

<b>Report on</b>	Sperrins Sculpture Trail: Technical Study Contribution
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne

<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	To update members on the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project and to request an uplift in funding for a technical study from £5,556 each to £8,867 (in addition to previously approved £2,500 contribution for a green book economic analysis)
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will be aware that an expression of interest for a Sperrins Sculpture Trail project has been submitted to the Rural Tourism Scheme (RTS) and the scheme promoter - the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has since advanced this to the next stage of the application process.
2.2	To enable an application to the scheme proper officers have identified the need in the first instance for the completion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A project technical study (for which 75% funding up to a maximum of £50,000 is available and with remaining costs to be covered by the applicant and applicant partners)</li> <li>2. And a Green Book economic analysis (full cost to be absorbed by the applicant and applicant partners).</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Procurement for a technical study has been undertaken on the basis that any appointment would be subject to funding being secured. Costs for this work had been estimated initially at approximately £66,667, with DAERA contributing 75% of the budget (£50,000) and the remainder- £16,667 being financed by the three partner councils (£5,556 each) .The actual costs identified through the tender process however are listed as £71,000 with the added option of including the consultancy services of an artist

	/sculpture (to add value to the study) at a cost of £5,600. In total the cost of technical study to each council now would be a maximum of £8,867. Officers recommend that further to a consensus approach being arrived at with partner councils that council agree the contribution of £8,867 which would include the consultancy services of an artist/sculptor.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p><b>Financial</b> - As reported previously it is estimated that the overall project could potentially cost up to £2million. This cost will relate to the installation of one artwork of significant scale in each of the 3 participating council areas.</p> <p>On the basis that DAERA approve three applications (one from each partner council) for funding for the £2mn project this would provide up to a maximum of £1,500,000 from DAERA for the project. A potential request to partner councils for up to £166,667 each (minus potentially up to £133,333 in kind contribution option each) would be required to fund the remaining £0.5mn.</p> <p>As outlined above to enable an application to the scheme proper a project technical study will have to be completed. The cost of this is estimated at a minimum of £7,000 and a maximum of £8,867 EX VAT per council and excluding contingency. An application to DAERA for Technical Assistance to fund the remaining £50,000 is near completion and must be submitted no later than 31st January 2019.</p> <p>Other sources of funding and support will continue to be investigated through discussions with the Department for Infrastructure, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and Tourism Northern Ireland. It is hoped this will result in additional funding being secured therefore reducing the amount required of each council.</p> <p><b>Human</b> - Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council has provided a lead role in the project's development to date. To progress the project this role going forward will require the allocation of dedicated financial resources within council as well as support from key sections such as finance, legal, planning.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Risk Management Implications</b></p> <p>As reported previously the three councils will additionally be required to complete a Green Book Economic Analysis as part of the application process proper. Cost for this will have to be absorbed by three councils (£2,500 each). The core aim of this study will be to confirm in detail the economic viability of the project using a ten step approach and help mitigate council and its partners against potential risks.</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: Increased civic pride</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Increased visitor numbers to area who will stay longer in the district, no negative implications</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That members support and approve the request to increase councils' contribution to £8,867 for the procurement of a technical study for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project subject to partner contributions as described being confirmed.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A