

<b>Report on</b>	NIEA Challenge Fund
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<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>  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 Council on the successful application to NIEA Challenge Fund to produce a detailed Feasibility Study and to seek approvals to appoint suitably qualified personnel/company for the delivery of same.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in February 2021 (minute ref: D034/21) Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) were appointed to carry out Scoping Studies on Dunmoyle, Altmore and Drumcairne Forest.
2.2	In September 2021 (minute ref: D154/21) the Scoping Studies were adopted by Council and permission granted to procure and appoint suitably qualified Integrated Consultancy and Supply Teams (ICT and IST) to develop all necessary designs, specifications, procurement documentation and project manage agreed schemes associated to Drumcairne, Altmore and Dunmoyle Forests, subject to available funding.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Scoping Study for the development of Altmore/Cappagh sets out the possible options for the development of this site as an outdoor recreation facility and provides an indication of proposed works, including timeframe, next steps, and estimated costs required to fully develop Altmore Forest as a 'local multi-activity hub'. In addition to Altmore Forest, the Scoping Study has been strongly influenced by the recreational opportunities associated with Northern Ireland Water lands. Therefore, the Study area of Altmore embraces all lands reaching as far east as Cappagh Village, rather than just the forested area.
3.2	Therefore, to move this project to the next stage, an Expression of Interest was made to NIEA Challenge Fund in March 2022 for funding to produce a detailed feasibility study for the development of publicly owned lands within the Altmore/Cappagh area as a local activity hub – it is anticipated that once this work is carried out Council should be in receipt of a report with detailed concepts/designs/costings and therefore be at the next stage of "readiness" should capital investment and/or funding opportunities be available in the future.
3.3	A letter of offer has been issued to Council, supporting a maximum of 76.7% of eligible costs, up to £40,000. Match funding by Council is in the form of staff time £12,143 (23.3%).

3.4	Should Members give approval to proceed, Council will therefore seek to appoint a suitably qualified company/personnel to produce detailed design documentation in relation to a full master planning for Altmore Forest and surrounding lands.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: There are no additional financial costs associated with this project.
	Human: There are no additional Council human resources implications associated with this project.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures as part of the tendering exercise and in the appointment of personnel.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered in line with Council's policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered in line with Council's policies and procedures.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the acceptance of the letter of offer from NIEA and to grant approvals to appoint suitably qualified personnel/company following Council's procurement process.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A