

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Lower Bann Infrastructure Project</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted to:</b>	<b>Leisure and Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15th October 2019</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting & enhancing our environment and our assets.
Outcome	Generating economic and social returns without compromising the sustainability of our natural assets.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Total Capital Cost -£150,000 Cost to Council – Nil Waterways Ireland Funding – up to £30,000 RDP funding - £112,500
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	£7,500

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Elected Members to advance to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process for three minor infrastructure projects on the Lower Bann and carry out new path works at Christie Park Coleraine.

## **2.0 Background**

This project was originally taken to Council for Stage 1 approval in June 2019. However it was not prioritised as part of the prioritisation of Capital Works brought to Council in September 2019. The primary reasons for this included the requirement for a 15% cash contribution and the need for technical resources which have been constrained within the Capital Projects Team.

After a meeting with Officers in September, Waterways Ireland have indicated that they would like to contribute £30,000 towards the capital works of the three projects on the Lower Bann, reducing Council's capital funding for these projects to zero.

In addition to this Waterways Ireland have indicated that they would like to contribute £23,000 at 100% funded towards a minor works scheme at Christie Park Coleraine (to lay a new pathway connecting Christie Park and Somerset Riverside Park).

## **3.0 Proposals:**

- i. Camus (west bank of River Bann-A54). Plans include installation of canoe steps to improve access and egress to waterway which is currently restricted at the pontoon facility for canoe and small paddle boat users.
- ii. Agivey Bridge (Bann Road B66). This scheme involves improvements to small car park and installation of canoe steps on the up-stream of the bridge.
- iii. Drumaheglis Holiday and Leisure Park. This scheme involves extending the pontoon facilities at the Marina to attract and facilitate private sector operators to use the Lower Bann for water-based holiday and leisure activities.
- iv. Within Christie Park at the Sandleford Bridge end, it is proposed to create a new link from the southern end of the park into Somerset Riverside Park.

The overall cost of items i to iii above is estimated to be in the region of £150,000. The Rural Development Programme will provide 75% of the project costs at £112,500. £30,000 will be contributed by Waterways Ireland and the remaining £7,500 will be by way of a contribution from Council through an Officer support contribution.

## **4.0 Additional Resources**

Through the Rural Development Programme Cooperation Projects, DAERA has agreed to fund at 100% technical staff to allow the completion of the procurement process, and to provide project management services for the duration of the contract for the completion and handover. This will apply to items i to iii only above.

## **5.0 Options**

With the strategic connection to Council's Destination Management Plan and the availability of 100% Capital funding, Elected Members are asked to consider the advancement of this project under the Capital Works process. The Tourism and Recreation team would like to engage with the Local Action Group Co-operation Projects to secure professional management expertise, at no cost to Council, and develop this to the completion of Stage 2 of the Capital Works process. The cost of the administration of an economic appraisal will also be covered by the Rural Development Programme.

Council Officers would like to avail of the £23,000 funding for improvements to the pathway network at Christie Park. This project will be administered by the Council's Coast and Countryside Team and the Estates Team.

## **6.0 Maintenance Implications**

These projects are taking place at existing public amenity sites.

- With regard to Camus, the facilities are required to provide a safer launch facility for canoes and Council Officers plan to negotiate that future maintenance will be the responsibility of Waterways Ireland.
- At the Agivey Bridge a similar arrangement will be in place and the project will be subject to agreed future maintenance by Waterways Ireland.
- Christie Park will be a tarmac path and a zero maintenance requirement.
- At Drumaheglis the proposal is to extend our existing pontoon facilities at the northern end of the site to make it more attractive for the commercial sector to potentially lease for a Lower Bann cruiser market. The concrete and galvanised steel facilities are very low maintenance and a similar structure is proposed to connect to the existing pontoons.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee provides approval to advance these projects to completion of Stage 2 of the Capital Works Process, subject to confirmation of the projects being 100% funded by Rural Development, Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland.**