

Update on activities and funding of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	14 August 18
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officers	Head Of Tourism & Recreation Coast & Countryside Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£35,000

The purpose of this report is to provide elected members with an update on the work undertaken by the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) in conjunction with the Council's Coast and Countryside team over the last year, and to outline the proposed partnership agreement for delivery of services in 2018-19.

Background

The Council funded Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) for the period of 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018. The total amount of funding awarded was £35,000 and was subject to the delivery of a number of specific activities.

The Heritage Trust's key activities are based around the development and implementation of a number of environmental and landscape management plans including those for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Binevenagh, the Causeway Coast and the Antrim Coast and Glens.

The agreement to fund this organisation will be based on the premise 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.

Services provided in 2017- 2018

A contract for services was approved by Council in June 2017 and within this a number of defined activities with specific outputs have been undertaken by CCGHT.

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust projects completed in partnership with the Council and providing direct benefit to the area in the past year include:

- Coordination of the of 3 AONB management plans in the CCGBC area.
- Development and co-ordination of the management of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site steering committee.
- Coordination and implementation of the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- Coordination of a series of outdoor and heritage events across the Council area.

- Access improvement and interpretation schemes.

Additional Services to be provided by CCGHT on behalf of Council during 2017-2018 included;

- Contribute to Council's activities in managing coastal environments.
- Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.
- Develop geodiversity opportunities for trade, visitors, education and community engagement.
- Assist Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related prospects.
- Preparation and submission of an application for Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- Analysis of the overseas walking market for the Causeway Coast & Glens area.
- Submit an application through HLF for the landscape Partnership Scheme for the Binevenagh and coastal low lands.

Outstanding Activities (yet to be completed)

The outputs from last year's work plan have been reviewed by the Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team. Certain elements have yet to be completed from last year's agreed services and one requested activity to be completed in the 2017/18 year was the development of the Causeway Coast and Glens geo-diversity opportunities, to improve the visitor economy. In particular the activity plan asks for the hosting of a conference inviting delegates from the education sector, specialist tour operators and local schools with a view to raising awareness of the geology of the area and promoting inbound travel from niche markets and universities.

Officers are asking that an extension be given to the completion of this activity until the end of November 2018 and if this is not completed by then it is proposed to deduct the budget allocated for this activity from any monies agreed within the 2018/2019 year.

Funding/Support for 2018-2019

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. With Members' approval, Officers would recommend a contribution of up to £35,000 to support the Heritage Trust activities from June 2018 to April 2019, subject to successful completion of the outputs as set out in Annex A.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee are asked to consider and approve Council funding CCGHT for services proposed within Annex A, this is subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs as detailed in Annex A.

CCGHT Activities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area 2018/2019

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
		1	2	3	4			
Contribute to the Council's activities in managing Coastal environments.	<p>Assist with beach management in the Causeway Coast and Glens area.</p> <p>Develop a best practice guide to beach management including a mechanism for regular engagement of key stakeholder through an established management grouping.</p> <p>Facilitate Awareness of the coastal environment in our area.</p>	●	●	●	●	<p>Development of a beach management guide for custodians and key stakeholders, including mechanism for stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>3 beach clean and awareness events organised with visitors, users and activity providers.</p>	Sustainability Prosperity.	£3,845 Funded by Council.
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>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 2019, published and promoted through visitor information points and online (including social media).</p> <p>Organisation of 1 archaeology experience day opened to visitors,</p>	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity.	£3,437 Funded by Council. Funding also from other Partners.

ANNEX A

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
		1	2	3	4			
	New or enhanced opportunities in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area to access and learn about the countryside.					local tourism providers and community groups. Development of Heritage guiding across the council area.		
Analysis of the mountain bike market for the Causeway Coast & Glens area.	Assessment of market future demand. Key product experiences, sustainability, best fit locations and revenue/cost implications.	●	●			Detailed market analysis of the mountain bike market with segmented niches. Completion of a report outlining viability and development options for the mountain bike sector within the Council area.		£6,000
Assist Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related prospects	Support the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	●	●	●	●	Promotion of 'Don't Mow Let It Grow' and other biodiversity projects.	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity Community Sustainability.	£1,718
Work on the development phase of the Binevenagh and coastal low lands partnerships scheme.	Development phase of application to advance a suite of projects to allow for a second stage submission to HLF unlocking a further £3.4 million of funding.	●	●	●	●	Completed development phase for the following projects: Downhill Estate and Forest masterplan. Aghanloo to Castlerock Walk Plan Ballycarton Wood special masterplan Invasive Species action planning. Defence Heritage Mapping and Survey Conservation Management Plans	Health and Wellbeing/people Prosperity Community Sustainability	£15,000

ANNEX A

CCGHT Activity	Expected outcomes to benefit Causeway Coast and Glens DC area	Quarter				Outputs	Contribution to strategic themes	Financial Implications
		1	2	3	4			
						for Limavady Airfield, Magilligan Anti-aircraft Battery. Grangebeg Pill Box and Lower Doaghs Pill Box		
Review of the AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB	To assess the success of the AONB Management Plans since their initiation and make recommendations for the future delivery and management process relating to these AONBs.					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.		£5,000