

<b>Report on</b>	Joint Learning Journey to County Mayo For Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and LAG Members and Lead Officers
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	11 October 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Moira O'Rourke/Gail Lees

<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 inform Council of plans to develop a two day Learning Journey to the County Mayo on Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October with Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership and LAG members (20 people) and lead tourism and arts officers from MUDC and FODC. HLF funding will cover accommodation and coach.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have been awarded £85,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop a £2.9m Landscape Partnership Scheme titled The Heart Of Ancient Ulster. Successful submission of a Round 2 application will result in a £2,002,300 grant from HLF with the remainder provided by match funding from partners and externals.
2.2	The project aims to help protect one of the most significant areas of archaeological interest in the middle of Northern Ireland, stretching from Broughderg to Carrickmore down to Pomeroy. The Scheme also intends to help protect and restore unique natural upland blanket and raised bog. There will be strong community involvement focus, together with large educational and conservation skills development. The landscape is unique within the United Kingdom in that it has very low levels of light pollution and provides a great opportunity to create the first Dark Sky Heritage Park in Northern Ireland.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>These groups meet once every month and two months and are developing their plans for the future. One proposal that the clusters would like to deliver is a Learning Journey to Co. Mayo with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit three key sites within County Mayo to include:</li> <li>• Céide Fields Site and Visitor Centre which is currently under consideration to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site</li> <li>• Dark Skies Park at Ballycroy National Park</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate new ideas and thinking for the HoAULP individually and as a collective by visiting new examples of innovative heritage and outdoors product development.</li> <li>• Generate new relationship and partnership with 2 County Mayo LAG groups for future RDP trails project.</li> <li>• Discover how the heritage theme is linked to and runs through tourism product development throughout County Mayo.</li> <li>• Experience best practise in built, natural and cultural heritage interpretation, management and marketing through the visits to these sites.</li> <li>• Explore the creation of the Wild Atlantic Way brand, its development, creation of brand guidelines, and how it is used and monitored across the region.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: £4,000 to cover cost of accommodation, victuals, coach, admissions and tour guide for 20 people – money allocated within existing HoAULP budget.
	Human: staff members who lead HoAULP and LAG to participate in the Learning Journey
	Risk Management: Na
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:  All HoAULP board members will be invited to participate in the Learning Journey and as a cross border learning journey it will be an invaluable opportunity to experience and investigate County Mayo and its built, cultural and natural heritage.  LAG members invited according to budget.
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approve County Mayo Learning Journey proposal
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>