

<b>Report on</b>	Heartland: A heritage and literacy project for primary schools in Mid Ulster
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance
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<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 develop a Heritage and Literary Project, Working in conjunction with the NI Children's Writing Fellow, Myra Zepf and the Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Strategy recognises the rich and diverse range of heritage sites in Mid Ulster. However, the section of the strategy entitled "Archaeology, History and Heritage" states: "The archaeology, history and heritage theme suffers from issues of lack of visibility, limited understanding by residents and visitors alike of the significance of these assets...resulting in a barrier to visiting."
2.2	In addressing this issue, the Education Officers at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and Seamus Heaney HomePlace are proposing to develop an education project, which will enable primary school children from across Mid Ulster to further engage in the significance of our local heritage sites. This project will also draw on the strengths of the education programmes at each of the centres, namely heritage and literacy. This project will be named "Heartland".
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The "Heartland" project will focus attention initially on ten heritage sites across the Mid Ulster District Council area. A proposed list of the heritage sites have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knockoneill Court Tomb, Swatragh</li> <li>• Bellaghy Bawn</li> <li>• William Clark Linen Mill, Upperlands</li> <li>• Tirkane Sweathouse, near Maghera</li> <li>• Ballybriest Court Tomb</li> <li>• Ballyclog Bell site, Curglasson, near Stewartstown</li> <li>• Augher: Clogher Valley Railway</li> <li>• Caledon Courthouse</li> <li>• Ennis Flax Mill, Cabragh</li> <li>• Knockmany Passage Tomb</li> </ul> <p>This project will have the potential to be further developed to include other heritage sites and working with additional schools, over a period of time.</p>

3.2	For the purpose of helping children, families and local communities to better understand a heritage site, it is anticipated that primary schools which are geographically closest to these sites will be engaged during April and May 2018 in order to ascertain interest in participating in the “Heartland” project.
3.3	The project will involve an archaeologist/historian meeting a class from the relevant school close to the heritage site and will explain the historic significance of the site to the pupils.
3.4	The Children’s Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, Myra Zepf, will accompany the pupils at the site visit. She will then return to the school with the class, and she will work with the children as they begin to write about what they have experienced.
3.5	This phase of the project will take place between September and December 2018. The children’s writing from each of the schools will then be collated and edited. The Children’s writing will be published in a book, which will be launched at a ceremony for all of the participating pupils, at the end of March 2019. This book will be made available to all of the young writers, and to their schools, and will also be free to members of the public at Council Visitor Information Centres.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: The cost of the project is £8,000 and can be met from within existing resources within Culture and Arts</p> <p>Human: Commitment of Staff time by Education Officers. Myra Zepfs commitment to the project will be free of charge as part of her role as NI Children’s Writing Fellow, Supported by Queen’s University</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>None identified at this stage</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended to develop and deliver the Heritage and Literary project as proposed, working in conjunction with NI Children’s Writing Fellow, Myra Zepf at a cost of £8,000
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None

