

Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme	13th June 2017
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	Providing an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit.
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity and Place Regeneration Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£50,000 approx.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with appointing an Integrated Consultancy Team for the Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme.

Background

In 2016 the outcome of a meeting between Council officers and local Councillors recommended that the scope of any public realm project should include the High Street area of the town centre together with adjacent streets. In considering a programme of environmental improvement works for Ballymoney, early estimates suggest a project cost of £1,500,000.

Department for Communities (DfC) officers have recently advised that there may be funding assistance of around 90% of eligible costs subject to a positive economic approval, a satisfactory consultation process and approval for the scheme from Council.

Detail

The DfC requires Council to commission an Integrated Consultancy Team through the Central Procurement Directorate's (CPD) framework structure and proceed with completing Stage 1 with both a high level concept design and corresponding economic appraisal.

Council would undertake this Stage 1 work at risk although DfC will absorb the CPD costs. It is anticipated Stage 1 will be concluded during 2017-18 with possible procurement and construction during 2018-19 subject to funding and Council approval. The estimated cost of the Stage 1 work to Council is £50,000. This amount can be offset against the total project funding requirement.

The Way Forward

Initial dialogue has been conducted with the Department of Infrastructure Roads officers and key local stakeholders. Subject to Council approval, Stage 1 will commence with engagement with CPD to appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team.

Council will be presented with the appropriate tender report with a recommendation seeking approval to appoint the Integrated Consultancy Team.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the commencement of the Ballymoney Public Realm Scheme with the appointment of an Integrated Design Team to complete the Stage 1 capital works during 2017-18 at an estimated cost of £50,000 while accepting the inherent financial risk.