

<b>Report on</b>	Sperrins Sculptures
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	3 July 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Tony McCance
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Tony McCance

<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	The purpose of the report is to seek members' approval for additional funding for the Sperrins Sculptures Trail.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
	<b>Sperrins Sculptures Trail – DAERA</b>
2.1	<p>The proposed Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will be developed under the Rural Tourism Scheme as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP). The aim of the programme's Rural Tourism Scheme is to support investment in natural and built heritage projects that can act as a key driver for encouraging rural tourism and particularly out of state visitors whilst preserving the natural assets of the rural community. When the call for expressions of interest was issued, the Department gave a clear indication of its priorities, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an iconic and unique offering for visitors within the Sperrins</li> <li>- Increase tourism from out of state visitors</li> <li>- Create capital infrastructure</li> <li>- Create jobs</li> </ul>
2.2	The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project has been identified as a potential key flagship project and economic driver to deliver upon the strategic aims articulated by each of the three partner councils.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	As previously reported, the Sperrins Sculpture Trail, is a joint tourism initiative being developed by Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District and part funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to embed a public art

	installation, consisting of three pieces of international significance, one within each district council area within the heart of the Sperrins.
3.2	The Sperrins Sculpture trail will reflect the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and open up, for further exploration, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
3.3	As part of the feasibility and development phase of the project, the trail consultants have considered a number of sites within Mid Ulster and the other Council areas, and have identified the Ranaghan picnic site on the Glenshane Pass as the most suitable site, which would act as a gateway to Sperrins Sculpture Trails. In addition to this, other supporting features for this site is the elevated location and exposure to 22,000 passing vehicles every day.
3.4	The project has now progressed to the next stage of design with the preparation of an artists' brief. The brief is based on a three-stage process designed to attract an artist of significant calibre with the experience and capacity required to deliver a project of this nature and scale.
3.5	The proposed procurement approach makes provision for payments to artists at second and third stage of a competitive process. Depending on the number of respondents may require a further level potential of funding from each Council of up to £8,633, bringing the Council's overall contribution to £17,500.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Appropriate budgetary provision for proposed activity has been included in the 2019-20 budgets.
	Human: The required support will be included in the work plan from the Tourism Development & Arts and Culture Officer Teams.
	Risk Management: Risks identified are detailed in the attached Service Improvement Plan
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Tourism provision is delivered by the officer team to be fully inclusive, and is designed to encourage wide participation from all sections of the community and which promotes and supports good relations between all sections of the community within Mid Ulster
	Rural Needs Implications:

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That members support and approve the request to increase councils' potential contribution to £8,633 to progress to the next stage of design with the preparation of an artists' brief for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project.
5.2	Both Derry and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh Councils have obtained approval for the potential additional funds as detailed in this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	