

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Update on activities and funding of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Leisure and Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>20th October 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
<b>Outcome</b>	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.
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Head of Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£35,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<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 provide Elected Members with an update on the work of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) that has taken place over the past 12 month period, and to outline potential partnership arrangements for delivery of services for 2020-2021.**

## **2.0 Background**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have provided funding to the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) since 2016 on the basis of a contract for services, whereby defined activities with specific outputs are undertaken by CCGHT on behalf of Council. From the period 2016 to 2019 the Council awarded £35,000 each year for services delivered.

For the period of 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 the total amount of funding awarded was £16,090, after Council removed two of the activities valued at £18,910. The 19/20 award was subject to the delivery of the three key activity areas below:

- Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.
- Administration of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB.
- Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related projects, engagement with landowners and establishing a volunteer programme.

The outputs from last year's work plan have been reviewed by the Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team. It has been confirmed that these outputs have been completed and delivered with the exception of one requested activity.

The Heritage Trust was to present to a Committee in Council detailing the achievements of the AONB Management Plans and provide an indicative plan as to how CCGHT envisages the next 10 years management of AONBs with predicted outputs/success indicator.

COVID restrictions prevented the opportunity to present to Committee. CCGHT has indicated that it is prepared to present to Council at the earliest opportunity. See **Annex B** for details on delivery of 2019/20 activities.

The main focus of CCGHT continues to be based around the development and implementation of a number of environmental and landscape management plans including the 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.

Any agreement to fund this organisation will be based on the fact that the Council's Coast and Countryside remit will be complimented by the activities provided by CCGHT. In addition, any financial transaction will be based on a single tender action for services that only the CCGHT can provide as specialists in this area of work.

Council's financial support continues to play a vital role in sustaining CCGHT. Council's commitment will be subject to funding made available from NIEA, Tourism NI and Mid and East Antrim who have all made an allowance for financial contribution for agreed services as in previous years.

## **3.0 Proposals**

CCGHT, in consultation with Council Officers, has developed an activity plan with identified outputs for the current financial year 2020/2021 which is provided in **Annex A**.

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.

In addition the work plan reflects new activity which is considered appropriate to landscape management and the development of further outdoor recreational products and the visitor experience.

#### **4.0 Options**

The following options are available to Council:

- Option 1  
Do not procure any services from CCGHT for the 2020/2021 period.
- Option 2  
Procure the entire services as detailed in **Annex A**. The total cost for this work is £35,000.
- Option 3  
Procure only a number of services detailed in **Annex A**. This will require a reduction in the number of projects delivered and therefore the cost to Council will be reduced proportionately.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the above options outlining the extent of a contract for services for delivery of activities that complement the Council's Tourism and Recreation remit and in line with Council's Destination Management Plan. The activities are outlined in **Annex A** of this report. (Agreement is subject to completion of outstanding activities from the 2019/20 year).

# ANNEX A

## CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2020/2021

### 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
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.	●	●	●	●	Implementation of targets from WHS plan  Assist with trail enhancement works  Raise awareness of walking product linking key visitor sites	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000
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	●	●	●	●	2x AONB meetings per year per AONB Combined AONB meeting with training element for all Complete monitoring and communication tasks for each AONB  Complete reviews of management and actions plans for Causeway Coast and Antrim Coast & Glens AONBs  Agreed plans to be in place by October 2020	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£6,000

# ANNEX A

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
<p>Assess the feasibility of development of North Coast Geopark</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Seminars and information sources will be required to share with key stakeholders regarding the geopark agenda.</p>		●	●	●	<p>Working Group establish - TOR 4 meetings per year Steering Group established - TOR Overall Activity Plan/Road map developed Raising awareness via WG and CCGHT media Initial general public raising awareness - better suited to next year in the time line Participation in UK and ROI Geopark meetings to gain experience/best practice</p>	<p>Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets</p>	<p>£5,000</p>
<p><i>Causeway Coast Way (CCW) Walking Experience</i></p> <p>Identify best practice for signposting to long distance walking trails from car tourism routes across Europe.</p> <p>Identify key locations along the Causeway Coastal Route whereby signposting can be provided to access points for the <i>Causeway Coast</i></p>	<p>This project is to raise awareness and mark the many access points to the <i>Causeway Coast Way Walking Experience</i> from the Causeway Coastal Car Touring Route.</p> <p>Procure a design house for an integrated design to maximise the visual connection of the current <i>CCW</i> branding that fits with DfI requirements for trail signposting off the Causeway Coastal Route.</p>			●	●	<p>Report on best practice for signposting of long distance walking trails.</p> <p>Appointment of design house for trail signage design and specification.</p> <p>2 x Organised seminars hosted by CCGHT on behalf of Council to consult on the benefits of increasing footfall to <i>CCW</i> through increasing awareness from Causeway Coastal Route. (Trade invite and public invite )</p>	<p>Access to the countryside through sustainable and healthy transportation.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p> <p>Driving the visitor economy.</p>	<p>£ 8,000</p>

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CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
<p>Way. (Provide report including land ownership, signage type, statutory requirements and costs for manufacture/installation.</p> <p>This will support Council's outdoor recreational remit and environmental sustainability objectives by carrying improvements to the CCW Walking Experience.</p>	<p>Identify best practice signage elsewhere - report to include assessment of benefits and a qualified preferred design.</p> <p>Design and spec sign type fixtures and ground rooting.</p> <p>This work will assist Council's advancement of the development and promotion of the CCW, a 33 mile waymarked coastal trail connecting Portstewart and Ballycastle.</p>					<p>Local press advertising of seminars. 2 x Editorial documents on regional press.</p> <p>Manufacture of two signs, supporting furniture and installation to be completed and an evaluation done measuring success and impact.</p> <p>Report to Council on process of identifying best practice, design of signage, preferred locations, cost of installation and evaluation.</p>		
<p>Reduce Marine &amp; Terrestrial Litter</p>	<p>Reduced litter and improved understanding of impacts of litter</p>			●	●	<p>3 beach clean events 1 marine litter event *May be impacted by COVID situation</p>	<p>Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets</p>	<p>£2,000</p>
<p>Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.</p>	<p>Series of outdoor and heritage events to include mountain biking, walking, stargazing, angling, bird watching, wild flowers, geology, built heritage developed, promoted and delivered.</p>	●	●	●		<p>At least 15 events organised in line with government guidance and COVID 19 restrictions. Events can if necessary be online and virtual and a target of 400 participants has been set.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity</p>	<p>£5,000 Funded by Council. Funding also from other Partners.</p>

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CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
	<p>New opportunities for providers to further develop outdoor and heritage activities in the future is developed through the process.</p> <p>New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access and learn about the countryside and our natural heritage.</p>					<p>New partners approached and supported.</p> <p>Event programme to be finalised by Feb 2020, published and promoted through visitor information points and online (including social media). Storytelling, historical connections and cultural experiences can be promoted if within the context of the natural environment.</p> <p>Event programme to be finalised by Feb 2021 and completed by Nov 2021. This must be promoted via Visitor Information points, online and social media as well as on the Council's Destination website.</p> <p>Develop 2021 events programme through to summer of 2022.</p>		

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CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
<p>Support conservation of 3 designated sites in the CCGBC area (tbc). Identify biodiversity and habitat off sites and note protected/endangered species and non indigenous and invasive species. Present action plan for eradication of invasive species.</p>	<p>Conservation of designated sites Biodiversity Enhancement Reducing invasive species</p>			●	●	<p>Best practice visit to Herbal-Lays pilot- structured event</p> <p>Training on identification and recording (working with CEDaR as they are appropriate body)</p> <p>Identify and encourage non-eco schools in CCAONB to join scheme via an environmental event</p> <p>Community GIS mapping event</p> <p>Report to include analysis of sites and eradication plan.</p>	<p>Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets</p>	<p>£1,500</p>
<p>Support renewal of Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Improved biodiversity in the CCGBC area</p>		●	●	●	<p>Participation in biodiversity projects in the CCGBC area that contribute towards the intended outcomes of an emerging LBAP</p>	<p>Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets</p>	<p>£1,500</p>



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CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
Investigate the requirement for sensitive interpretation at Cushendall Seafront; including 3 interpretation panels featuring geology of the area, linkages with the Scottish Islands and the biodiversity of the area	To improve the quality of the CCR and the visitor experience offering in Cushendall.			●	●	Provide design, graphics and copy for 3 A2 interpretative panels in consultation with Council Officers	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£3,000 (this does not include manufacture and installation of the panels)

# ANNEX B

## CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2019/2020

### Completed service activities for Council

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter			Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Validation
Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.	<p>Series of outdoor and heritage events to include mountain biking, walking, stargazing, angling, bird watching, wild flowers, geology, built heritage developed, promoted and delivered.</p> <p>New opportunities for providers to further develop outdoor and heritage activities in the future is developed through the process.</p> <p>Partners' events are promoted.</p> <p>New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access and learn about the countryside.</p>				<p>At least 15 events organised.</p> <p>At least 250 participants.</p> <p>New partners approached and supported.</p> <p>Event programme to be finalised by Feb 2020, published and promoted through visitor information points and online (including social media).</p> <p>Organisation of 1 archaeology experience day opened to visitors, local tourism providers and community groups.</p> <p>Development of Heritage guiding across the council area.</p>	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity.	£3,437 Funded by Council. Funding also from other Partners.	<p>2019/2020 Events Programme successfully delivered <a href="http://ccght.org/ccght-2019-events-guidehas-arrived/">http://ccght.org/ccght-2019-events-guidehas-arrived/</a></p> <p>15 events held within Borough with 298 participants</p> <p>New and existing providers approached include Long Line Surf School Ulidia Heritage Causeway Lass Irish Feast</p> <p>2020 event programme - 4000 copies distributed to 60+ locations (VICs, hotels, train stations)</p>

# ANNEX B

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Validation
									Archaeological experience delivered through Ulidia Heritage. Dig at Magilligan Training Camp -WW1 trenches
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			●	●	Report to a Committee in Council detailing the achievements of the AONB Management Plans and provide an indicative plan as to how CCGHT envisages the next 10 years management with predicted outputs/success indicator.	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£2,900	No report presented to committee due to COVID Restrictions.  Management Forum/ Steering Group meetings occurred as planned.  Antrim Coast and Glens AONB plan renewal progressed. Causeway Coast AONB Action Plan renewal
Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related projects	Support the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.			●	●	Promotion of 'Don't Mow Let It Grow' and other biodiversity projects.	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets	£9,663 from Council. Additional funding from other partners.	Completed through events including Dawn Chorus, Altikeeragh Walk, Rockpool Ramble, Swift Walk & Talk

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CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Validation
<p>Develop landowner engagement programme to encourage farming practices for positive management of designated landscapes</p> <p>Support conservation of designated sites in CCGBC</p> <p>Adopt a priority species – Otter</p> <p>Develop a new environmentally-focussed volunteering programme</p>	<p>Increased awareness of value of landowners as custodians of landscape and appropriate management techniques recognised.</p> <p>Increased awareness of designated sites</p> <p>Increased knowledge and understanding of issue relating to priority species.</p> <p>Improved habitats and access at key sites</p>				<p>8 landowners engaged per year</p>			<p>Biodiversity of Course Beach Schools NI Our Living Coast Boat Trip Bat Night at Portballintrae</p> <p>Priority Habitats and Species project focused on Otters and Maritime Coastal Cliffs. Good engagement. Delay in site surveys, permissions required. Not able to continue surveys and run public events during Covid-19 situation.</p> <p>Field trips to study best practice with respect to arboreal agriculture, development of riparian planting and promotion of biodiversity.</p>	

ANNEX B

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Validation
						<p>1 significant event per year to share and promote best practice</p> <p>Development of literature and on-line content. Engagement with 20 organisations</p>			<p>Hosting All Ireland Geoparks Forum in Ballycastle to present best practice for sensitive sites and sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Website framework restructure.</p> <p>Railway heritage booklet for Binevenagh</p> <p>Publications distributed to CCGBC VIC and enterprises in CCGBC throughout the year. Annual distribution include 60+ locations. Regularly provide publications to VICs throughout the year.</p> <p>2 x HOTG videos showcasing landscapes,</p>

# ANNEX B

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications	Validation
						<p>Programme in place 40 volunteers engaged</p>			<p>communities and culture published.</p> <p>Volunteer litter pick events at Portballintrae, Portrush and Rathlin Island Surf Project Picks at Coleraine Riverside and Magilligan Point cancelled due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Leave No Trace training delivered in Binevenagh AONB as part of 2 x LNT Awareness training. Second phase, Trainer Training, cancelled due to COvid-19.</p>