

<b>Report on</b>	Scoping Studies: Davagh Forest Project Seamus Heaney HomeGround Project
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Tony McCance
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Tony McCance

<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 update Council on the requirement to commission Scoping Studies to be undertaken for:  a) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and b) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience Scoping Study.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Following a number of meetings with MUDC Officers and DAERA representatives during December 2017 and early January 2018, Mid Ulster District Council was subsequently invited by DAERA to submit two applications to the Rural Tourism Scheme for both the Davagh Forest Experience and the Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience proposals.
2.2	When the calls for Expressions of Interest was issued the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs provided clear indication of the priorities it was intending to address, namely that proposed projects should:- a) be flagship, Iconic, Unique b) increase out of State visitors c) create capital infrastructure d) create Job(s)
2.3	The Davagh Forest Project has been identified by Mid Ulster District Council as one of its core projects which links strategically to two of the three themes identified with the Council's tourism strategy, Heritage and Outdoor Hubs. The project in its current state will be a visitor Centre/ observatory that will present visitor to The Davagh Forest Centre and Observatory with a unique indoor, immersive visitor experience based around and telling the stories of the richness of both the astronomy and the archaeological heritage of the area. By adding this element to the project this will continue the experience outdoors, further enhancing the visitor experience by using and utilising the local environment around the Centre as a backdrop.
2.4	The Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience will also be a unique and immersive visitor experience that focuses on the landscape and the inspiring locations that influenced the work of Seamus Heaney. It is proposed to develop a unique, innovative

2.5	<p>experience that will utilise state of the art technologies to capture the essence of the landscape, people and places that inspired his work. The Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience complement the existing offering of Seamus Heaney HomePlace.</p> <p>It is anticipated that within both projects this type of outdoor experience may be a possible combination of audio and visual effects interactive multimedia such as touch control, large-display blending, remote monitoring, outdoor 3D projection, including the latest technology in audio, lasers, augmented and virtual reality being innovative, unique and totally engaging with the visitor.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Council has now been asked to proceed to full capital application stage for both projects. In order to complete the full capital application, it is a requirement of the Funder that all procurement and planning needs to be secured in advance.</p>
3.2	<p>In compliance with the DAERA request, a second application to DAERA was submitted to access Technical Assistance funding to develop Scoping Studies for both the Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience.</p>
3.3	<p>Two Letters of Offer have now been received by Mid Ulster District Council to progress with the Scoping Studies required for both the Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and the Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience and in preparation of full capital applications which will be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Scoping Study for the external Visitor Experience at Davagh Forest total £19,450 match funding required is £4,863</p> <p>Scoping Study for Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience total £22,450 match funding required is £5,613</p> <p>Financial support from Mid Ulster District Council for each scoping study can be met from within current Tourism and Culture &amp; Arts Service budgets.</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>Staff time commitment only</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific conditions within the Letter of Offer states that all overrun costs in the development of the projects will be met by council.</li> <li>• Failure to apply for the full capital grant may lead to clawback of the Technical Assistance grant award.</li> </ul>

<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: All Equality and Good Relations Implications will be considered and addressed within Scoping Studies undertaken
	Rural Needs Implications:  Rural Needs Implications will be considered as part of the Scoping Studies undertaken
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To approve signing of Letters of Offer for commissioning of Scoping Studies for a) Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience and b) Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience
5.2	To approve 25% match funding requirement for scoping Studies, to be met from within existing Tourism and Culture & Arts Service resources
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Letter of Offer - Davagh Forest Experience
6.2	Letter of Offer - Seamus Heaney HomeGround Experience