

Report on	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) – Approval to tender and appoint an external consultant
Date of Meeting	12 th May 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the council on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme. (THoAULP) and request to tender and appoint an external consultant to assist with the development of the Landscape Character Area Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have been granted a £2,002,300 grant for The Heart Of Ancient Ulster Landscape Scheme that has been given approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership (LP) programme
2.2	The project aims to help protect one of the most significant areas of archaeological interest in the middle of Northern Ireland, stretching from Broughderg to Carrickmore down to Pomeroy. The Scheme also intends to help protect and restore unique natural upland blanket and raised bog. There will be strong community involvement focus, together with large educational and conservation skills development. The landscape is unique within the United Kingdom in that it has very low levels of light pollution and provides a great opportunity to create the first Dark Sky Heritage Park in Northern Ireland.
2.3	A development grant of £85,000 has been awarded by HLF to enable Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, to develop its plans and seek final approval for the full grant amount of £2,002,300 at a later date.
2.4	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) is currently developing a Landscape Character Area Plan (LCAP): a fully-budgeted

	five year programme which forms the core of the Round 2 application to be submitted to Heritage Lottery in November 2018.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Unfortunately following a car accident, which involved Moira O'Rourke the HLF Development Officer, the progress to date on the completion and development of the Landscape Character Area Plan is now delayed by 3 months.
3.2	In order to achieve the HLF deadline to submit the LCAP by November 2018 it is recommended that we appoint a consultant to assist with the development. It is requested that each council provide up to £5,000 each to financially support this.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Financial support from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council of £5,000 each is available within current budgets to develop the Landscape Character Area Plan.
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: The project will not be completed on time.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications:N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For approval to tender and appoint an external consultant to assist with the Landscape Character Area Plan.
6.0	Documents Attached & References