

<b>Report on</b>	Drumcairne and Derrynoyd Funding Opportunities
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne 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 provide an update on the development project at Drumcairne and Derrynoyd Forests.
1.2	To seek Members approval to enter into a lease agreement with Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) in respect of the carpark and terrace garden area within Drumcairne Forest.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in May 2022, an update was provided to the Development committee regarding two Expressions of Interest made to DAERA for Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) funding to assist in the development of Derrynoyd and Drumcairne Forests (minute reference: D082/22).
2.2	In December 2022, Members at the P&R committee resolved to approve the appointment of a contractor to carry out the works and to approve Council match funding to the project (minute reference: PR243/22). It is anticipated that the Contractor will commence works on both sites in early 2023.
2.3	<p>Forest development plans include:</p> <p><u>Derrynoyd Forest (total site 100ha)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgrade existing trail network (approx 5km) to multi-use trails</li> <li>- Formal layout and increase car and bicycle parking, road passing points etc (within main forest block)</li> <li>- Creation of a carpark for horse riding/larger vehicles (within main forest block)</li> <li>- Re-establish the orienteering trail to include survey and map</li> <li>- Way-marking, signage, interpretation, visitor monitoring and associated furniture</li> <li>- Site storage</li> </ul> <p><u>Drumcairne Forest (total site 70ha)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The restoration of two-looped way-marked trails as multi-use trails, approx 1.5km and 3.25km</li> <li>- Formal layout of car and bicycle parking, road passing points etc</li> <li>- Vegetation clearance to reveal former features of the terrace gardens, outline of the ponds and associated surveys.</li> <li>- Way-marking, signage, interpretation, visitor monitoring and associated furniture</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The two applications for funding to help develop Derrynoyd and Drumcairne Forests have been successful and Council Officers are pursuing DAERA for Letter of Offer in respect of each project.
3.2	Previously in 2015, legacy Magherafelt District Council entered into a licence agreement with FSNI over Derrynoyd Forest. This provides Council with the remit to develop and maintain all aspects of recreation within the site.
3.3	A Recreation Licence and Lease agreement was required for Drumcairne Forest and previously in May 2022, Members at the Development committee resolved to approving the entering into a licence and lease agreement with FSNI to allow for the development of Drumcairne Forest (minute reference: D082/22). The licence agreement has now been actioned and the lease agreement has been developed by FSNI with an annual rental of £500.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: £500 per annum rental – can be derived via existing revenue budgets.
	Human: Officer time to administer and monitor delivery of projects.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Have been developed and considered in line with relevant Council procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Have been developed and considered in line with relevant Council procedures.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and give approval to enter into a lease agreement with FSNI in respect of lands around the carpark and terrace garden in Drumcairne Forest and to agree to pay the £500 annual rental.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A