

Report on	Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme
Date of Meeting	Thursday 10 th September 2020
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Council approval to appoint a qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity hubs, subject to available funding.
1.2	As outlined in the Action Plan of Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	As part of Council's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, March 2020, forest projects were identified for the future development of outdoor recreation.
2.2	As part of the Action Plan it was specified that Master Plans would be carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1 – 2 for Altmore/Cappagh as a local hub - Year 2 – 3 for Drumcairne as a local hub - Year 2 – 3 for Parkanaur as a regional hub - Year 3 – 4 for Drum Manor as a regional hub.
2.3	Regional multi-activity hubs are significant development projects designed to attract for 'out of state visitors' and also cater for the local community. Regional hubs will include a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by accommodation options and extensive visitor servicing.
2.4	Local multi-activity hubs are moderate development projects designed to cater for the local community. Local hubs will include a limited range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Consultations between Council Officers and the main stake-holders have been taking place for the various local hubs:</p>
3.2	<p>Altmore Forest/Cappagh: Council has had consultations with NI Water, Forest Service NI, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (F&ODC) in relation to the development of outdoor recreation at Altmore/Cappagh. Consultations with NI Water has provided suggested boundaries to the extent of lands associated to the project. These lands are currently subject to a process to identify all landownership issues in order to enable progress.</p> <p>In consultation with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, MUDC were informed that FODC had met with the local community group and were aware of the proposals and community support for recreational development at Altmore. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have advised MUDC that although their current focus continues to be the development of Gortin Forest, they would seek to support MUDC with the master planning and participate in the development of proposals for the Forest.</p> <p>Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections to the initial request from MUDC for the provision of a Licence Agreement for Altmore Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan, which also clearly sets out and apportions any partnership management structures and responsibilities, as Altmore forest straddles two local authority jurisdictions. This will have to be formalised with FODC in order to enable the licence agreement for the entire forest to be progressed with FSNI. Should this option prove problematic an alternative proposal to enter into a Licence Agreement with FSNI for the portion of the forest in MUDC could be an option.</p> <p>3.3 Drumcairne Forest/Stewartstown: Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections to the initial request from MUDC for the provision of a Licence Agreement for recreational development in Drumcairne Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan to enable this licence to be progressed.</p> <p>3.4 Dunmoyle Forest/Ballygawley: In response to local community and private sector support for development at Dunmolye Forest Council have explored initial development proposals with Forest Service NI. Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) have indicated that they have no objections for consideration of a Licence Agreement for recreational development in Dunmoyle Forest. Forest Service NI will require a project proposal in the format of a Master Plan to enable this licence to be progressed. The Dunmolye Forest proposal, although not identified specifically in the action plan, is representative of the nature of development recommended in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, adopted by Council in March 2020.</p>

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Master Plan for Local Hub Development Projects estimated cost £10,000 per project.</p> <p>Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.</p>
	Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to procure and appoint qualified consultancy to develop Master Plans for the potential development of Drumcairn, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests as local multi-activity recreational hubs. Subject to available funding.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A