

# Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Don't Mow Let It Grow HLF 2<sup>nd</sup> round application

11 August 2015

For Decision  
Report to Committee

<b>Linkage to Corporate Plan</b>	
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Peter Thompson – Head of Tourism and Recreation Rachel Bain - Biodiversity Officer
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	£32k Match funding from LCF

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to proceed with the round 2 application for 'Don't Mow let it Grow' and to approve the application for match funding from the Landfill Communities Fund.**

## Background

The Biodiversity Officer report to the Leisure and Development Committee in April 2015 stated that CC&GBC had been successful in securing funding from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), £9k, and NIEA, £1k, to develop this project and submit a round two application to HLF for the delivery phase of the project, for a further £126k of funding from HLF.

## Project Detail

The delivery phase of this project will look at the conservation of semi-natural grassland. Focusing on the management of amenity grasslands and roadside verges across Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, working in partnership with Transport NI and NIEA. This project will look at different ways of managing semi-natural grasslands to promote how small changes in management give large benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will identify trial verges and amenity grassland sites in order to:

- Educate and promote benefits to wider public, through a wide ranging community engagement and PR campaign.
- Carry out an economic appraisal to assess cost benefits.
- Train land managers, including staff, and volunteers in management options, grassland selection.
- Develop and highlight a range of management options through the selected Transport NI and CCGBC trial sites.
- Assess biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits.
- Species identification, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and monitoring.

A major outcome will be the production of a practical management toolkit, covering all aspects of the project that any organisation can use to show the benefits and implement similar improved operations in their management.

Consultants have been appointed for the development phase and are working with us along with our partners, Transport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to submit our second round application by the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

If successful this will bring in £126k of HLF funding, part of which is £3k over the three years as a management fee to CC&GBC, and it is proposed to submit a match funding application to Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) for £32k.

The proposed LCF application, in addition to leveraging the £126k from HLF through match funding, if successful could fund the management of the proposed Council trial sites for 2 years.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council proceeds with the second round application, and that Council approves and proceeds with LCF application for match funding.