

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Portstewart Environmental Improvement Scheme

14th April 2015

For Decision

10.0 Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Alan Jeffers – Regeneration Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£22,703.04.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with Stage Two of the Portstewart Environmental Improvement Scheme.

10.1 Background

Coleraine Borough Council agreed to progress the proposed Portstewart Environmental Improvement Scheme at risk to complete Stage One (initial design) together with a complementary economic appraisal.

Subsequently Edmond Shipway LLP were appointed in December 2014 as the leading consultant within the Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to lead the design and project management process. The fee cost to complete Stage One is £18,793.44.

10.2 Project: Stage One

The initial design development and options appraisal process was informed through a Members Briefing and public consultations in March 2015. Further scheme design consultations including a Members Briefing and two public consultations will be held on Monday 13th April 2015.

The scheme design from the outcomes of these consultations will be tabled for the Members' consideration at the Committee Meeting. Mr Stuart Hood, the landscape architects within the ICT, will outline the design process to date and the scheme proposals.

The Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire request for possible contractors has been advertised and progressed at no risk to Council.

The economic appraisal has been appropriately procured from Deloitte LLP but will not be completed until 18th May 2015. The economic appraisal together with the design is required by the Department for Economic Development to determine whether the scheme will warrant the anticipated £750,000 grant funding.

Progressing the project partly hinges upon a possible £750,000 grant from the Department for Economic Development as a 50% contribution towards the estimated total project cost of £1,500,000.

To avail of the funding the Department for Economic Development must also be assured that the project will be completed within the financial year 2015-16. The project programme timetable therefore is particularly tight.

10.3 Project: Stage Two request

To ensure Council is in a position to avail of the Department for Economic Development funding within the associated time constraint, an application for planning permission must be submitted in April 2015. Simultaneously the scheme design must be fully prepared in advance of the possible Invitation to Tender scheduled for July 2015 which is subject to Council approval.

Maintaining this progress requires Council to consider proceeding at risk through Stage 2 (detailed design and securing statutory approvals). This will ensure the project remains on the current programme for a September 2015 start. The cost of completing Stage Two is £22,703.04.

If Council approves the recommendation to progress through Stage Two, the scheme would next return for Council's consideration in July 2015. At that time an update on the prospect of Department for Economic Development grant funding will be known and the scheme would be in a position for Council to determine whether the project should progress to the Invitation to Tender.

10.4 Recommendation

To progress at risk in completing Stage Two of the Portstewart Environmental Improvement Scheme project at a fee cost of £22,703.04.