

<b>Report on</b>	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP) – Progress Report and Request for Support in Principal for the Project Going Forward
<b>Date</b>	15 November 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mary McKeown

<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 the council on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme. (HoAULP) and request support in principal for the project going forward.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have been granted a £85,000 for Round 2 development of a Heart Of Ancient Ulster Landscape Scheme that has been given approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership (LP) programme.
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.
2.3	A development grant of £85,000 has been awarded by HLF to enable Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, to develop its plans and submit a stage two application seeking final approval for the full grant amount from the HLF of £2,002,300.
2.4	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoAULP) is currently developing a Landscape Character Area Plan (LCAP): a fully budgeted five-year programme, which forms the core of the Round 2 application to be submitted to Heritage Lottery in November 2018.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Boundary Issue - Heritage Lottery Fund had allowed for changes to the boundary during this development phase. The HoAULP board members voted at the July board meeting to include Mullaghcarn ASSI and the Owenkillew River SAC to the FODC boundary with Derry and Strabane District Council. Both have protected status for the quality of their natural heritage. (ASSI – Area of Special Scientific Interest. SAC – Special Area of Conservation)

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<p>Work has continued to compile the LCAP, a draft of which was submitted to HLF 7th September 2018. This work includes preparation of two external (Skills &amp; Training, and Access) and one internal audit (Built Heritage), public consultations, public call for Expression of Interest from groups within the HoAULP boundary, and working closely with officers from statutory organisations and internal MUDC and FODC officers to develop the five year programme of projects.</p> <p>Constructive feedback at a Draft Review meeting with HLF, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, was very positive. HoAULP staff and the appointed external consultant are working through the recommendations and finalising projects and budgets to ensure the final LCAP is submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> November. The London Committee of HLF will assess the Round 2 submission in March 2019 and notify shortly thereafter.</p> <p>The Development Officer and Administration Officer will cease employment on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.</p> <p>In order to achieve success of the application MUDC and FODC are required to submit a letter of support in principle of £200,000 from each Council, to be allocated over the five years (2019-2024) of the project, as originally agreed in the Round 1 application to HLF, with a guaranteed £56,000 for Year 1.</p> <p>MUDC is the lead partner in the project and will need to provide continued support during the Round 2 assessment phase, Dec 2018 – March 2019.</p> <p>The Delivery Phase of HoAULP (2019-24) will include a project to construct new heritage trails within HoAULP. Both MUDC and FODC will be required to ensure such trails within their jurisdiction are brought into the Quality Walk Scheme. Though this scheme will provide insurance of trails it will fall on both Councils to agree maintenance of the trails within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Another element of the same project will provide new, and upgrading of existing access to archaeological sites within HoAULP. MUDC will be required to enter a MOU for sites within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>A letter of support will be required from MUDC as part of the Round 2 submission to HLF agreeing in principal to maintenance of trails and providing MOU for access to archaeological sites within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>A partnership agreement will be required from all HoAULP partners as part of the Round 2 submission to HLF.</p>
	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>In order to achieve success of the application MUDC and FODC are required to submit a letter of support in principle of £200,000 from each Council, to be allocated over the five years (2019-2024) of the project, as originally agreed in the Round 1 application to HLF, with a guaranteed £56,000 for Year 1.</p> <p>Current staff will cease employment 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, therefore it is essential that line of communication between all partners and HLF is kept open.</p>

4.2	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>Failure of MUDC and FODC to provide letter of support and partnership agreement, and to financially support the Delivery Phase of HoAULP will result in loss of £2 million grant from HLF.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
5.1	<p>For Council to issue a letter of support and partnership agreement agreeing financially support the Delivery Phase of HoAULP in principle as per outlined in the report.</p>
	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
	<p>N/A</p>