

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>LIVSMART INITIATIVE UPDATE &amp; COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GRANT PROPOSAL</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Develop a Community Environment Grants Programme
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£10,500 plus officer time.
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	TBC

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

At the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Environmental Services Committee requested that a report is brought back with details of an alternative Council led proposal following the presentation delivered by Dr Ian Humphries from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

## **2.0 Background**

### **2.1 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful**

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) is an independent charity dedicated to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Northern Ireland by delivering on improving environmental education in every school in Northern Ireland, increasing public engagement for communities in need and raising environmental standards for the places where people spend time: where they live, work and relax.

Dr Humphries presented on civic leadership, empowering local people and protecting the environment, to create a prosperous society. The following was presented via Powerpoint:

- Live Here Love Here is designed to tackle environmental issues by encouraging volunteers to take practical action in their local communities;
- Live Here Love Here's success is through Partnership;
- When COVID-19 struck, Live Her Love Here adapted. The BIG Spring Clean became the Not So BIG Spring Clean, encouraging individuals to still get outside and 'do one small thing' for the environment;
- 130,128 volunteers did clean-ups in 2019, they collected 44,820 bags of litter;
- £5,750 of financial support given to 23 Adopt A Spot groups in CC&G area;
- Since 2014 over £1million has been allocated across N Ireland;
- In 2020 Adapted to online New COVID-19 criteria 386 funding requests over £1,258,200 requested 153 Projects funded;
- Since 2014 through the Small Grants Scheme, 53 funding requests, 13 projects funded, £168,787 requested and £19,252 awarded by partners;
- CC&G has benefitted through the Small Grants Scheme this Year 22 applications received, 2 Projects funded £72,792;
- In a pre-project survey the top reasons to get involved were

1. To improve the local environment
2. Opportunity to get involved with the community
3. To be involved in an interesting project
4. For the health benefits
5. To do something positive in response to COVID-1;

- In CC&G 24 Food For Thought packages delivered, 27 applications received from CC&G allocated growing packs £1,603, value of packs;

- The Health and Wellbeing Survey results were set out;

- Detail of the Media Campaign and promotional advertising added value illustrated;

- Live Here Love Here provides excellent value for money in a spend to save programme that will cost ratepayers just £21,000 per annum with half of that immediately going back to community groups in the area through the Small Grants Scheme;

- The added value is clear across volunteering, advertising and grants;

As a Strategic Partner Council will have a seat on the Steering Group (meeting three times per year) and a place on the Small Grants Scheme judging panel.

## **2.2 Council Led - LiveSMART Initiative**

LiveSmart aims to encourage, inform and involve all our residents, businesses and visitors to live more lightly on our planet by taking simple steps to protect our environment. LiveSmart is based on the idea that if every person in our Borough tries their best to live sustainably, the combined impact will be huge.

Our Borough is known worldwide for its beautiful scenery and amazing visitor experience. We want to preserve that for years and generations to come. However, this requires making a conscious effort to live a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

LiveSMART is delivered by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Environmental Resource Officer (ERO) Team.

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### **What is LiveSmart?**

There are 10 different branches of LiveSmart, all designed to target different areas of your lifestyle and help you Live Smarter.

### **PlasticSmart**

**PlasticSmart** aims to reduce plastic use and increase recycling in Causeway Coast and Glens area with simple, practical actions.

### **RecycleSmart**

**RecycleSmart** aims to reduce rubbish by educating, engaging and inspiring us all to buy less, reuse more, recycle and compost.

### **LitterSmart**

**LitterSmart** aims to reduce litter through education, encouraging responsible disposal and supporting local people to carry out litter lifts.

### **ShareSmart**

**ShareSmart** aims to reduce consumerism and waste by sharing, borrowing and re-gifting goods and skills within communities, groups and friends.

### **ClothesSmart**

**ClothesSmart** aims to raise awareness of the impacts of purchasing, encourage life-long care and reduce waste to landfill by giving unwanted clothes and textiles a new lease of life through donation and recycling.

### **FoodSmart**

**FoodSmart** aims to reduce food waste and save money by encouraging and enabling us all to think, shop and eat smarter.

### **CafeSmart**

**CafeSmart** aims to increase the environmental sustainability of small catering businesses by identifying and helping to manage impacts of waste, energy and water use.

### **StaySmart**

**StaySmart** aims to increase the environmental sustainability of small accommodation outlets by identifying and helping to manage impacts of waste, energy and water use.

### **NappySmart**

**NappySmart** aims to reduce waste to landfill and save families money by encouraging and enabling parents to use washable cloth nappies.

### **ClimateSmart**

**ClimateSmart** aims to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing our knowledge of sustainability and empowering change with simple, practical actions.

1. On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 LiveSMART was relaunched online using a GIS Story Map to provide a more user friendly experience within current

restrictions, enabling people, businesses and other organisations to interact with the programme.

2. On the day of the relaunch 3 accommodation providers registered online under the StaySmart campaign.
3. A new camp and glamping site opened this year also signed up to the ClimateSmart programme.
4. LiveSmart presents new opportunities for businesses to promote and market themselves. Indeed there are opportunities for Council to market the Borough as a sustainable destination which could potentially attract new visitors who make decisions on where to go based on values such as sustainability.
5. Since March 2020 we have engaged with 900 people through LitterSmart, a record number. The most pleasing aspect of this has been the number of individuals and family groups taking practical steps to collect litter. One woman is now collecting between 5 to 7 bags of litter per week in her area, walking as much as 10 miles per day and all this is achieved thanks to Council supplying a litter picker and some bags.
6. In total over the lockdown period alone, we collected 1.1 tonnes of litter from people engaging with LitterSmart. There was a huge increase in awareness of litter and environmental issues in general. From Council's perspective the most pleasing aspect of this was a desire from people to do something themselves rather than simply looking to Council for solutions.
7. The ERO team is currently developing the eco-tourism approach through establishing a network of tourist service businesses who will participate in a charter programme which can then be used by these businesses for market purposes.
8. The ERO team is also in the process of developing BeachSmart to capitalise on the renewed interest in our coastal areas. This will seek to encourage awareness of the value of our coast and beaches as well as positive behaviours reducing the negative impacts on our coast line.

### **3.0 Community Environment Grant Programme Proposal**

Members requested an option for a Community Environment Grant Programme. The proposal to be based on the following:-

- Total grant funding of up to £10,500 to be made available annually (same as that provided by KNIB).
- Grant funding available up to a maximum of £500 per application.
- Maximum of one application per group per year.
- Grant application to be directly linked to one or more of the LiveSmart themes.
- The Environmental Resource Officer Team to provide additional non-monetary support to applicants.
- Applications focusing on waste reduction/reuse, energy saving and sustainability etc. to be encouraged.
- Criteria for the grant to be brought back to a future meeting but any application will be measured on the potential positivity and longevity of their impact.
- The Funding Unit have agreed that the process can be administered through the existing Funding Hub.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Members consider the alternative Council led option which delivers similar outcomes with a proposed £10,500 saving compared to the KNIB option.