh Woods- path work completed Oct/Nov.

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 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.					<p>Cregagh woods – removal of overgrowth, fallen trees, resetting mats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x volunteer event.</li> <li>• Improved interpretation via public voted natural art (e.g. wood carving or willow sculpture).</li> <li>• 4 x nature or cultural events</li> </ul> <p>Agnew's Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of biodiversity project</li> <li>• 3 x habitat study</li> <li>• 2 x public event</li> </ul>			<p>Carving of owl installed along path. 4 events completed – Nature walk, 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</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"> <li>Report to CCGBC by December 2022</li> </ul>			<p>Art of your landscape events held in August.</p> <p>Summary report to be submitted in December.</p>
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. Negotiations with landowners on new approach, developing management programme to be rolled</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
									out over winter 2022/23.
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	Series of outdoor and heritage events developed, promoted and delivered.		x	x	x	At least 10 events organised across AC&G and Causeway Coast AONBs.	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity	£5,000	Number of events: 14  Number of participants: 331



CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
unique outdoor and heritage though public events.	Partners' events are promoted.  New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access and learn about the countryside.				At least 300 participants.  New partners approached and supported.  Events to be published and promoted digitally.			Briefing doc with details will be supplied to C+C Dec 22.  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.

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>Launch event at Flowerfield in June with public participation workshops.</p> <p>Northword brand promoted via social media, newsletter, events and the lead partner efforts.</p>
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	<p>Driving the Visitor Economy</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p>	£2,000	<p>Digital map complete</p> <p><a href="https://ccght.org/interactive-maps/">https://ccght.org/interactive-maps/</a></p>
								Total: £35,000	

Annex B - CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2023 to 2026

## Proposed service activities for Council

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens BC area	Year	Quarter	Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Using existing research on Community Tourism to draft a TOR on how community engagement will be carried out, to include objectives, methodology and timeframe. Work to be carried out in consultation with the Destination Team.	Production of a TOR to assist Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to 'give communities a voice' to express their views on the impact of tourism and the value of tourism, to their community. This TOR will help inform the Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the Borough 2025 - 2035	2023-2024	3-4	TOR will inform the DMP TOR	Local Economy  Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities		
Subject to Council approval of the TOR on Community Engagement, CCGHT to roll out the consultation programme.	The overarching purpose of the following work plan is to engage with communities within Causeway Coast and Glens to set the scene in terms of the value of tourism to the economy and to 'give them a voice' to express their views on the impact of tourism on their communities. The outcomes of this report will inform the community aspect of the DMP 2025-2035	2024-2025	1-4	Community Engagement programme completed and rolled out by CCGHT.	Local Economy  Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities		

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens BC area	Year	Quarter	Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Develop a report on the findings of the engagement programme and present to Council. Deliver a number of roadshows throughout the Borough to present the findings.	Current research directly relevant to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough which can inform workstreams and the DMP.	2025/ 2026	1-4	Findings of the research presented to the communities within Causeway Coast and Glens via a number of roadshows. Report presented to Council that will inform workstreams and the DMP.	Local Economy  Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities		
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.	Annual		Implementation of targets from WHS plan  3x WHS Meetings per year  Periodic Reporting	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets		2 X WHS meetings held in May and October  Action plan delivery update available early 2023.  Periodic Reporting – ongoing.
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	2023 - 2026	1-4	2x AONB meetings per year per AONB Combined AONB meeting with training element for all	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets		

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens BC area	Year	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			
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.	2023-2024	1-4	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		
Preservation works at The Dark Hedges	Assessment of site and conservation work where appropriate	2023	Q1 & 2	Clarification of condition of site and expected lifespan of trees	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets		

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens BC area	Year	Quarter	Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Support renewal of Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Improved biodiversity in the CCGBC area	2023 – 2024		Participation in biodiversity projects in the CCGBC area that contribute towards the intended outcomes of an emerging LBAP	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets		
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	Annual		At least 10 events organised across AC&G, Binevenagh and Causeway Coast AONBs. At least 300 participants.  Events to be published and promoted digitally.	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity		

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens BC area	Year	Quarter	Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Activity completed to date
Review of Rathlin Trails	Assessment of exiting trail provision on Rathlin Island	2023 -2024		Identify necessary trail improvement works and any potential new trails.  Landowner engagement	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Driving the Visitor Economy		