



Title of Report:	Lower Bann Infrastructure Project
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21st January 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
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

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Total Capital Cost - £150,000 Cost to Council – Nil Waterways Ireland Funding – up to £56,000 RDP funding - £112,500
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	£7,500 in kind only

Screening Requirements	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 make an amendment to the Capital Works agreed for the Lower Bann River projects in October 2019. This amendment requires the removal of one element of the project at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional infrastructure work at Drumaheglis Ballymoney.

2.0 Background

The Lower Bann Rivers Project was originally taken to Council for Stage 1 approval in June 2019, and Stage 2 approval in October 2019.

The project is jointly funded by DAERA and Waterways Ireland, with Council's capital contribution for these projects being zero.

2.1 Approved Proposals:

- i. Camus (west bank of River Bann-A54) Plans include installation of canoe steps to improve access and egress to the waterway that 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 Sandford Bridge end, it is proposed to create a new link from the southern end of the park into Somerset Riverside Park.

2.2 Agreed Maintenance

The original agreement with Waterways Ireland regarding maintenance is listed as follows.

- Camus Canoe pontoon – Waterways Ireland.
- Agivey Bridge canoe steps - Waterways Ireland.
- Christie Park tarmac path – Council.
- Drumaheglis pontoons – Council.

3.0 Issue regarding Agivey Bridge

Since the report in October 2019, Waterways Ireland have advised that they will not be able to take on future maintenance responsibility of the canoe steps at Agivey Bridge. Council do not own the Agivey Bridge site which is the ownership of DfI Roads and Officers are concerned about the responsibility for maintenance. Council have not been given approval to maintain any element of this site.

4.0 Proposed Alteration to Works

Officers would like to take this opportunity to reallocate the funding from the Agivey Bridge element and use this for further investment at the Council owned Drumaheglis Marina and Pontoon facility. This proposal would, in addition to the works listed above, carry out much needed repair work to a static pontoon that has been closed to the public due to its poor state of repair. This investment would allow Council to reopen this pontoon to the public and commercial operators. This represents a significant further contribution to the viability to the waterside infrastructure at Drumaheglis. Details of the proposed changes will be presented at the Leisure and Development meeting.

Both the Local Action Group for the Rural Development Programme, Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland have agreed to the alteration in works.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee provides approval to make the amendments in the works for this project, removing the canoe steps element at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional investment at the pontoon facilities at Drumaheglis. These additional works are subject to confirmation that the projects continue to be 100% funded by Rural Development Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland.