

<b>Report on</b>	Feasibility Studies into the Development of Community Trails at Cabin Wood and Tullyhogue
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Wednesday 8th December 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	N Hill Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Council approval to work with Outdoor Recreation NI in the production of Feasibility Studies into the development of Community Trails at Cabin Wood and Tullyhogue
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	As part of Council's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan the creation of Community Trails has been identified within the Action Plan.
2.2	Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) approached Council early in Spring 2021 regarding the possibility of entering into a partnership approach in the delivery of some of these actions.
2.3	ORNI applies every year to NIEA for financial support to deliver projects that fulfil key environmental outcomes across Northern Ireland <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund</a> .
2.4	Community trails will ultimately provide 'doorstep walking' opportunities for the local community and encourage them to connect and engage with nature in a rural community.
2.5	ORNI has been successful in securing funding from NIEA in the development of Feasibility Studies at Cabin Wood and Tullyhogue (as identified in the Outdoor Recreation Strategy).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	NIEA has committed funding for the Tullyhogue Community Trail from the Multi Year Strategic Environment Fund. This is to undertake an initial feasibility study with regards to a trail to connect the village of Tullyhogue to Loughrey College and Mid Ulster Spots Arena by way of Tullyhogue Fort.

3.2	NIEA has committed funding for the Cabin Hill Wood Community Trail from the current annual Environment Fund. This is to undertake a Feasibility Investigation (Preparation) of a community trail (Cookstown to Cabin Hill Wood via the Ballinderry River)
3.3	These studies, undertaken by ORNI, will provide feasible options for each trail and identify the next steps to be undertaken by the Council such as landowner negotiation, ecological assessment and further liaison with local authorities.
3.4	Match funding is required to support and complete these Feasibility Studies for example in the production of preliminary ecological assessments.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
4.1	Financial: Feasibility study for the Community Trails at Tullyhogue and Cabin Wood, as detailed - NIEA (funding secured) £6,400 (50%). <b>Required Match Funding from Council £6,400 (50%)</b>
4.2	Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.
	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Reviewed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Reviewed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members approval is sought to progress with the partnership arrangement with ORNI for the completion of Feasibility Studies for the creation of Community Trails at Tullyhogue and Cabin Wood with a council contribution/match funding of £6,400.

5.2	Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A