

<b>Report on</b>	Derrynoyd and Drumcarine Forests, Funding Opportunities
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12th May 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>	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 Members of two Expressions of Interest made to DAERA for Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) funding to assist in the development of Derrynoyd and Drumcarine Forests.
1.2	To seek Members approval to enter into a licence and lease agreement with Forest Service NI (FSNI) for the creation of an enhanced outdoor recreation product and associated welfare facilities within Drumcarine Forest.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in 2015, legacy Magherafelt District Council entered into a licence agreement with FSNI over Derrynoyd Forest. This provides Council with the remit to develop and maintain all aspects of recreation within the site.
2.2	Previously in February 2021, Council commissioned Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) to produce a Scoping Study for the development of Drumcarine Forest, Stewartstown. This document clearly sets out the possible options for the development of this site as an outdoor recreation facility (minute reference: D034/21 and D154/21). In order to progress this development, Council require a licence and lease agreement with FSNI over this site.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Both Derrynoyd and Drumcarine Forests provide an outdoor resource that have the potential for supporting the delivery of long-term health and well-being for residents of Mid Ulster District and also for people from outside the District. The Council recognises that access to green space and opportunities for enjoying the outdoors must be improved for all sections of the community especially those who do not have regular access to the outdoor environment.
3.2	Consultation has taken place within the community of each site and there is a clear desire within the local communities to enhance each site to develop quality outdoor recreation facilities.
3.3	In March 2022, two Expressions of Interest for funding to help develop the sites were lodged with DAERA for TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation) funding. Each of these Expressions of Interest were successful in getting through to the next stage of the funding process, additional information and a Business Case for each site is to be worked up & lodged with DAERA by end May 2022.

3.4	A Recreation Licence and Lease agreement are required for Drumcairne Forest. Discussions with FSNI have confirmed that a lease agreement is required for the development of welfare facilities within Drumcairne Forest. In principal, FSNI have indicated that they are supportive of the proposed plans for both sites.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: At this stage there are no financial element of these projects. Further detailed reports outlining potential development costs will be presented to a future committee for consideration. At this stage, this is an expression of interest and depending on the outcome and specific details contained within a letter of offer for funding should it be received, future finances and feasibility will have to be considered should the projects be able to proceed.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support. No additional staffing resource required at this point.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Will be developed as part of the project and in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval to enter into a licence and lease agreement with FSNI to allow for the development of Drumcairne Forest.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A