

Report on	Master Plan/Business Case - Maghera Walkways
Date of Meeting	Thursday 15 April 2021
Reporting Officer	N Hill Head of Parks
Contact Officer	A Reid Parks & Countryside Development Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Council approval to appoint a suitably qualified consultancy team to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area. (Land Map Appendix).
2.0	Background
2.1	As part of Council's Maghera, 2017 – 2030, A Physical Development Framework and Action Plan, the creation of an outdoor recreation space was identified as a theme for potential development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing walking / cycle trail - Potential development of Walled Garden, Rectory site and environs as recreation / amenity hub
2.2	There is an acknowledged desire for the creation of public park facilities within the Maghera area. The development of recreational green space has been welcomed and enthusiastically supported across the local community.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Council has recently acquired circa 37 acres of lands between the Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road for economic and recreational development purposes.
3.2	A significant portion of the land is identified for the provision of recreational green space, to include the creation of habitat biodiversity/conservation, natural play and a network of community trails, in response to the need for additional outdoor recreational facilities in the Maghera area.
3.3	The Master Planning process will provide for outline concept development proposals steered by further community consultations across a wide range of local stake-holders and user groups.

3.4	The Maghera scheme has been identified in the 2020-2024 Capital Framework for development.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Master Plan/Business Case for Maghera Scheme estimated cost £15,000. Budget identified under MUDC Capital Programme 2020-2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy subject to Council approval of annual capital budget allocations.
	Human: Existing staff resources will work alongside appointed consultancy team. No additional staffing resource required.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approval is sought to progress procurement of a suitably qualified Consultancy Teams to develop a Master Plan/Business Case for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road / Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix – Outline Land Map