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|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>DfE consultation on mineral prospecting rights in Dungiven Ward</b> | <b>23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017</b> |
| <b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>  |                                    |

| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Strategic Theme</b>                       | <b>Outcome</b>   |
| Leader and Champion                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Elected Members will provide civic leadership to our citizens working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit.</li> </ul>     |
| Protect the environment in which we live     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                          | Principal Planning Officer/Development Management Manager  |
| <b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>                 | N/A  |

## 1.0 Background

1.1 The Department for the Economy (DfE) has contacted the Council as it has received an application from Dalradian Gold Ltd. for mineral prospecting rights in a number of areas in Counties Tyrone and Londonderry. The ward effected in this Council area is Dungiven.

## 2.0 Detail

2.1 Dalradian Gold Ltd. is a Canadian gold exploration and development company that has been operating in NI since 2009. They directly employ 42 staff across 3 sites in Omagh, Gortin, and Curraghinalt and since 2010 have invested over £69 million in exploration and project development in NI. They previously held 2 licences for prospecting until 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, which are now under application.

2.2 The prospecting rights are regarding the issue of 1 licence, in the area shown on the attached map, for a period of 6 years in respect of all such minerals as are vested in the Department. The prospecting may include soil sampling, stream panning; magnetic/electromagnetic, radiometric and gravity methods, seismic surveying or drilling. There has been no indication of what type of prospecting is being proposed within this application.

2.3 It should be noted that under Part 16 of the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (NI) 2015 that minerals exploration can be carried out on land for a period not exceeding 4 months without planning permission. This is subject to the applicant providing the Council with specific details prior to commencement of this work, the site not being within an ASSI or site of

archaeological interest and the applicant and the works meeting the other defined criteria within the legislation.

2.4 The Movanager ASSI and SAC, The River Roe and Tributaries SAC and the Sperrins AONB are all within the area under application for the prospecting licence.

2.5 The Council is obliged to display the map showing the area covered, in the local office, until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017. This has been carried out accordingly. To date there has been no comments from members of the public.

2.6 DfE has requested that the Council comment by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 before they come to a decision regarding the grant of the licence for mineral prospecting.

### **3.0 Options**

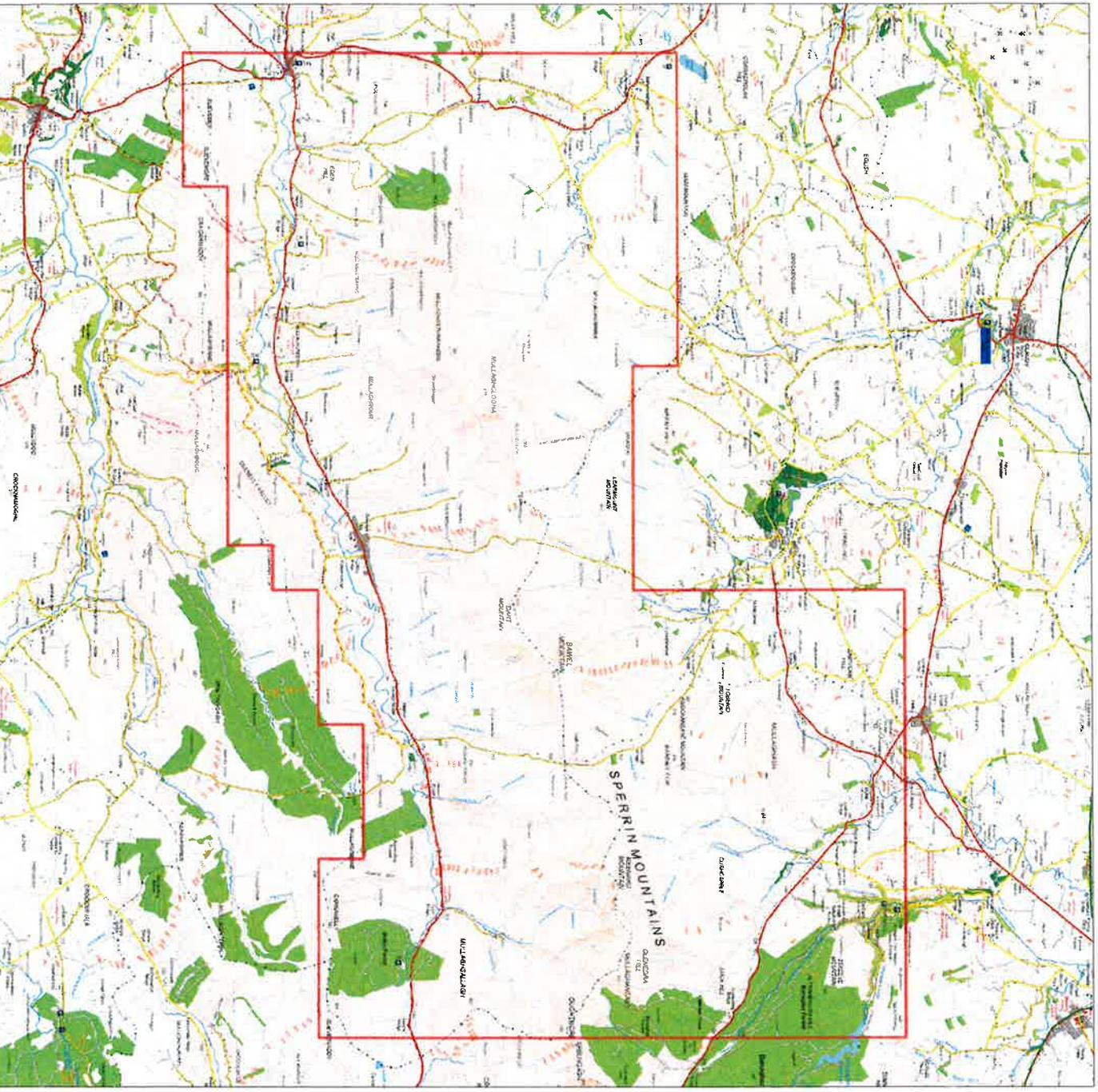
**Option 1:** Agree to support the grant of the licence: or

**Option 2:** Agree to oppose the grant of the licence.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

4.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members agree either Option 1 or 2 above to the proposed grant of the mineral prospecting licence and to the Head of Planning responding to Department for the Economy on behalf of Council.

# DfE Mineral Prospecting Licence Application Area Dalradian Gold DG4

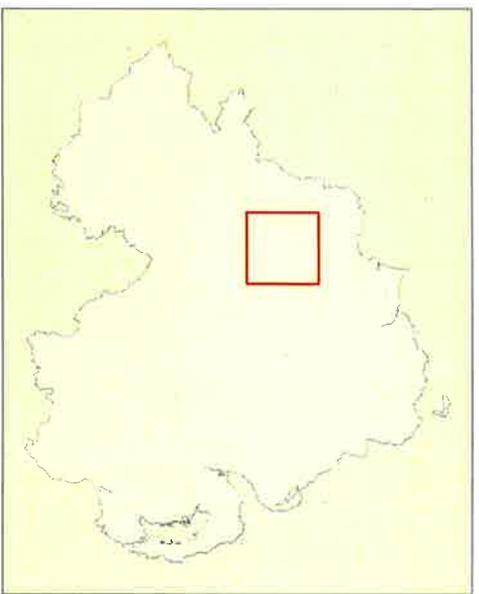


Department for the  
**Economy**  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

**MPL Application Area**

Planning Office  
RECEIVED  
19 JUN 2017

File No. ....  
Causeway Coast and  
Glens Borough Council



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