

Title of Report:	Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th October 2019
For Decision or For Information	For decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets Promote our tourist offer locally and internationally Prosperity, Health & Wellbeing & Cohesive Community
Outcome	All environments will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.
Lead Officer	Head of Service – Tourism & Recreation Coast & Countryside Manager

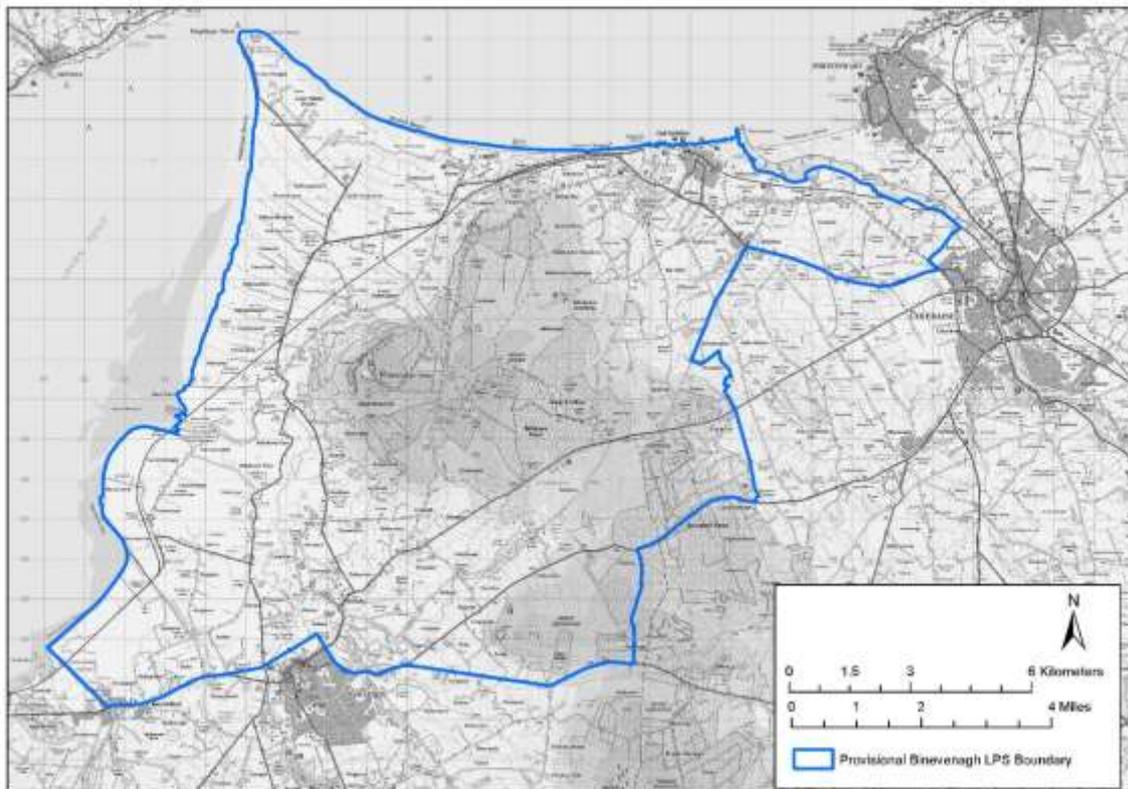
Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£273,560 over 5 year period 2020-2025
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	Staff representation on LPS Board and assistance with project delivery.

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 present, for Members' consideration, a request from the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for support with the second stage application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

If successful with the National Lottery application, the LPS can deliver a number of projects which are currently at development stage. Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme has requested that Council provide match funding to facilitate projects for the benefit of the area.



2.0 Background

Over the past two years Council has had constructive dialogue with the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) who act as the lead partner in a £3.4 million National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Binevenagh area. The 18-month Development Phase of the scheme concludes in October 2019. This project was brought to the Leisure & Development Committee for information in December 2017.

The Landscape Partnership Board (which consists of representatives from Council, Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, the Loughs Agency, the National Trust and community organisations) has approved a suite of 14 projects and associated activities that will be delivered over a five-year period from April 2020 to April 2025. In October 2019 these projects will be presented to the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of a 'Landscape Conservation Action Plan', with a view to securing up to 79% funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for all project costs. Activities will deliver outcomes for the natural, built and cultural heritage of the area, in addition to significant enhancements in sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

The LPS Board will submit a project application totalling £3,393,321. The National Lottery Heritage Fund on approval will contribute up to £2,683,300 of the full project costs – representing support of 79%.

With assistance from Council Officers, the LPS staff have compiled a number of projects that fit within the Destination Management and Coast and Countryside strategic themes and functions for the Council. These projects which directly deliver beneficial outcomes for the Council area have been costed at £1,302,666 (38% of the total LPS project costs). To achieve this the LPS Board requires a funding contribution from Council of £273,560 over a five-year period.

3.0 Proposals

Projects proposals will be presented at the October Leisure and Development meeting.

These include:

- Delivery of the ‘Moors of Castlerock Conservation Grazing and Access Enhancement Scheme’.
- Invasive species identification and removal, including eradication of invasive species within the Curly Burn Catchment (with training opportunities for land management).
- Delivery of a new quality walk and spur off the Ulster Way / IAT known as the ‘Drumagully Trail’ in Downhill Forest North.
- Enhancement of outdoor recreation provision within and around Binevenagh, Ballycarton and Grange Park Forests.
- Delivery of the Castlerock Trails and Tales community heritage initiative.
- Built heritage conservation activities at Napoleonic, WWI and WWII heritage sites (WWII Trainer Dome in Limavady, and Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery and Martello Tower at Magilligan).
- Community Heritage Initiatives on behalf of Aghanloo Community Association, Magilligan Community Association, Castlerock Community Association, Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers, Limavady Community Development Initiative and HMP Magilligan.

The LPS Staff have calculated match contributions from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council over a five-year period for project activity, as indicated in the following table:

	Contributions from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council				
	2020/21	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Moors of Castlerock	£ 20,000.00				
Invasives Species	£ 10,000.00				
Downhill Demesne			£ 38,460.00		
Binevenagh and Ballycarton	£ 16,800.00	£ 16,800.00	£ 16,800.00	£ 33,600.00	
Castlerock Trails and Tales		£ 18,000.00			
Community Training and Trails	£ 20,000.00				
Built Heritage Conservation and Access Enhancement		£ 10,000.00	£ 20,000.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 20,000.00
Community Heritage Initiatives				£ 23,100.00	
Totals	£ 66,800.00	£ 44,800.00	£ 75,260.00	£ 66,700.00	£ 20,000.00

The LPS Board has requested that Council consider the funding request proposal outlined above stating an investment of £273,560 by the Council will secure resource/investment of £1,302,666 which directly benefits the Council area.

The contribution by Council is essential to assist the LPS Board in securing National Lottery Heritage Fund support for all scheme activities, as the National Lottery Heritage Fund has stated that financial support from Local Authorities is considered a pre-requisite for Landscape

Partnership Schemes across the UK. The Heritage Fund has also indicated that firm and irrevocable funding commitments need to be in place for as much of the programme as possible.

3.1 Other funders

LPS staff have identified further match funding from other partners involved in the scheme. Contributions are anticipated from the National Trust, Loughs Agency, Woodland Trust, Ministry of Defence, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, Queens University, DAERA and the Department of Communities. There are additional smaller match contributions from community groups, sports clubs and scheme participants. Match funding commitments must be secured before submission.

Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£2,683,300) is dependent on monies being secured from a range of partners including Council. The Binevenagh LPS has therefore entered into arrangements with a number of other bodies including the Loughs Agency, The Woodland Trust, National Trust, Queens University and the Ministry of Defence. It is anticipated that if Council support is approved the Stage Two HLF application will be submitted with £502,000 of secured funding.

At time of submission, including unsecured contributions from partners the LPS anticipates a £25,000 shortfall across the entire scheme. For some partners funding is not profiled until year two or beyond of the Binevenagh LPS project, therefore at the time of application their funding cannot be confirmed as secure. If for any reason during the lifetime of the project funding currently committed is lost from a partner organisation, the Binevenagh LPS requests that it can make representation to Elected Members to assess the implications, without Council obligation, for project delivery.

The five-year Delivery Phase of the scheme will see the recruitment of 5 posts including an Outdoor Recreation Officer, Natural Heritage Officer and Heritage and Volunteer Officer.

4.0 Options

- a. Council does not provide support for the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme. In this instance the project will not proceed to delivery phase.
- b. Council confirms its support for the delivery phase of the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme and agrees to provide match funding for project activity as indicated in the table over the 5 year period from 2020 to 2025.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council that support is provided to the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme as requested to facilitate the delivery phase of the project.