

<b>Report on</b>	Iniscarn Community Group (PSG) Service Level Agreement
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne Reid, Parks & Countryside Development Officer

<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 consider a proposal to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Protect Slieve Gallion (PSG) Community Group Iniscarn for caretaker and cleansing duties within Iniscarn Forest.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in March 2016, the Development committee considered and resolved to adopt proposals for annual service levels agreements in support of leisure and outdoor recreation services (minute reference: D075/16) and each year thereafter, a report has been brought forward for Members consideration on annual service level agreements.
2.2	In July 2021, the Development Committee considered and permitted to the development of Iniscarn Forest (minute reference: C133/21).
2.3	In March 2020, Members resolved to approve the MUDC Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (minute reference: D052/20) and a key strategic action contained within this plan is to <b>“Monitor existing SLAs with Community Groups for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community”</b> and within each year of the strategic plan there is an action to seek to <b>“develop 1 x new SLA”</b>
2.4	Previously in May 2022, Members resolved to approve the approach for annual service levels agreements in support of leisure and outdoor recreation services for the April 22 – March 23 year (minute reference: D080/22).  Council review all Service Level Agreements annually based on a mixture of performance indicators and service provision - this ensures that service level objectives meet with Council's satisfaction and are monitored continuously.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	During 2022, Iniscarn Forest experienced significant investment and facility enhancements. Visitor numbers have increased significantly, and this has brought about additional challenges in terms of site maintenance, opening/closing the site, cleaning, light maintenance and inspections.
3.2	In line with one of the strategic actions contained within the MUDC Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, Council officers commenced discussions with the Protect Slieve

	Gallion Community Group to seek to develop a partnership that recognises the increased accessibility of services at Iniscarn and also the challenges that Council resources face in maintaining a quality service within the Iniscarn area.
3.3	It is proposed to enter into an SLA and to develop a close working partnership with a recognised grouping within the area. This will be of significant benefit to Council in terms of local community engagement, capacity building, commitment, support and supervision of one of our main visitor attractions within the area.
3.4	Proposals have been discussed with the group to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target areas within Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Opening and closing of the site</li> <li>• Litter picking and low level maintenance</li> <li>• Grass cutting and leaf blowing</li> <li>• Reporting of issues to Council staff – ie. antisocial behaviour, defects, etc</li> <li>• The proposed agreement would seek to provide on-site support services on a daily basis equating to 12 hours per week with daily site presence. The calculated cost of this service equates to £123.60 per week/ £6,427.20 per annum.</li> </ul>
3.5	It would be proposed to enter in this agreement for the period of February 2023 – March 2023 and thereafter annually. Initially therefore the above costings would be on a pro-rata basis and subject to review - Council review all Service Level Agreements annually based on interim performance indicators, this ensures that service level objectives meet with Council's satisfaction and monitored continuously.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Sufficient Service Level Agreement contributions have been ring fenced within the current financial year 2022/23 to accommodate the proposed service and in line with the Council's approved Five Year Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (minute reference: D052/20).
	Human: Officer time to administer and monitor delivery of agreed SLA's.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and give approval to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Protect Slieve Gallion to provide on-site support services on a daily basis equating to 12 hours per week, 7 days per week on a flexible rota at an approx. cost of £123.60 per week/ £627.20 per annum.

	This is for the period February 2023 – March 2023, thereafter annually. This will be reviewed for effectiveness and extension in line with other annual Service Level Agreements in support of Council's leisure and outdoor recreation services
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A