

<b>Report on</b>	Lough Neagh Partnership Heritage Lottery Landscape Programme Year 3
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<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b> If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>Council approval is sought to issue a Letter of Offer to Lough Neagh Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Programme for Year 3 match funding contribution of £36,125.</p> <p>To inform Council of change in delivery of the access element of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan from Ardboe Walk to Newferry.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Lough Neagh Partnership successfully applied to Heritage Lottery Fund for £3.5 million to deliver 27 capital and revenue Landscape Partnership projects through a collaborative working partnership between Councils, statutory agencies and community organisations/NGO's over the period 2016 to 2021.</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council agreed to match fund a total of £99,059 over a 5 year period toward the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardboe Walk and Development of Car Park</li> <li>• Lough Heritage Signage</li> <li>• Archaeology Project Goals 1, 2 and 3</li> </ul> <p><i>Goal 1</i> – Through new research, increase the understanding of Lough Neagh's unique built and cultural heritage  <i>Goal 2</i> – Consolidate and repair archaeological monuments/remains and enhance public access to sites  <i>Goal 3</i> – Connect local people to the Lough's Heritage and increase understanding past ways of life</p> <p>The aim of the project is to stimulate the local economy, improve infrastructure, increase visitor numbers and spend, improve marketing of the tourism product.</p> <p>Phase 1 commenced 2016-17, for which Mid Ulster District Council contributed £35,400. All agreed targets were met in the development stage of year 1 (progress report submitted to Council end of March 2017). MUDC provided funding of £27,534 towards implementation costs in year 2 period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and again all measurable and agreed targets were met.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>

3.1 Access element of the project will move from Ardboe to Newferry as the permissive path agreements which are required to deliver this project were not all agreed to. After consultation with Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, the LNLP Board and the LNP Board it was agreed to look at a range of alternative routes that would meet the outcomes of both the HLF and MUDC funding. **As a result it was agreed that the access element of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan for the MUDC area will take place at Newferry as part of the wider Blueway development. MUDC Capital Projects Team are involved in this project and will deliver.**

*Newferry Walk and Gort Moss Access Improvement Plan*

The proposed trail will open up access along the Lower Bann corridor between Lough Beg and Newferry for the purposes of heritage interpretation and recreation. It will also provide an opportunity for users to familiarise themselves with the heritage and importance of the New Ferry site and it's links to the Seamus Heaney literary heritage and his writings of the area. The Gort Moss improvement plan will provide a series of recommendations for upgrading the existing trail with actions funded through HLF.

Targets	Quantifiable Outputs
<p>To develop a new shoreline pathway from Newferry Carpark to the Newferry peatland by March 2019</p> <p>To provide a costed improvement plan for Gort Moss walk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2km walkway</li> <li>• 500 users in year 1 of opening increasing to 5000 in year 3</li> <li>• 1 access improvement plan</li> </ul>
<p>To deliver an archaeological programme of activities around Lough Neagh to include Archaeological Site Investigations, Exhibitions, Experimental Archaeology, Heritage Skills; Cultural Heritage, Schools, Publications and Media and Conservation and Access by March 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Archaeology investigations and surveys carried out</li> <li>• 3 Buildings conserved</li> <li>• WWII aviation sites audited and researched</li> <li>• 3 Exhibitions taken place</li> <li>• 20 Cultural events/walks/talks, place names, WWII and fishermen reminiscence projects</li> <li>• 300 School's sessions,</li> <li>• 6 Conference/workshops</li> <li>• 10 Experimental archaeology and skills workshops</li> </ul>
<p>To develop and install new interpretative, directional and branding signs associated with the heritage of Lough Neagh shoreline by March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 new directional heritage signs,</li> <li>• 40 interpretation signs,</li> <li>• Establishment of common branding</li> </ul>

The project is scheduled for completion by 31 March 2019.

**4.0 Other Considerations**

**4.1 Financial & Human Resources Implications**

Financial:

	Project	Total (MUDC section)	MUDC Contribution	HLF Contribution
	Newferry Access Route and Car Park	£70,250	£35,125 (50%)	£35,125 (50%)
	Gort Moss Plan	£2,000	£1,000 (50%)	£1,000 (50%)
<b>Human: MUDC to deliver the project under the management of LNLCAP</b>				
<b>4.2</b>	<b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b>			
	<b><u>N/A</u></b>			
<b>4.3</b>	<b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b>			
	N/A			
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>			
5.1	Implement as per Council recommendation to support the project at Development meeting held on 15 October 2015.			
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>			
	N/A			

