

Agenda

1.0 APOLOGIES

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- (i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete the Disclosure of Interest form)

3.0 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

3.1 DEA Investment Programme 2024/25

- [*Director - DEA Local Investment Plan 2802c \(1\).pdf*](#) *Page 1*

- [*Appendix 1 DEA Investment Programme Evaluation Report Phase 2 - Final Version.pdf*](#) *Page 5*

- [*Appendix 2 - Equality Screening for DEA Investment.pdf*](#) *Page 32*

- [*Appendix 3 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment.pdf*](#) *Page 57*

4.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF PARKS & AMENITIES

4.1 Hosting of Green Flag Awards Ceremony 2024

- [*Item 2 Green Flag Awards 2602.pdf*](#) *Page 66*

- [*Appendix 1 Green Flag event format.pdf*](#) *Page 68*

4.2 Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) 'Walking for All'

- [*Outdoor Recreation NI Walking for All project 3.pdf*](#) *Page 70*

- [*Appendix ORNI draft project concept.pdf*](#) *Page 73*

4.3 Lady Mary Peters - Woodland Walk & Running Trail

- [*Lady Mary Peters Woodland Walk and Running Trail 28021.pdf*](#) *Page 75*

- [*Appendix Map Lady Mary's Woodland Walk.pdf*](#) *Page 77*

5.0 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING

5.1 PEACEPLUS Action Plan

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|---|----------------------------|
| 📄 Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan 2902.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |
| 📄 Appendix 1 Draft PEACEPLUS Action Plan 2902.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |
| 📄 Appendix 2 Table of EOI Outcomes.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |
| 📄 Appendix 3 Equality GR Screening PEACEPLUS Action Plan.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |
| 📄 Appendix 4 RNIA LCCC Peaceplus Action Plan 2022-2027.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |

5.2 Macmillan Move More Programme

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| 📄 Macmillan Programme 2802.pdf | <i>Not included</i> |
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6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing Committee
Date:	5 March 2024
Report from:	Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	DEA Local Investment Programme

1.0	<u>Background</u>
1.1	At its meeting on 14th February, the Corporate Services Committee noted the contents of a report, together with an evaluation report, in respect of the DEA Local Investment Programme for 2023/24. In addition, the Committee approved a budget to oversee a DEA Local Investment Programme in 2024/25 and agreed that the proposals are forwarded to the Communities and Wellbeing Committee for its consideration. The report considered by the Corporate Services Committee is set out hereunder, and the proposals for the DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25 can be found under table 1 in section 4 of this report.
1.2	Further to this, Council agreed at its meeting held on 27 February, that consideration is given at the March meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee, to fund the shortfall in budget for the Community Support Grant (£13,859) and the Community Festivals Fund (£7,873.18) as part of the overall budget allocated to the DEA Local Investment Programme.
1.3	<p>To date the Council has funded the DEA Local Investment Programme for up to three consecutive years, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. The programme is born out of the Investment Plan, Connect-Invest-Transform Link to Connect Invest Transform. Alongside the principles contained within the Investment Plan the general agreed principles for the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No land ownership issues b. Permitted development where possible or planning permission likely c. Minimal revenue tail desirable d. Balanced investment e. Supports partnership working <p>Furthermore, key drivers have been identified to further support prioritisation. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Supports community engagement/community capacity g. Proposal addresses local concerns h. Improves corporate effectiveness i. Address emerging needs j. Addresses poverty/social exclusion
2.0	<u>Current Position</u>
2.1	<p>Phase 1 (2021-22), saw a total investment of £1.7 million across 72 projects which comprised of £700,000 of collective 'in year' spend and external funding sources and an additional £1 million Council contribution.</p> <p>Phase 2 (2022-2023), saw a total investment of £1.7 million across 69 projects which comprised of £1.098m collective 'in year' spend and external funding sources similarly to</p>

the Phase 1 pilot. An additional Council contribution of £602k was made.

Phase 3: Projects continue in Phase 3 of the Programme with a total investment of £1.195 million across 54 projects again, funded from collective 'in year' spend, and external funding sources. There was an additional Council contribution of £500k.

2.2

Feedback and next steps

Phase 1 of the programme has been evaluated and was reported to Corporate Services Committee in February 2023. Phase 2 of the programme has also been evaluated and a copy of the evaluation can be found in **Appendix 1**. Phase 3 of the programme will be evaluated post year end and a further report presented for Members' consideration.

At the November 2023, Communities and Wellbeing Committee Members received an update on the current phase of the programme and whilst they enjoyed seeing all the projects listed collectively, they requested that Officers consider reporting only against the DEA Council Funded projects going forward and that at a departmental level the other projects were captured and monitored. They further requested that the DEA Local Investment Programme be presented as a stand-alone programme going forward.

Feedback from the initial phases has shown that the short term, low value and uncomplicated projects worked well with ease of delivery whilst maximising community benefits. This has resulted in increased levels of community participation in events, programmes and projects whilst simultaneously building relationships with communities and Council.

Significant results have been realised across funding streams and the Community Conversations. The model employed by both these programmes requires both Council and Community input, but in essence provide a platform for organisations to improve their community through minor aesthetic works, updating a facility or applying for some technical assistance to encourage great access and participation.

On delivery of the programme there have been requests to continue with some of the funding programmes such as Community Facilities Fund, Sports Fund and DIY/Technical Support. Alongside this, there has been a number of groups who have asked for a small amount of money to support an individual or group with a bursary type scheme. The requests have been for athletes, musicians, and classes to help with travel or some type of related fee.

2.3

Key operational principles arising from the review of phase 1 and phase 2 are:

- a) All programmes must be located within LCCC area and provide community benefit,
- b) The Council will not fund revenue costs associated with developing any projects or sustaining the planned outcomes,
- c) The Guiding Principles of the Investment Plan, Connect-Invest-Transform to remain, along with the general programme principles and key drivers, as noted in item,
- d) Maintain the transparent application process, for financial assistance to include governance, monitoring, and evaluation,
- e) Continue to support organisations through capacity building and training,
- f) Continue with a programme management approach, through portfolio, with records being maintained such as finance, meetings, assessment of applications and Committee/Council reports. This will also include monitoring and evaluation,
- g) Continue to monitor and report on mainstreamed projects through existing channels and
- h) On completion of phase 3 of the programme bring back a full report, by way of an update and conclusion of the pilot phase.

3.0 **Proposed DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25**

Based on the experiences of the previous three DEA programmes, learning and feedback, it is proposed that the following initiatives be funded in 2024/25. The totality of the investment is proposed at £600k. A Financial Resilience paper being considered at this meeting, will outline how this could be funded from existing financial reserves.

With any project a report detailing the outworking's will be presented to the relevant Committee for consideration.

Table 1 – Proposed DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Budget</u>
1. Community Facility Fund	To improve existing facilities to increase community access and participation	£420k
2. DIY & Technical Fund	Small one-off purchases/technical items to improve/support a community facility	£50k
3. Community Conversations	Community Village Enhancements x 2	£10k
4. Sports Fund	Support participation in sport/sports development	£100k
5. Bursary Scheme	Support individuals with access to progression routes for sports, music, classes	£25k (£5k from Communities)
	Total Budget	£600k

3.1 In line with the request agreed at the Council meeting on 27 February, for this committee to consider funding the additional budget to cover the shortfall in both Community Support Grant and Community Festivals Funding, an additional amount of £21,732.18 is required. Should the committee agree to fund this shortfall, it is recommended that it is allocated from the DEA Programme budget outlined above in the first instance. If this has an impact on the amount available for the DEA Programmes following assessment, it will be considered by committee in line with any identified departmental underspend at the time of approval.

4.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that

- the Committee approves the programme for 2024/25;
- agrees to cover the shortfall in funding for the Community Support Grant and Community Festivals Fund as outlined in the paper from the budget allocated to the DEA Local Investment Plan budget; and
- to off set any impact this may have on the overall DEA Programme, and should this additional budget be required following assessment, it will be considered by committee in line with any identified departmental underspend at the time of approval.

5.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Financial resilience paper was approved by Corporate Services Committee on 14th February.</p>	
6.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
6.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> <p>The programme has been screened with mitigations in place to include support to those who require it regarding accessing financial assistance and also ensuring that applicants consider equality and diversity needs.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

6.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out</p>	
6.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p> <p>A Rural Needs Assessment has been undertaken and identifies that whilst the programme will not impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, continued monitoring and evaluation will be in place to ensure there is equitable delivery of projects and programmes according to the need and demand identified in rural areas across the DEA's.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
6.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p>	

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>Appendix 1- Evaluation Phase 2 DEA Local Investment Programme</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Equality Screening</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Rural Needs Impact Assessment</p>
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DEA LOCAL INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME
EVALUATION REPORT
2022 - 2023

DEA Local Investment Programme - Project Evaluation 2022-23

Introduction & Background

For the last three years the Council has implemented an innovative and dynamic community-based DEA Local Investment Programme. It has evolved from the draft 10-year Investment Plan, Connect-Invest-Transform. This programme has been delivered across the Council area to increase access to facilities, support communities to improve their surroundings whilst increasing community participation to maximise community benefits.

The projects housed within the programme include grant aid schemes, community arts, small capital infrastructure, village improvements and community conversations to name but a few. Each project has been well received by all DEA's, meeting the needs of diverse communities with varying needs and aspirations.

To date the programmes' budget is in excess of £4.5m and this includes a cocktail of funding such as mainstream budgets, funding and a Council contribution focussing solely on the DEA Local Investment Programme. Due to the nature of the programme and its financial governance, some projects are able to straddle more than one year to ensure adequate delivery time is given to communities.

This report will focus on key learnings from the 2022-23 programme, the 2021-22 programme has previously been evaluated and presented to Council. The guiding principles below highlight how the council committed to deliver this investment plan;

Guiding Principles

- Geographically balanced investment
- Value for money in everything we do
- Transparency in our processes
- Embracing equality and diversity
- Evidence based decision making
- Partnership approach
- Outcome and results driven
- Customer focus ethos
- Programme Management approach

2022-23 Programme Funding

Funding was identified from a mix of in year revenue, reserves, and external funding to deliver 69 projects to the value of £1.7m

Project selection:

A rigorous selection process was deployed to identify projects which should be included as part of the DEA Local Investment Programme each year. For a project to be considered as part of the programme it was required to meet the following criteria:

The general principles used to assess projects presented were as follows:

- No land ownership issues
- Permitted development where possible or planning permission likely
- Minimal revenue tail desirable
- Balanced investment
- Supports partnership working

Furthermore, key drivers outlined below, were also applied.

- Supports community engagement/community capacity.
- Proposal addresses local concerns.
- Improves corporate effectiveness.
- Address emerging needs.
- Addresses poverty/social exclusion

Projects identified for 2023-23 can be found Appendix 1 and the Assessment Flowchart in Appendix 2.

Following the success of Phase 1 of the DEA Local Investment Programme, as evidenced in the subsequent evaluation, this report for Phase 2 sets out the key findings of the Programme. Research was undertaken in Autumn 2023 with information collated through various methods such as:

- One to one interview with individual project owners across the various council department.
- interrogation of the information management systems, ie: Smartsheet
- financial analysis of overall budget spend
- Feedback from officers

All the projects supported by the DEA Local Investment Programme are aligned to one or more of the Council's community plan themes:

- Children and young people
- The Economy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Where we Live
- Our Community

Number of Projects aligned to each community planning theme:

It should be noted that the £1.7M of total funding for Phase 2 comprised £602K of DEA Council Contribution and £1.098M collective 'in year' spend and external funding sources. However, this evaluation report is concerned only with the 29 projects funded directly through the DEA Council contribution of £602K

These projects are set out in further detail in Appendix 1 and include the original budgets allocated to each project as well as the actual spend which may have been adjusted during programme delivery to reflect, for example, increased costs following a procurement exercise. Any budget variances were discussed and agreed with the

Programme SRO (Director for Leisure & Community Wellbeing) and whilst there may have been budget adjustments at a project level, overall spend remained within the available programme budget.

DEA Local Investment Programme Case Studies



Feedback, outcomes and case studies

This section highlights several key successes from across the programme, coupled with testimonials and feedback.

Community Facilities Fund Evaluation - 2022/ 2023

The Community Facilities Fund was developed to support physical and/or digital improvements and repairs to existing community facilities to enable groups and organisations to improve access and participation along with income opportunities to increase sustainability.

The overall budget was agreed at £280,000 with an indicative allocation of £40,000 per DEA. An evaluation was then undertaken with each recipient of the grant to provide specific feedback in respect of funding received. 27 groups were successful under this round and saw successful adaptations to their facilities such as refurbishment of toilets, resurfacing a flat roof, installation of IT and new flooring. (See Appendix 3 for further detail).

Feedback from organisations in receipt of the fund have concluded that the funding enabled a facility to be more accessible and perhaps modern through digital advancements. This allowed for greater and more inclusive participation. The adaptations to the facility have improved the experience of the user and enabled additional programming to take place for the benefit of the wider community. In some cases, it is note-worthy to record that groups invested an additional financial contribution to their award offer.

Building on the success of this programme, an additional Fund Application Program was launched in March 2023 as part of Phase 3 of the DEA Local Investment Programme. Furthermore, a comprehensive update report will be presented in due course.

DEA Sports Recovery Fund Evaluation – 2022-23 (Keep the Ball Rolling)

This funding scheme, 'Keep the Ball Rolling', provided an opportunity for local sports and voluntary groups to apply for up to £3,000 to develop and grow their club to increase participation and support existing users. There was £100k available across the seven DEA's. The Fund was designed to help with costs arising from the pandemic such as specialist equipment along with sports equipment, small scale improvements to grounds, , club development officer funding, one off sports festival events and coach education training.

Sports Development staff assisted clubs and groups to understand the funding criteria and assist with any queries on the application process. 47 applications were received and awarded with a grant ranging from £1K- £3k. The final amount awarded to the clubs was £105,078. A list of successful organisations and their project can be found in at Appendix 4.

A snapshot of the funding usage includes provision of Softball Battery Operated Pitching Machine & Equipment, Vests & Pods, Sanding, fertilizer and seed & feed for pitches, Slalom Buoys & Ropes, Tender Boat & Jetty Repairs, Mounted Electronic

Scoreboard, Quad Bike & Specialist Court Brush, Head Protectors & Sparring Gloves, Coach Education and Club Development Officer hours to give a few examples.

The funding was a platform for greater inclusivity across the entire Council area, and it facilitated an increase the number of females participating in sporting activities as shown in the different range of clubs who were successful in their application and received funding from this programme. Had the funding not been available to these various clubs, it would have reduced the impact of health & wellbeing activities due to the reduction in resources, equipment, and coaches.

Testimonials-Keep the Ball Rolling

Below are several testimonials received from the various community sporting groups across the Council area who received funding.

Downshire Rifle Club

“Enabled the Club to keep an extensive area of grass cut so we can walk back and forward to target frames at 100yard and 50-meter ranges.”

Lisburn Cricket Club

“Allowed us to run winter training for U11, U13 and U15 girls and boys as well as our women and men’s programme”

Lisburn Tennis Club

“We now have well over one hundred and fifty members at our new tennis club and entered four teams in singles leagues and three teams in mixed doubles leagues this spring. The funding helped get our club off to a great start. Our junior tournament was a great success with over one hundred players competing, thirty-six from the Republic of Ireland.”

The Judo Academy

“With the funding, the coaches completed their qualification and assessment in February. The six new coaches have allowed us to provide a safer environment for the current players, it has allowed us to increase the number of participants on the mats at any one time, and allow new members throughout the year, rather than simply at set times each year. The training of the coaches has highlighted to the coaches, the players, and the parents of the high level of scrutiny that clubs and coaches adhere to and that what they see at each session is merely a fraction of the planning, organising, and administration needed to run a successful sports club. Since they have been qualified, we have started a new class to run alongside the current provision, been able to offer one/one coaching, and invite new members in whenever necessary.

Expanding the coaching team has also allowed the team to focus on expanding the clubs provision and include a more competitive element to the club by attending competition while the sessions continue for everyone. We have also been able to offer additional support to current members in their sporting journey.”

Carryduff Taekwondo Club

“Without the funding received we could currently not afford to purchase all the equipment required or would have to wait another extended period of time to raise the funds and not be able to attend competition events due to the cost. The funding will help retain existing students and possibly attract new students into a more quality equipped club.”

Christmas Pole Mount Scheme

The Christmas Pole Mount Scheme was a project designed to encourage greater community spirit across the Council whilst increasing investment in areas.

The areas agreed included Sloan Street, (additional lighting). Longstone, (additional lighting). Low Road, (new lighting, none previous). Hillsborough Village, (additional lighting). Glenavy Village, (additional Lighting). Forest Side Shops, (new lighting). 17 pole mounted lights were purchased to enable the additional areas to be lit up in time for Christmas 2022.

Feedback from local communities concluded that the additional lights were appreciated and aesthetically pleasing especially arising from the pandemic.

Dog Control & Environmental Communications Campaign

In November 2022 the dog fouling media campaign was launched and generated awareness of our ‘Pick it Up’ campaign through radio advertisements, outdoor advertising (consisting mainly of bus and bus stop advertisements,) and social media bursts. Outdoor and radio advertising saw a good broad coverage of the campaign to a wide demographic. Through social media we reached an audience of 2,737,937 users resulting in a total of 20,831 link clicks. The campaign was launched on 7 November 2022 and in the preceding 5 months a total of 93 complaints were received. In the 5 months after the event 115 complaints were received with 122 complaints received during the 5 months of the campaign. The increase in complaints from the introduction of the campaign can be attributed to an increased awareness of fouling by members of the public. Due to the educational nature of the campaign, it is anticipated that a further reduction of dog fouling would be seen in the future.

Polytunnel @ LCCC Plant Nursery

Polytunnels were installed at the LCCC Plant nursery and are in full tree production, with the first crop of trees due Winter 2024. Communities will avail of additional tree planting which not only improves the local environment and makes the area more attractive for but encourages local communities to meet and enjoy nature, whilst reducing social isolation amongst some.

65,000 trees are to be dealt to the Woodland Trust this winter 2023/24 to enable sustainability of the project. A further 120,000 trees will be in the process of germination and should be ready for Winter 2024/25

Primary School Biodiversity Projects

11 x bat talks completed; 10 schools received gardening equipment and 9 x horticultural workshops were completed. This project has proven very popular with local schools and has helped support local children to increase their knowledge of this endangered species.

Bat talk, schools involved

School	Date	No. of Children
Maghaberry PS	November 2022	Approx 50 Children
Rowandale Integrated PS	November 2022	Approx 25 Children
Ballycarrickmaddy PS	November 2022	Approx 50 Children (P3 & P5)
St Colmans PS	November 2022	Approx 25 Children
Tonagh PS	November 2022	Approx 25 Children (P5)
Dundonald PS	November 2022	Approx 100 Children (P5)
Old Warren PS	November 2022	Approx 50 Children (P5)
Lisburn Central PS	November 2022	Approx 30 Children (P5)
Holy Trinity Nursery	November 2022	Approx 50 Nursery Children
Pond Park Nursery	January 2023	Approx 50 Nursery Children
Barbour Nursery	January 2023	Approx 50 Nursery Children

Feedback from teachers and children:

Teachers' comments:

"Bat talk was informative and related well to the local environment. It was interesting to see a preserved bat. The content was gauged at an appropriate level for the children. Delivery from speaker was enthusiastic."

"I found the Bat Talk extremely interesting and very well thought out. The children loved the element of surprise with the bats in the boxes. The use of PowerPoint with photos, videos and sounds really made the talk fun and interactive. The ladies doing the talk were engaging, interesting and very knowledgeable. Thank you."

Childrens' comments:

"I loved it."

"I'm going to tell my mum and dad to be careful and look after bats. They're not scary at all. They're so cool."

"I didn't know some bats eat fruit. I'm going to look for bats in the park."

"I liked the experience of holding a bat as you could feel the bones."

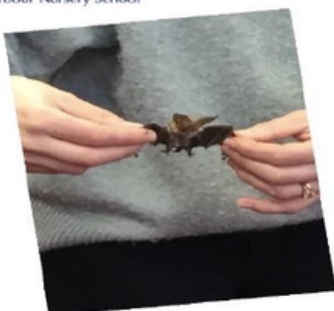
"I didn't know there were so many types of bats in the world."

"I thought the bat was going to fly out of the box onto my head. It was so exciting!"



Barbour Nursery School

Kerry, from Lisburn & Castlereagh Council came to tell us all about bats.



Bats like to eat insects so we can help them by planting flowers for the insects to eat.



Bats aren't scary. They hibernate in the winter.



a bat box

Gardening equipment

An engagement survey was sent to all the nursery, primary and special schools, within the Council area, to assess if gardening equipment could assist the children in participating in environmental planting projects. Through this collaborative programme gardening equipment was disseminated to interested schools to enhance their knowledge of gardening and related environmental issues. Working with nature is also proven physical and mental wellbeing benefits.

10 schools were involved in this programme to include:

School
Old Warren Primary School
Barbour Nursery
Dundonald Primary School
Holy Trinity Nursery School

Lisburn Central Primary School
Pond Park Primary School
St Colman's Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff
Tonagh Primary School
Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Feedback from schools:

"We are delighted with all the gardening equipment!! It is brilliant to have a working wheelbarrow. Greatly appreciated."



Horticultural workshops

Seven horticultural workshops were delivered across 7 schools (One in each DEA) with two sessions being provided per school which were attended by two separate sessions with an average of 25 pupils per class.

School	Date	No. of Children
Old Warren PS	September 2022	Approx 50 Children
Ballycarrickmaddy PS	September 2022	Approx 50 Children
Maghaberry Primary School	October 2022	Approx 50 Children
Central Primary School	October 2022	Approx 50 Children
St Joseph's Primary School	October 2022	Approx 50 Children
St Coleman's Primary School	October 2022	Approx 50 Children
Pond Park Nursery School	October 2022	Approx 50 Nursery Children

Youth Entrepreneurship Programme:

The Global Entrepreneurship Week event (Primary business masterclass) was held at LVI on Tuesday 15th November 2022. The evaluation from YENI stated that they met all their targets and were happy with the success of the event.

6 Primary Schools took part, and 150 students completed the programme. Primary Schools involved included:

- St Itas Primary School
- Maghaberry Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School Lisburn
- Dromara Primary School
- McKinney Primary School and
- Tonagh Primary School

Feedback from schools;

"A great programme for our students. They were fully engaged throughout. Learned lots of new facts and importantly, had a lot of fun!"

"Boys who have focus and concentration difficulties really became fully involved with the 'Tower Challenge' and actually were joint winners! Lots of language and definitions which will help the children in the future. Liked the 'roving mic' for questions. Global Marketing Challenge was fantastic – all the children, whatever ability, got involved"

Secondary School Master Class for Youth Entrepreneurship Programme

Agreed Output: Young Enterprise to target a number of post primary schools and engage young people from Year 10–14-year groups. This included running a competition involving each participating school with a "Dragon's Den" style presentation from the winning school groups.

5 Schools took part with 251 students completing the programme:

- Friends School Lisburn
- Breda Academy
- Lisnagarvey High School
- Fort Hill Integrated College
- St Patrick's Academy

Pupil Feedback:

"This programme helped me learn about jobs I never knew existed".

"It was very informative about the world of digital technology, and we feel we now know of the available jobs out there."

"I found this programme enjoyable and really helpful/inspirational".

"Beneficial, inspiring and helpful. We learned new things / methods relevant to innovation".

"I enjoyed this programme, especially learning about the different ways of using VR and AI".

Hill Street Tree Planting

This project has consisted of Trees planted in the area, a pathway installed, and a community horticultural storage identified resulting in an enhanced local environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The Woodland area has been thoughtfully planted, and the pathways are frequently used. A remarkable 4,500 trees have been carefully placed within this space. The Hill Street Community Group has enjoyed increased pride in their area along with increased participation from their residents.

Refurbishment Entrance to Union Locks

Following the creation of a more formal entrance to the national cycle network, this brought increased footfall and better user experience. Very positive feedback was received from members of the public in person to Council officers who said they were delighted with the quality of the path and made the "car free" commute a better and safer experience.

Conclusion and considerations for future delivery.

Overall, the programme has worked extremely well in terms of supporting communities to grow their ambitions in meeting community need. There have been a number of one-off projects that do not need repeated in future programmes. Key areas that should continue are the funding programmes as the evaluation has shown the impact this financial assistance can have to improving accessibility and inclusivity, whilst working in partnership with our communities. There has been significant investment in local communities through this programme and it has achieved the following:

Community Impact

- This programme has delivered cost-effective, real results for our communities with immediate positive impacts
- Local needs have been met through continued community involvement and collaboration
- Communities have valued the impact and outcomes of the projects & funding
- The programme provided the opportunity to be innovative and reactive to community capacity building needs

Programme Delivery

- Cross-departmental work has ensured strategic objectives of the DEA Local Investment Programme were achieved
- The programme governance worked well with the adoption of the strategic cross departmental steering group ensured close monitoring of project delivery and budget.

- Centralised collation of projects presented the breadth of projects the council was delivering for community impact
- The flexibility of this programme enabled a very agile response to project requests and a shared mechanism to resolve any issues regarding delivery

Going forward with the programme any projects should assume the following criteria:

- All programmes must be located within LCCC area and provide community benefit,
- The Council will not fund revenue costs associated with developing any projects or sustaining the planned outcomes,
- The Guiding Principles of the Investment Plan, Connect-Invest-Transform to remain, along with the general programme principles and key drivers, as noted in item,
- Maintain the transparent application process, for financial assistance to include governance, monitoring, and evaluation,
- Continue to support organisations through capacity building and training,
- Continue with a programme management approach, through portfolio, with records being maintained such as finance, meetings, assessment of applications and Committee/Council reports. This will also include monitoring and evaluation,
- Continue to monitor and report on mainstreamed projects through existing channels and
- On completion of phase 3 of the programme bring back a full report, by way of an update and conclusion of the pilot phase.

Recommendations

- Both qualitative and quantitative analysis revealed a continued need for the programme, should funding permit.
- Portfolio Management Office (PMO) to continue provide governance to streamline and continuously improve the process for project selection.
- Continue to review the existing key delivery principles and governance structure to ensure there is ongoing impactful delivery of the programme.
- Identify opportunities to present the impact and outcomes of the programme on an online GIS platform
- Continue to monitor and evaluate the programme and undertake to do post project evaluations
- Based on the evidence to date assumed delivery of the programme and cease with the pilot stage, but ensure continued due diligence and monitoring of outcomes

Conclusion of Programme

This is Phase 2 for 2022-23 of the Council's commitment to enhance all seven District Electoral Areas (DEA) through a programme of balanced investment. The total programme budget of £1.7M included the £602K of DEA Council Contribution as agreed by Council January 2022.

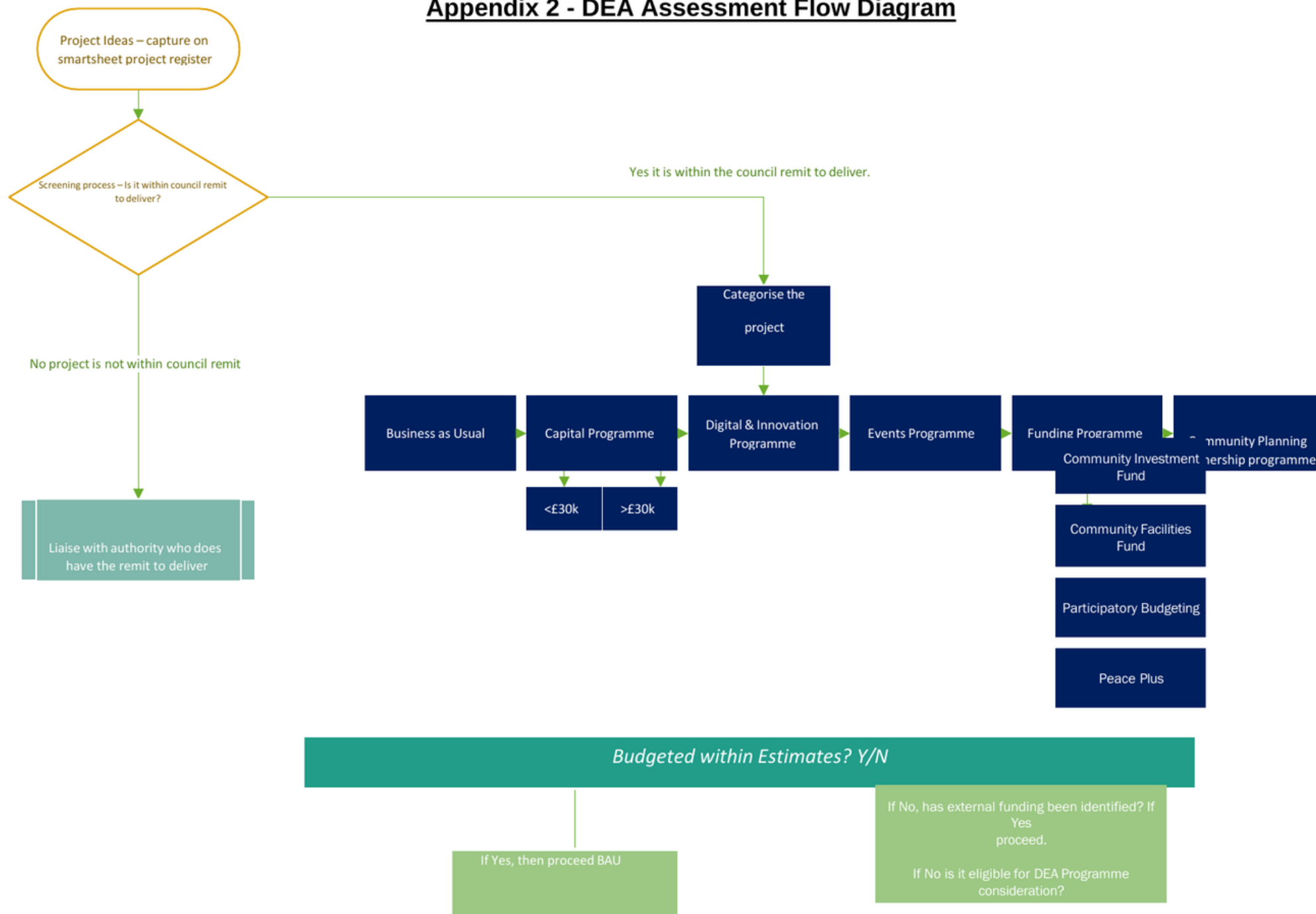
The programme to date has been successful providing critical funding and small projects for local sports clubs, community groups, voluntary groups and interest groups. The feedback, outlined above, gives clear testimonies from individuals and the impact the programme has had on them and their community.

Appendix 1**DEA Local Investment Programme Projects – 2022/23**

Primary	Area of investment	Allocated budget	Status
Moat Park Fairy Trail	Castlereagh East	£15,000	Complete
Irrigation System for Dungoyne Bowling Green	Castlereagh East	£20,000	Complete
New seating on path from entrance to MLK to Lower Maze Hall.	Downshire West	£2,000	Complete
Refurbish Entrance to Union Locks	Downshire West	£5,000	Complete
Hill Street Tree Planting	Lisburn North	£5,000	Complete
Old Warren Youth Centre	Lisburn South	£5,000	Complete
Salto Car Park Improvements	Lisburn South	£30,000	Complete
Mayor's Civic Innovation Fund	Council Wide	£15,000	Complete
Youth Entrepreneurship Programme	Council Wide	£15,000	Complete
Polytunnel @ LCCC Plant Nursery	Council Wide	£20,000	Complete
Primary School Biodiversity Projects	Council Wide	£7,000	Complete
DEA Recovery Sports Fund	Council Wide	£100,000	Complete
DIY Community Fund	Council Wide	£30,000	Complete
Gazebos to support Community and Business events	Council Wide	£12,000	Complete
Christmas Pole Mount Scheme	Council Wide	£68,000	Complete
Dog Control & Environmental Communications Campaign	Council Wide	£25,000	Complete
Moneyreagh Social Enterprise (Church Project)	Castlereagh East	£20,000.00	Complete.
Community Bursary Scheme	Council Wide	£5,000.00	Complete
Footfall Animation Initiative - Bow Street Mall	Lisburn North	£15,000.00	Complete
Digital Grant Aid System for LCCC	Council Wide	£20,000.00	Complete
Repainting and refurbishment of Ramblers Bridge (McIlroy Park footbridge)	Lisburn North	£45,000.00	Costs currently being examined through concept/refurb designs
Irrigation System for Milne Barbour Bowling Green	Lisburn South	£20,000.00	This project is on schedule and due to be completed March 2024

Hydebank Dog Exercise Area	Castlereagh South	£5,000.00	Exercise Area is complete with the irrigation to be completed in March 2024
Hillsborough Forest Barrier	Downshire West	£10,000.00	Ongoing engagement with residents
Maghaberry Dog Exercise area	Killultagh	£3,000	Wider site being examined/explored
Community Environmental Fund	Council Wide	£70,000.00	Due for launch in 2024
Phone Box Environmental Project	Council Wide	£5,000.00	The request to adopt these is currently open for public consultation in line with Openreach policy. This consultation will close mid Feb 2024. The programme can then be concluded by Summer 2024.
Connecting You (for those digitally excluded - to enable access to Technology)	Council Wide	£25,000.00	Complete
HGV Academy	Council Wide	£25,000.00	This project has been given 1 years' extension due to delays participants in getting license approval etc. This Project is due to complete in December 2024.




Appendix 2 - DEA Assessment Flow Diagram






Appendix 3


Community Facility Fund – Case Studies




Castlereagh East – Ballybeen Women’s Centre

Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	Before Work	After Work Completed
New Flooring and Fitting	Old wooden flooring had worn away becoming slip hazards with little or no grip and gaps between wooden floors appearing. Flooring became slip and trip hazards to visitors and staff.	New wooden flooring has made for a safer working environment and added to a more aesthetically pleasing appearance upon entering Ballybeen Women Centre.		
Folding Writing Desk	Rooms were cluttered before with little room to move around. Room was messy and hard to manoeuvre tables in and out of room.	Folding writing desk chairs have transformed the space and help keep room tidy and creates extra space in the room for added activities and demonstrations. Has made for a more adaptive and aesthetically pleasing space. This rejuvenated space will encourage the acquisition of new skills and accredited qualifications through a range of education and training courses held within this space.	No photo available	


<p>New work starts in computer suits and Migration to Office 365 and upgrade of ICT</p>	<p>Work carried out to move everyone's pc's over to the new server system and to Office 365 with the decommissioning of the old system.</p>	<p>This has allowed for a more fluid IT system and allowed staff to be able to operate and access drives remotely from home during the covid pandemic. This has allowed for more effective and efficient working environment. This migration will allow the centre to be more adaptive to IT solutions in future events which would require staff to work remotely. This package will help to deliver and encourage the acquisition of skills from basic ICT skills to CLAIT to ECDL</p>	<p>No photo available</p>	
<p>New Signage for BWC and Preschool</p>	<p>Before work commenced from Community Facility Fund, Ballybeen Women Centre was not visible from adjacent road (Ballybeen Park) which made it hard to distinguish for visitors and clients.</p>	<p>Now signage has been erected Ballybeen Women's Centre is more visible to clients and visitors and makes the centre more aesthetically pleasing and gives the centre more of a community presence.</p>		

Downshire East – Dromara Connect


Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	Before Work	After Work Completed
<p>Outdoor space – resurfacing and redevelopment of under-utilised space.</p>	<p>Outdoor space was unable to be safely</p>	<p>This project has enabled us as an organisation to offer outdoor space, with picnic tables to the various groups that we work with. It has transformed what a rough and unsafe piece of ground into a safe usable space with proper boundaries.</p>	 <p>2021.06.17.16</p>	

<p>Installation of picnic Tables</p>	<p>There was no useable space for people to come and meet, sit and enjoy the outdoors.</p>	<p>The installation of a number of picnic tables has opened up additional space for programmes to run and residents to enjoy the outdoors – increasing our capacity for participation</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>Boundary works completed to enclose space to ensure safety</p>	<p>The outdoor space was openly connected to the car park resulting in safety issues and risks to using this space</p>	<p>We installed a boundary wall with appropriate safety measures to ensure the space became enclosed and safer for use within the seating area as well as making the car park area safer.</p>		


Lisburn North – Lisburn Racquets Club

Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	Before Work	After Work Completed
<p>Installation of IT Equipment to enable streaming to take place</p>	<p>No streaming system or adequate IT systems were in place resulting in inadequate resources to enhance the development of our club and individual players.</p>	<p>The Grant Scheme has been fantastic for the club at Lisburn Racquets. We are now able to stream all our events worldwide online. It is fantastic that friends and family who are not able to travel to the club can stay at home and watch matches, practices and individual development. This item also allows for wider engagement and interest in the sport to be developed.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	



Lisburn South – Atlas Women’s Centre

Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	Before Work	After Work Completed
<p>Atlas Women’s Centre received £10,000 towards transforming a derelict, dangerous building into a safe space for social community learning, support and interaction. This grant was spent towards a heating system, radiators, sinks and accessible toilets on three floors. Atlas are in the position to offer so much more resources and support to the community.</p>	<p>A derelict, dangerous building Unfit for any purpose.</p>	<p>The Grant Scheme has been fantastic for Atlas and made a massive impact to the groups and help in further expanding our services.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	

Killultagh – Church on The Hill, Maghaberry

Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	After Work Completed
<p>Toilet block refurbishment</p>	<p>The toilets were limited in number resulting in many of our youth groups and childcare facility having to limit their intake numbers to meet with H&S Requirements.</p> <p>No suitable baby changing facility</p>	<p>Additional toilets were added to enable more children to access the childcare and youth groups. In addition, the toilets can service more adults and one time resulting in us being able to deliver programmes with larger participant numbers and support more residents from the area.</p> <p>We installed a secure and private baby changing facility outside of a toilet cubical to reduce wasted space and also ensure it is easily accessible</p>	

Downshire West – Mazetown Rural Action Collective

Work Carried Out	Pre work condition	Post Work Benefitted	Before Work	After Work Completed
Flat Roof resurfacing	Old Flat roof had a broken surface that was resulting in water unable to be dispersed. This lead to leakages to internal areas of the building resulting in damp and water damage.	No further leaks and costly damage to internal items and structure resulting in reduced repair expenses to group		

Appendix 4**Table of Successful Applicants for DEA Recovery Sports Fund 2022/ 2023**

Name of Group	Amount Awarded
Lisburn Anglers Association	£2,015.00
Derrriaghy CCFC	£2,000.00
Canal ABC	£2,500.00
St Patricks GAC	£3,000.00
Lisburn Rangers FC	£2,500.00
Carryduff Taekwondo	£2,000.00
Lisburn BMX Club	£2,415.00
Kaleidoscope Gymnastics Cheer & Dance	£2,780.00
Loch Mor Dal gCais GAC	£2,300.00
Ulster Baseball & Softball Club	£2,000.00
Crewe United FC	£2,500.00
City of Lisburn Athletic Club	£3,000.00
Hillsborough Boys FC	£3,000.00
The Gymnastics & Trampoline Network CIC	£2,000.00
Lisnagarvey Hockey Club	£3,000.00
Lower Maze FC	£2,000.00
Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club	£2,500.00
Carrduff Colts FC	£3,000.00
Simply Judo	£2,265.00
South Antrim Hockey Club	£2,500.00
Lisburn Pickleball Club	£1,500.00
Dungoyne FC	£3,000.00
Jog Lisburn Running Club	£1,050.00
Downshire Tennis Club	£2,500.00
Lisburn Distillery	£2,000.00
Trekking NI Walking Club	£1,170.00
Downshire Young Men FC	£2,000.00
Glenavy Youth FC	£1,900.00
City of Lisburn Salto Gymnastics Centre	£2,000.00
Lisburn Ladies FC	£1,300.00
Meteor Water Ski Club	£2,500.00
Lisburn Rugby FC	£3,000.00
Lisburn Sub Aqua Club	£2,500.00
Lisburn Rackets Club	£2,500.00
Lisburn Cricket Club	£2,500.00
Santos FC	£1,411.00
The Judo Academy...	£2,550.00
Temple Motor Cycle & Athletic Club	£1,500.00
Broomhedge Maghaberry FC	£1,500.00
Ballymacash Rangers	£1,400.00
The Schools Tennis Project	£2,000.00
Knockbreda FC	£2,000.00
Ridgeway Rovers FC	£2,000.00
Phoenix Basketball Club	£2,500.00
Downshire Rifle Club	£2,500.00
St Joseph's Glenavy GAC	£3,000.00
Derrriaghy Cricket Club	£2,500.00

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Activity/Policy Scoping

Information about the activity/policy

Name of the activity/policy

Local District Electoral Area (DEA) – Investment Plan 2023-2024

Please attach copy of the activity/policy to this document.

Background

This policy is concerned with investment in the period 2023 – 2024 throughout each of the seven District Electoral Areas of Council. This investment is circa £1.195 million in total. Please note that this Local DEA Investment Programme is the overarching programme for a number of other projects such as the Grand Choice awards (Participatory Budgeting) and the Community Facilities Fund.

It can be noted that by taking an equitable and proportionate approach the policy inevitably will provide for different levels of investment/resourcing as may be required within each DEA.

However, it can be made explicit that each DEA will receive the same investment/resources in respect of community facilities and participatory budgeting. Both of these are deemed by research to be essential to address local concerns, support each community and continue to promote community engagement and capacity in the current socio/economic climate.

Additionally, it can be noted that much activity is already ongoing within local communities and these have already been committed to and budgeted for by Council. Also, other services e.g. sports and cultural grant funds remain open to all.

Consequently, this investment policy cover some 54 projects of which will impact within and across the DEA's of Council. By providing such an additional commitment to local areas Council is confident that the aims noted below will be met and make a positive contribution to all our communities.

Is this activity/policy

An existing policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	A revised policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	A new policy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy is trying to achieve?

- | |
|---|
| 1 Address local concerns/needs |
| 2 Address poverty and social exclusion |
| 3 Support community engagement and further build capacity |
| 4 Improve corporate effectiveness |

Are there any expected benefits to the Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy? If so, please explain

It is considered that all designated groups may potentially benefit from this investment at DEA level. The aims indicate not only a need to support the local economy but to support communities and the individuals who make up such communities. Indeed the aftermath of the pandemic compounded by the recent cost of living crisis continues to be recognised as a driver for community support and recovery across Council.

Who initiated or wrote the activity/policy?

Portfolio Team

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy?

The policy is owned by L&CCC and implemented through the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate and programme managed via the Portfolio Team within the Service Transformation directorate.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/decision? Yes

If yes, are they

Financial?	X	Legislative?		Other?	X
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If other, please detail below

Due to the fact that a number of specific projects sitting under the programme will be inviting applications for funding there may be an overspend or under-spend of the whole programme depending on numbers applying for funding and the success rate of the applications.

The funding projects that sit under the programme are allocated on a DEA basis with all 7 DEA's availing of the opportunity to equally receive funding. This will help to promote a balanced investment right across all Electoral Areas.

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy will impact upon?

Staff	X
Service Users	X
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	X
Other e.g. Elected Members	X

If other, please detail below

Elected Members & residents within the DEA areas involved.

Other documents/activities/policies with a bearing on this activity/policy

Name of document/activity/policy	Who owns or implements document/activity/policy?
1 Corporate Plan 2018 - 2022	LCCC
2 Departmental Plans	LCCC Departments
3 Investment Plan	Director, Service Transformation
4 Council's Equality Scheme	LCCC
5 Community Plan 2017-2032	LCCC

The above would include both internal and external documents/activities/policies.

If there is a web-link/link to any of the above please provide details.

Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032 has been given due consideration when developing this DEA Investment Programme along with engagement by the council's Senior Management Team with Heads of Service and Elected Members during September to December 2021 with updates during 2022 and the first part of 2023. This was with a view to the consideration of measures that would assist the continued recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and address issues as they emerge from the cost of living crisis. This also included, importantly, regular contact with and feedback from local communities.

The subsequent list of activities/projects that was compiled and updated by stakeholders across the DEAs ensured that each DEA would benefit from relevant activities/projects and that in the main these should be quick delivery, short-term projects of (relatively) low value. The necessity of this approach it was considered would deal with local concerns as well as continue to address the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic and the issues emerging from the ongoing cost of living crisis, as well as pro-actively support communities going forward.

Mid-Year Population Estimates 2019 & 2021 – District Electoral Areas

DEA	Population - Census 2019	% 2019	Population Census 2021	% 2021
Killultagh	21450	14.6	22,013	14.8
Downshire West	17110	11.6	17,190	11.5
Lisburn North	23050	15.7	23,449	15.7
Lisburn South	23610	16.0	24,321	16.3
Downshire East	16720	11.3	16,746	11.2
Castlereagh South	24010	16.3	23,488	15.8
Castlereagh East	20860	14.2	21,899	14.7
	146,810		149,106	100

Source: NISRA/NINIS

The following gives a summary of the LCCC area in respect of the designated groups.

Sec 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	2011 Census/2014 LGD boundary data indicates that 23.95% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 66.9% were brought up in the Protestant & Other Christian religion
Political Opinion	There would be a generally accepted link between religion and political opinion. In this instance the majority political opinion being Unionist
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 2% of the population were from an ethnic minority group
Age	<p>The population at June 2017 totalled 142640:</p> <p>28596 (0-15 years)</p> <p>42110 (16-39 years)</p> <p>47466 (40-64 years)</p> <p>24468 (65+ years)</p>
Marital Status	<p>For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships:</p> <p>30.65% single</p> <p>53.78% married</p> <p>0.10% same sex partnership</p> <p>3.27% separated</p> <p>5.52% divorced</p>

	6.68% widowed
Sexual Orientation	The ONS published in 2017 data indicating that 1.2% of the household population in NI identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual
Men & Women Generally	The LCCC population (2017) was 51% female and 49% male. This reflects the overall NI position
Disability	Using the same boundary/census data as above indicates that 18.29% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability
Dependants	Dependants would generally include three main categories: The care of a child or children The care of an elderly relative/person The care of someone with a disability

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Community feedback was received from Elected Members and Officers with specialist knowledge of the type of projects that residents/businesses would view as beneficial to their community as part of the consultation process of developing the programme.

Sec 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	No needs identified.
Political Opinion	No needs identified.
Racial Group	If a project under this programme was requesting applications for funding e.g. Cultural diversity then the Council Officers will give due consideration to ensure no racial group would be at a disadvantage. Council Officers will also target promotion to different groups who may not be aware of funding opportunities and provide additional pre application advice and support.
Age	It is acknowledged that different age groups may have different needs and this has been considered at this time and will continue to be considered throughout implementation. In particular it has been recognised that younger members of society have been disproportionately impacted by Covid, whilst all are impacted by the ongoing cost of living crisis.
Marital Status	No additional needs identified that won't be covered in the programme
Sexual Orientation	No additional needs identified that won't be covered in the programme
Men & Women Generally	No additional needs identified that won't be covered in the programme
Disability	It is acknowledged that those with a disability may have additional needs and this has been considered at this time and will continue to be

	considered throughout implementation of the projects and funding schemes being promoted. Specifically this group may have been impacted with the reduction of support services.
Dependants	It is acknowledged that those with dependants may have different needs and this has been considered at this time and will continue to be considered throughout implementation. It is likely that parents and others with dependants may have been further impacted by Covid and the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Sec 75 equality categories? (minor/major/none*)

Sec 75 Category	Details of activity/policy impact	Level of impact (minor/major/none*)
Religious Belief		none
Political Opinion		none
Racial Group		none
Age	Any such investment policy may impact on age groups e.g. those of working age and this has been considered as noted above	minor – positive
Marital Status		none
Sexual Orientation		none

Men & Women Generally		none
Disability	Any such investment policy may impact on disability e.g. access to goods and services and this has been considered as noted above	minor – positive
Dependants	Any such investment policy may impact on those with dependants – be it caring for an elderly relative, caring for a child or children or caring for someone with a disability – and this has been considered as noted above	minor – positive

*See Appendix 1 for details.

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Sec 75 equality categories?

Sec 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with differing religious beliefs will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	

<p>Political Opinion</p>	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with different political opinion will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.</p>	
<p>Racial Group</p>	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people from differing racial groups will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.</p>	
<p>Age</p>	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people within differing age categories will also be made via the development of funding</p>	

	criteria and promotional materials.	
Marital Status	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with differing marital status will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Sexual Orientation	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with different sexual orientation will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Men & Women Generally	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for for men and women generally will also be made via the	

	development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Disability	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with disabilities will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Dependants	All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with section 75 equality categories. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with dependants will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	

3 To what extent is the activity/policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none*)

Good Relations Category	Details of activity/policy impact	Level of impact (minor/major/none*)
Religious Belief	It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will	minor

	<p>impact positively on good relations between people of different religious belief – Impacts will continue to be monitored to ensure there is balanced and equitable investment across all DEAs</p>	
<p>Political Opinion</p>	<p>It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations between people of different political opinion – Impacts will continue to be monitored to ensure there is balanced and equitable investment across all DEAs</p>	<p>minor</p>
<p>Racial Group</p>	<p>It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations between people of different racial groupings – Impacts will continue to be monitored to ensure there is balanced and equitable investment across all DEAs</p>	<p>minor</p>

*See Appendix 1 for details.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with different religious beliefs. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with different religious beliefs will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.</p>	
Political Opinion	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of equality of opportunity for people with different political opinion. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with different political opinions will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.</p>	
Racial Group	<p>All DEA investments will take into consideration of</p>	

	<p>equality of opportunity for people from different racial groups. Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people from different racial groups will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.</p>	
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Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Provide details of data on the impact of the activity/policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The Council recognises that no individual sits exclusively within just one of the designated groups. As a consequence it is envisaged that the positive impacts of the DEA investments will spread across all section 75 categories.

This goal will also be achieved through constant review of implementation based on evaluation of impact on multiple identities.

Part 3. Screening decision

There are 3 screening decision outcomes, as noted below.

Choose only 1 of these and provide reasons for your decision outcome and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision outcome reached.

Screening Decision Outcomes Options	Reasons/Evidence
<p>Option 1</p> <p>Screen out without mitigation</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Option 2</p> <p>Screen out with mitigation</p>	<p>The policy aims noted above includes mitigation as set out below which, negate the need for full EQIA:-</p> <p>Addressing local concerns</p> <p>Addressing the aftermath of Covid 19 & cost of living issues locally, economically and otherwise</p> <p>Supporting communities at this time (indeed providing additional support) on the basis of targeted need.</p> <p>Addressing and making contributions to helping to deal with poverty particularly in light of the cost of living crisis, and social exclusion</p> <p>The use of participatory budgeting initiatives is expected to benefit positively each DEA. The equitable and proportionate approach taken</p>

	<p>by this policy acknowledges that equality of opportunity is not “treating all equally” and by so doing will help ensure each DEA is supported as required to meet local concerns/needs</p>
<p>Option 3</p> <p>Screen in for a full EQIA</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Mitigation (Relevant to Option 2)

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the activity/policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy.

The DEA Investment Programme will be monitored on a monthly basis by CMT and a HOS monthly steering group. All programme level risks are escalated for mitigation at these meetings. At these junctures, programme delivery and evaluation methods will form part of the agenda and will be adjusted to address all programme and project risks to include those to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations. This 'change control' approach will also address any significant negative equality considerations that may arise on a regular basis.

Timetabling and prioritising (Relevant to Option 3)

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising activities/policies for equality impact assessment.

If the activity/policy has been '**screened in**' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the activity/policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	N/A
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	N/A
Relevance to a public authority's functions	N/A
Total Rating Score	N/A

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

If yes, please provide details

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the activity/policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the activity/policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and activity/policy development.

Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency?

CMT and the HOS Steering Group will be responsible for monitoring of the Local DEA Investment Programme on a monthly basis. Equality related monitoring will consider:

- Uptake of projects by communities
- Uptake of investment by new community associations/areas not previously invested in
- Equitable investment in each DEA area in accordance with evidence of need and demand
- Record of any equality considerations to be improved on

Please give details below:

As part of our role in Programming the DEA Investment Programme the Portfolio Office will review the success of the projects that sit under the programme to ensure that there is equitable investment in each of the 7 DEAs.

Will be undertaken by: Name & Position/Job Title:	Frequency (e.g. Annually):
Shelley Baldrick – Project Officer	Annually
Will be signed-off by:	
Name & HoS Title:	Arlene Barton – Head of Portfolio, IT & Commercialisation

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Arlene Barton	Manager	11/09/23
Paul McMinn	Policy Officer	
Approved by:		
Louise Moore	Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing	11/09/23

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each activity/policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy, made easily accessible on the public authority’s website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Appendix 1

Major impact:

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No (none) impact

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Appendix 2

The following documentation (as a minimum) should be available to support the screening outcome decision:

- A written copy of the activity/policy in question;
- The screening template duly completed with the screening decision made explicit;
- All evidence utilised/referenced to support the screening decision to be available;

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

DEA Investment Plan – 2022 – 2023 - This policy is concerned with investment in the period 2022 – 2023 throughout each of the seven District Electoral Areas of the Council. This investment is circa £1.6 million in total. Please note that this DEA Investment Programme is the overarching programme for a no. of other projects such Grand Choice etc.

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

District Electoral Area (DEA) – Investment 2022-2023

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

This policy is concerned with investment in the period 2022 – 2023 throughout each of the seven District Electoral Areas of Council. This investment is circa £1.6 million in total. This investment policy covers some 60 projects of which will impact within and across the DEA's of the Council.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The subsequent list of activities/projects that was compiled by all stakeholders across the DEAs ensured that each DEA would benefit from relevant activities/projects and that in the main these should be quick delivery, short-term projects of (relatively) low value. The programme also focused on local concerns as well as continue to address Covid 19 and pro-actively support communities going forward. The programme will impact equitably in both rural and urban areas within the Council area and specifically within the 7 DEA areas identified below, many of which have a rural/urban mix.

DEA	Population	%
Killultagh	21450	14.6
Downshire West	17110	11.6
Lisburn North	23050	15.7
Lisburn South	23610	16.0
Downshire East	16720	11.3
Castlereagh South	24010	16.3
Castlereagh East	20860	14.2

Source: NISRA/NINIS

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

It is not envisaged that the plan will advertently impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The focus of the Investment Plan is to ensure that there is balanced investment throughout the Council area with a specific focus to respond to the needs and demands identified by each of the 7 DEA areas to take in both urban and rural considerations equitably.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

LCCC Corporate Plan 2018 – 2022
LCCC Departmental Plans
LCCC Investment Plan
LCCC Equality Scheme
LCCC Community Plan 2017 – 2032

According to the L&CCC Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the L&CCC area live in rural areas and the population forecast is set to grow by 8,300 residents between 2018-2032 (0.4% per annum, twice that of the NI equivalent). L&CCC's population growth outlook between 2018-2032 on average will be 1.65% making it the third highest across NI districts and 0.35 points above the NI rate.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

The Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) has identified the following as key areas;

Rural Businesses
Rural Tourism
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
Education or Training in Rural Areas
Poverty in Rural Areas
Deprivation in Rural Areas
Rural Development
Agri-Environment

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

N/A

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

As previously identified in Section 2B, the Scheme proposed will have a positive impact on the local rural business community and the Council area as a whole.

According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth – Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).

In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees). Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use. Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions e.g. the slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, whilst 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.

In 2018 there were 4,755 VAT/PAYE registered businesses in the L&CCC area (NISRA). The close proximity to Belfast puts the L&CCC area in an advantageous position whereby the population density is a way to generate an increase in sales and revenue.

Considering that almost half of the L&CCC district is rural, the regeneration of the LCCC area, is a key priority for the Council whom over the next 10 years will continue to invest in regeneration initiatives.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032 has been given due consideration when developing this DEA Investment Programme along with engagement by the council's Senior Management Team with Heads of Service and Elected Members during September to December 2021 with a view to the consideration of measures that would assist recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This also included, importantly, contact with and feedback from local communities, both urban and rural.

The subsequent list of activities/projects that was compiled by urban and rural stakeholders across the DEAs (see table below) ensured that each DEA would benefit from relevant activities/projects and that in the main these should be quick delivery, short-term projects of (relatively) low value. The necessity of this approach it was considered would deal with local concerns as well as continue to address Covid 19 and pro-actively support communities going forward.

Mid-Year Population Estimates 2019 – District Electoral Areas

DEA	Population	%
Killultagh	21450	14.6
Downshire West	17110	11.6
Lisburn North	23050	15.7
Lisburn South	23610	16.0
Downshire East	16720	11.3
Castlereagh South	24010	16.3
Castlereagh East	20860	14.2

Source: NISRA/NINIS

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

N/A

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Padraic Murphy
Position/Grade:	Programme Co ordinator
Division/Branch	Service Transformation
Signature:	Padraic Murphy
Date:	11 January 2022
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Hazel King
Position/Grade:	Portfolio Manager
Division/Branch:	Service Transformation
Signature:	Hazel King
Date:	11 January 2022

Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing
Date:	5 March 2024
Report from:	Acting Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Host Green Flag for Parks & Open Spaces Awards event

1.0	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>A request has been received from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB), to host the Green Flag for Parks & Open Spaces Awards on 31 July 2024. The Green Flag for Parks & Open Spaces Award is an internationally recognised certification for environmental quality management for parks & open spaces.</p>
1.1	<p>The programme has multiple aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that everyone has access to quality green spaces. • To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve. • To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff, and volunteers in managing these wonderful spaces.
1.2	<p>KNIB has been successfully running the scheme in Northern Ireland since 2012, with the Department of Agriculture, Enterprise, and Rural Affairs (DAERA) supporting the programme since 2020. The programme has grown from 15 sites in 2012 to 99 sites in 2023 and this is expected to continue to grow.</p>
1.3	<p>Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council currently have 7 Green Flag sites, having been awarded these at Killeavy Castle in July 2023 and are hoping to maintain these seven and potentially for an 8th Glenmore Park to be awarded at this year's event:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moira Demesne. 2. Castle Gardens. 3. Wallace Park. 4. Billy Neill MBE Country Park. 5. Moat Park. 6. Bells Lane Allotments incorporating Bells Lane Park & Lisburn BMX track. 7. Sir Milne Barbour Memorial Park.
1.4	<p>In recent years, there has been a growing interest in community groups being involved in the programme. Currently, within Lisburn & Castlereagh area there are 10 likely community groups which are actively engaging with KNIB in an effort to gain Green Flag status. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azora Community Farm • Drumbeg Community Association • Drumbo & District Men's Sheds • Glenside Community Woodland • Lagan View Enterprise Centre • Laganvale Farm • Lurganville and District Community Association

<p>2.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maghaberry Community Association • St. John's Parish Church, Upper Kilwarlin • The Little Green Allotments <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The request from KNIB to host the event includes provision of a venue and light lunch. The venue proposed is the main hall at Lagan Valley Island with provision of light lunch after the awards ceremony for approximately 120 invited guests. The cost of the lunch would be covered by KNIB. Castle Gardens would be used as a Green Flag site for professional photographs for those being awarded Green Flag status for 2024. The event format is outlined in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The event will be an opportunity for the Council to showcase Lagan Valley Island, our sites and services that are on offer across the Council area in the form of information stands etc.</p> <p>Lagan Valley Island venue hire: £756.00</p>								
<p>3.0</p>	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee approve the request from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to host the Green Flag for Parks & Open Spaces Awards 2024 at Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.</p>								
<p>4.0</p>	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost to host the event would be in the region of £756.00, with the costs for the event to be attributed in year revenue budgets.</p>								
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1339 1254 1402"> <p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1254 1339 1489 1402"> <p>No</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1402 1254 1644"> <p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>An equality screening has not been carried out as the overall portfolio for P&A open spaces considers accessibility for all.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1254 1402 1489 1644"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1644 1254 1706"> <p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1254 1644 1489 1706"> <p>No</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1706 1254 1910"> <p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Rural impact is considered as part of the overall P&A portfolio to include access to sites and location.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1254 1706 1489 1910"></td> </tr> </table>	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>An equality screening has not been carried out as the overall portfolio for P&A open spaces considers accessibility for all.</p>		<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Rural impact is considered as part of the overall P&A portfolio to include access to sites and location.</p>	
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<p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Rural impact is considered as part of the overall P&A portfolio to include access to sites and location.</p>									
<p>Appendix</p>	<p>1. Draft proposed event format.</p>								

Appendix 1

Draft Event theme and format

Theme

A Shared Agenda for Environment & Health - Linking Health & Wellbeing with Our Parks Resource

Format

Start Time: 10am

Finish Time: 1.30pm

Guests are served refreshments approx. 30 minutes before the event begins.

A one-hour presentation, featuring:

- welcome from the relevant Mayor/Senior Official from the hosting Local Authority
- followed by opening remarks from the CEO/Chairperson of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful,
- guest speaker address, Dr. William Bird
- Awards ceremony.

The event concludes with professional photography opportunities for representatives of the winning sites together with guest speakers and DAERA Minister, taking advantage of the Park location, Castle Gardens followed by light lunch served for all guests.

KNIB's wider work to support environmental education/community engagement and volunteering in green spaces will have a presence at the event, such as small scale information stands/exhibition etc.

Guest Speaker

Dr William Bird



Dr William Bird MBE is passionate about getting people active. As a family GP in the 1990s, he pioneered the concept of social prescribing by setting up the first Health Walk scheme,

closely followed by the first Green Gym. He quickly found that companionship and contact with nature were major driving forces in keeping people active.

William is now a global authority on health and activity, and is an advisor to the World Health Organisation, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and Sport England. Recognising William's contribution to health and physical activity, William was awarded an MBE in the 2010 Queen's New Year Honours and as an Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter in 2021. In 2010, he set up Intelligent Health, an organisation that has a mission to build healthier, active, and more connected communities.

Intelligent Health's flagship programme is Beat the Street, which sees communities transformed into a giant game where players achieve points and prizes by walking, cycling, and scooting around their local area. Beat the Street has had over 1.6 million participants worldwide to date and is backed by research which demonstrates sustained physical activity behaviour change.



Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing
Date:	5 March 2024
Report from:	Acting Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) Walking for All project

1.0 **Background**

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) is currently working towards applying to the Peace Plus funding programme. ORNI will be applying for funding under Theme 4 – Healthy and Inclusive Communities, Investment Area 4.2 – Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. Peace Plus is being administered by Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The proposed project, Walking for All (WFA), is to use led walks as the conduit to contributing to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas whilst also tackling social isolation and promoting enhanced social inclusion. The application is due to open on 14 March 2024 and close on 23 May 2024. **Appendix 1** outlines the proposed concept for the project.

The project will also create opportunities for sustained, meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds, and in so doing will seek to make a direct contribution to peace and prosperity.

As per the aspirations of Peace plus, the proposed project is cross border and the confirmed partners in the Republic of Ireland include Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Partnerships of Counties Louth, Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan. Work is progressing with all Councils in NI (except Belfast City Council) to receive partnership support.

Key Issues

Given the overall size of the project (c.£6.5 million over 3 years), it is not possible for ORNI to act as the employing body for the 16 Local Coordinators. Consequently, the model proposed is that the WFA Coordinators are employed by the individual Councils and Local Sport Partnerships, but all work programmes and outputs will be matrix managed by ORNI, as the project’s lead partner. Coordinators will be in post for three years on a three-year fixed term contract.

Funding for all elements of the project is funded 100% through the grant application. Funding covers salary, national insurance, pension contribution, essential car users’ allowance and statutory redundancy pay. The Council operates an enhanced redundancy scheme which is above the statutory requirement. The Council may be liable for any costs which are above the statutory redundancy pay.

There is no expectation that after the three years Councils will have to retain the coordinator and finance the post from their own existing budgets. However, it is hoped that the coordinator will seek to explore other potential funding streams to extend the project or consider alternative models for the future with a more self-sustaining approach

through volunteer networks. In addition, during the duration of the project, the Project Manager will be tasked with seeking Executive funding to extend the life of the project through negotiations with the Dept of Health, DAERA, DFC and other relevant Departments.

As part of SEUPB's requirement, a Service Level Agreement/Partnership Agreement will be put in place between ORNI as lead partner and the Council.

ORNI is seeking agreement from Council to:

1. Formally support the project by being a named partner in the forthcoming application to Peace Plus.
2. Agreeing to act as the employing authority for the WFA Local Coordinator.
3. Providing office space as required throughout the length of the project.
4. Offering Officer support throughout the project when required to assist the coordinator.

If the application is successful, we will work with our internal colleagues in Sports Services, Communities and Environmental Health to deliver the project.

2.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the committee approve in principle to be named as a partner for the application process for Peace Plus funding and a further report will be brought back regards the Terms & Conditions if the application is successful.

3.0 **Finance and Resource Implications**

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) will cover the cost of the project through the application. The only cost which the Council may be liable for would be the enhanced redundancy payment, which is above statutory payment which ORNI have agreed to cover.

4.0 **Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments**

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
--	----

Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out Equality screening will be carried out if the application is successful and prior to commencement of the project.	
--	--

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
--	----

Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out. Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be carried out if the application is successful and prior to commencement of the project.	
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Appendix

1. Draft project concept.

Appendix 1: Walking for All Draft project concept.

The project specifically delivers on

- contributing to the creation of healthy communities (including individuals and entire communities) in rural areas through a health and well-being focused solution.
- providing the opportunities for communities to grow together – economically, socially, and culturally.
- helping communities become empowered to address social exclusion ensuring all people have access to quality services and therefore achieving a better quality of life for all.
- encouraging participants to socialise, gain confidence, build relationships in their local communities, interact reducing rural isolation and exclusion and contributing to more peaceful and prosperous rural areas.
- building community networks both cross community and cross border resulting in vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable rural communities throughout NI and the border Counties.
- fostering a culture of volunteering – with the project focused on training Volunteer Community Walk Leaders, the project will help build the capacity of rural communities to develop and ultimately sustain activities in their own area.
- supporting rural enterprises e.g. coffee shops and supports partnership and collaboration effort at all levels and between all stakeholders involved e.g. NGOs, County Council, County LSP and Local Communities.

This project differs from other existing Council walking initiatives with the focus on training up Volunteer Community Walk Leaders. The Walk Leaders will set up, lead, and sustain their own walking groups across the Council area. These Walk Leaders will be supported at every step by Walking for All Coordinators.

The proposed model for the project includes a core staff team of: Project Manager, Finance Officer, Training and Communication Officer and three Regional WFA Managers. These positions will be employed by ORNI as the lead partner in the project. In addition, key to the success of the project is employing a local WFA Coordinator in each of the Council areas in NI and in each of the Local Sports Partnerships in the Republic of Ireland.

The role of the Coordinator includes:

- undertaking an audit of all community groups in the widest sense across the Council area
- (e.g. sporting clubs, Mother and Toddlers groups, Age Friendly clubs, Men's Shed, Church groups).
- proactively engaging with these groups to recruit Volunteer Community Walk Leaders.
- delivering WFA training courses to new Volunteer Community Walk Leaders.
- initially leading walks with the new Walk Leaders to build their confidence and ensure quality control.

- providing ongoing support to Community Walk Leaders to maintain a weekly regular walk as a minimum.
- seeking to integrate existing walking groups (Walking in Your Community and Walking for Health) into WFA and providing the necessary refresher training.
- organising and hosting local networking walks and events for walking groups.
- identifying and delivering 'peace and reconciliation' interventions in specific communities.
- feeding walking group data and case studies to the Training and Communication Officer to populate the WFA website.
- keeping records for monitoring and evaluation purposes and preparing reports for the Regional WFA Managers.
- collectively reporting monthly to the Regional WFA Manager on targets and outputs.
- reporting to the Project Working Group when required.

The coordinator post has been evaluated independently at SO1 (Staff Officer) level by Steve Traynor STAHRs, a job evaluation specialist used by many Councils across NI. Councils may have slightly different salary bandings which can be addressed at the time of the recruitment process.

All Coordinators across the project will have the same Job Description provided by ORNI. Whilst the Council will be responsible for undertaking the recruitment process, ORNI is willing to sit on shortlisting/interview panels as an observer, if so desired by Council.

Councils will also be given a flat rate of 15% towards administration and 7% towards the coordinator's travel and subsistence. This is on top of the coordinator's overall employment cost. In addition, each Officer will be given a small programme budget to manage each year towards training costs and materials etc.

It is anticipated that Council will submit a quarterly financial claim to ORNI who will then claim back the funding from Peace Plus and reimburse the Council as quickly as possible.

Costs in the application are based on a starting date of April 2025. ORNI has sought the assistance of an economist to calculate projected costs for the period April 2025 – end of March 2028, cognisant of increases in inflation during this period and spine point increases on the S01 scale.

Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing
Date:	5 March 2024
Report from:	Acting Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	The Lady Mary Peters' Woodland Walk and Running Trail

1.0 **Background**

Following on from the 50th anniversary to mark Lady Mary Peters winning the gold medal at the 1972 Olympic games in Munich, Forthill Primary School approached the Council to work in collaboration with them to name an area after Lady Mary Peters. The Primary School have been conducting a project on famous people from the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area and the areas that have been named after them.

The Countryside and Biodiversity Officers have been working closely with the school to consider possible options for naming an area after Lady Mary Peters, while considering biodiversity elements to be included in the project.

An existing walk has been identified within Aberdelghy Golf course **Appendix 1**, Lambeg, known as Aberdelghy wood which links to Conway Lane. By coincidence the walk and Conway Lane form part of the original Lagan Corridor 10k Running Trail which was setup by the former Lisburn City Council in 2008. The proposed project would include the renaming of this existing 1.25km of woodland path within Aberdelghy Golf Course and the rebranding of the 10k running trail from Lagan Valley Island to 'The Lady Mary Peters' Woodland Walk and Running Trail' in partnership with Forthill Primary School.

Discussions with the school and Lady Mary Peters have proven positive towards this project. Part of the project would include children from the school partaking in planting part of the hedgerow where the walk exists and learning more about importance of biodiversity within the woodland.

Issues

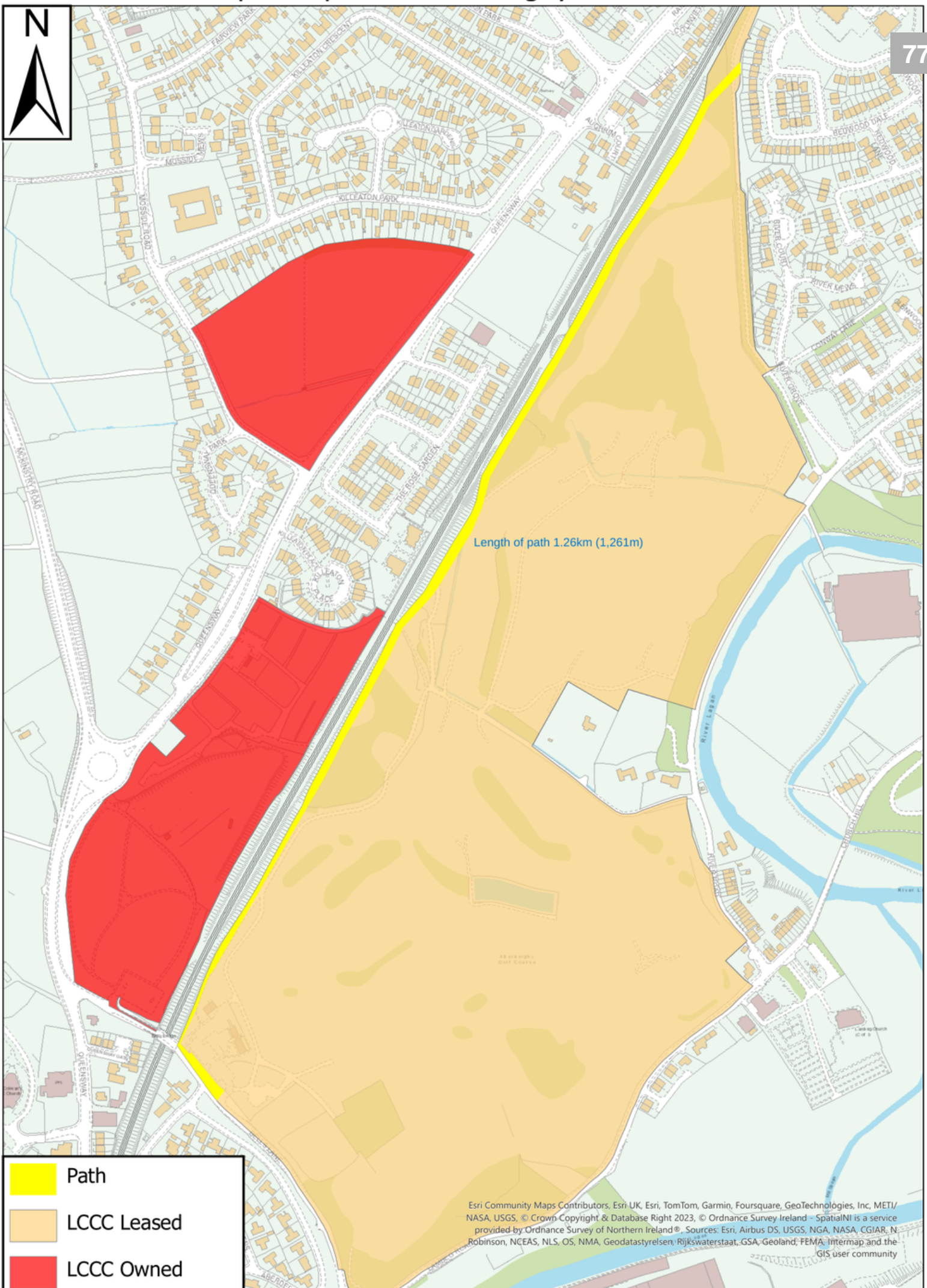
The project will require the following works to take place:

- Planting of hedgerow along the 1.25km to segregate walkers/runners and golfers along the trail path.
- Installation of fencing and gates at certain points along the path and at the entrance to the walk. This is to ensure safety of walkers/runners where golf vehicles may cross over.
- Resurfacing of existing gravel path along the 1.25km walk.
- Erection and replacement of existing signage for the 10k trail run.
- Painting of an existing steel container to include naming of the project and sporting/biodiversity murals.

Cost for the project will be provided through Parks & Amenities budgets and no additional requirements for budget at this time.

3.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that members approve the project to include the naming 'The Lady Mary Peters Woodland Walk and Running Trail' and carrying out the above work streams to support the project.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost of the project will be covered within Parks & Amenities budgets if approved.</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> <p>Document Available Here</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>An equality screening has been carried out has been screened out with mitigations to be in place. Considering access for all.</p>	
	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Rural impact is considered as part of the overall P&A portfolio to include access to sites and location</p>		

<p>Appendix</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map highlighting Lady Mary Peters Walk along the golf course. 2. Screening document
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	Path
	LCCC Leased
	LCCC Owned

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