

Title of Report:	Sperrins Partnership Project
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 November 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	n/a

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the activities undertaken by the Sperrins Partnership Project and to seek approval for an additional request for funding.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 The Sperrins Partnership Project is a collaboration between 4 Councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards the delivery of this project.
- 2.2 Project activity is overseen by a Project Officer and part time Administrative Support who took up their respective roles in October 2020. Derry City and Strabane District Council agreed to lead on the recruitment and employment of the officers in agreement with the partner councils.
- 2.3 At the June 2024 meeting of Leisure & Development Committee it was recommended that Council provide increased financial support through a £3,000 per annum uplift for 2025-2026 for the continuation of the Sperrins Partnership at a cost of £25,000 annually. Additionally, an extension in the period of Council funding from April 2026 to March 2027 with an annual contribution of £28,000 was recommended, subject to confirmation of the reciprocal financial contribution of all partner Councils.

3.0 **Update from Sperrins Partnership Project**

- 3.1 As part of the update to Council, Sperrins Partnership has provided three documents which are attached for members consideration.
 - **Annex A** - Update on activities within the Sperrins Partnership Project area from March 2025 to November 2025 including a request for additional funding.
 - **Annex B** – Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031. Developed through recent management plan consultation.
 - **Annex C** – Letter of Offer from Department of Communities confirming a grant from the Historic Environment Fund to host a Sperrins Heritage Conference.

4.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee notes the contents of this report, specifically:

- The Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031 and the next steps outlined with regards to AONB delivery.
- The proposed review exercise of the Sperrins Partnership Governance and Management Structure.

It is also recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers:

- Making the additional financial provision requested towards the maternity costs associated with the Sperrin AONB Project Officer at an estimated range of £3,000 to £5,000.

- The Terms and Conditions of the Department of Communities, Historic Environment Division, Revivals Scheme. Letter of Offer attached at Annex C.

ANNEX A

Title of Report:	Author: Ciara Toner – Sperrins Partnership
Sperrins Partnership Project Update	Lead Project Officer

1. Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Sperrins Partnership project activity that has taken place since the last update provided in March 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Sperrins Partnership Project (previously Sperrins Future Search) is a collaboration between 4 councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who back in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards its delivery and have also funded the Sperrins Future Search initiative. The 4 Councils have agreed to equal financial contribution towards the project until 2027.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Developing a Management Plan for Sperrin AONB

Members may recall receiving an update to October 2024 Committee that the Sperrins Partnership had secured 5-year funding through the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 - 2028 to enable the Partnership to develop the first ever Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan. This is a long-standing matter which the Sperrins Partnership Board had supported as a key issue facing the region.

The consultation to inform the development of the AONB Management Plan is now complete. The consultation exercise was delivered by an external consultant and took place between February and August 2024. The aim of the exercise was to carry out an extensive consultation that would gather the views of all key stakeholders, including members of the community who live and work in the Sperrins. The results of this consultation were made available to Members in October 2024 before they were presented at a public event held in November 2024. The report can be accessed via the link – [Sperrin AONB Management Plan - Sperrins Partnership Project](#).

The next important phase in the project delivery was to convene 2 Action Plan Working Groups to help shape and develop the 5-year action plan. Expressions of Interest from a broad range of sectors and groups were gathered from November 2024 to February 2025. The group membership included a wide and comprehensive range of stakeholders which included council officers from various departments.

External support was secured to assist the Sperrins Partnership Team with design and delivery of these important working groups. 6 working group meetings were held from March concluding in October 2025 all of which have been in-person meetings with one meeting held online. This concludes with almost 18 months of consultations to date and 15 in person events held right across the entire AONB. The consultation has been noted one of the biggest ever carried out by a Landscape Management Body and the actions identified have gone through a rigorous process to get to this draft stage. The draft action plan was shared with DAERA at the end of October. As the project funder, DAERA is the body responsible for signing off on AONB Management Plans and their internal review process could take up to 3 months to complete. Once the plan has been approved by the department, a launch event will take place in the Spring of 2026 date tbc.

The overarching Management Plan is progressing on time and within budget and will be submitted to DAERA by the end of this year for review and signoff. Members will be kept up to date on all activities relating to the 5-year action plan and the 10-year Management Plan. A copy of the Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan is attached at Annex B.

Once the Management Plan has been approved it will be shared with Committee in advance of a formal launch event which is planned to take place in the Spring of 2026 date tbc.

3.2 Sperrins AONB Project Officer

The Sperrins AONB Project Officer will commence maternity leave on 9th February 2026. The post is funded by the DAERA Environment Fund. The department have advised that they will continue to fund the post (maternity cover) however they will not cover the additional maternity leave costs. The total additional maternity costs required to be covered by the partner councils are approximately £16,000. Therefore, there will be a need for these additional costs to be absorbed at a sum of £3,000 per council with the remainder absorbed by the Sperrins Partnership Budget. Cover for the post will be trawled internally across the 4 partner Councils simultaneously. The post will be offered on a temporary basis for a period of 1 year. Members will be kept updated on the Sperrins AONB Project Officer post.

3.3 Governance and Management Structures

The Partnership Project Management Group are considering options for project Governance and Management structures. A new structure will be necessary to ensure that the Sperrins Partnership can deliver on the needs and aspirations of the forthcoming AONB Management Plan and associated increase in project delivery. Governance and Management Structures proposals will be brought to a future meeting of this committee for consideration and approval.

3.4 Sperrins Walking Festival

Council officers across the 4 local authorities are currently considering proposals to deliver a Sperrins Walking Festival in Spring of 2026. The lead team for developing this proposal within Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council is Tourism & Recreation. The proposal will include 4 x heritage focused site visits and multiple walks across the AONB. A consultation with local communities will commence in November 2025. The focus of the project is to connect communities with each other and their landscape through activities and experiences that aim to celebrate the people and place. Another key output is to attract visitors from outside the area and encourage more bed nights, benefiting the local economy. The proposal aligns directly with the feedback from AONB consultation and emerging actions in the 5-year action plan. Members will be kept up to date on developments of the Sperrins Walking Festival.

3.5 Sperrins Heritage Conference

The Sperrins Partnership has secured funding through the Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division (HED) Revivals Scheme to a value of almost £10,000. The Letter of Offer is attached at Annex C. Some of this funding will be used to deliver a Sperrins Heritage Conference. The aim of the Conference will be to connect a wide range of key stakeholders with their heritage and each other. The event will involve key speakers and provide an opportunity for participants to learn and engage in all aspects of their heritage and provide key insights into their own local heritage. Planning is underway for the Conference, and it is hoped that it will take place early in the New Year. Further information and invites will be issued closer to the time. Again, this proposal aligns directly with the feedback from AONB consultation and emerging actions in the 5-year action plan. Members will be kept updated with developments for the Conference.

3.6 Landscapes NI Annual Conference 11th November 2025

The Sperrins Partnership is a Member of Landscapes NI which is a network of organisations which together champion the restoration of diverse and iconic landscapes for the benefit of nature, health, economy, and the planet. This is achieved through advocacy work with government for improved policy and legislation to help restore nature in our landscapes, ensure they are accessible to all and promoting our landscapes to the public. There are 15 member organisations involved.

Landscapes NI will host its annual conference named 'Natural Health' which will take place on 11th November at the Silverbirch Hotel with site visits for delegates taking place in the Sperrins the following day. Conference speakers include Cairngorms, EUROPARC and RSPB. Should a member wish to attend the conference please get in touch with the Project Officer for further information or book directly using the link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/natural-health-the-landscapes-ni-conference-tickets-1677637271239>

3.7 Sperrin Outdoor Activity Development Officer - The Outdoor Partnership (TOP)

The Sperrins Partnership in collaboration with Sport NI and Partner Councils secured funding through The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) to appoint an Outdoor Activity Development Officer for the Sperrins for a 4-year funded period. The council has committed to fund the post to the value of £4,000 per year up to September 2026. The Sperrins Partnership team work closely with the Sperrin Outdoor Activity Development Officer to assist and support delivery of a range of projects that benefit communities through enhancing lives through outdoor recreation.

Volunteers Trail Maintenance Project

In partnership with Cycling Ulster and Outscape, the volunteer Trail Maintenance Project has gone from strength to strength, addressing complexities around the management of trail centre maintenance across Northern Ireland. Seven local authorities committed funding for staff training and volunteer costs were supported by the Outdoor Partnership and Cycling Ulster.

The project has taken a hands-on approach to support both councils and trail users in maintaining key sites. In April 2025, a four-day training programme was delivered at Davagh Trail Centre, equipping representatives from seven local authorities with trail maintenance, inspection, and supervision skills. Since then, coordinated dig days with volunteers and councils, particularly within the Sperrins trail centres Davagh, Gortin and Garvagh which have resulted in 78 volunteer hours to date, with further sessions planned in the coming weeks. The project has trained 14 trail inspectors, 14 maintenance coordinators, 10 land managers, and 19 volunteers, with 7 land managers on board across 7 trail centres, and a strong response of 126 volunteer applications.

All maintenance teams are now fully equipped with the necessary tools. Beyond the practical outcomes, the project has strengthened relationships between councils and trail users, fostered local ownership, and helped retain valuable skills within communities and local authorities. Trail maintenance is an ongoing process, and continued support is essential to sustain this successful, collaborative model into the future. Northern Ireland's New Mountain Bike Maintenance Scheme Off to a Strong Start – Outscape.

3.8 Youth Ambassador Project

In partnership with the Sperrins Partnership, The Outdoor Partnership has successfully launched the Sperrins Youth Ambassador Project, a 12-month outdoor education initiative aimed at youth aged 14-17 from across the Sperrins region. The programme is designed to empower young people by developing outdoor skills, environmental awareness, leadership, and fostering deep connections with the natural landscape.

To date, a diverse range of sessions have been delivered, including bushcraft skills, biodiversity and native species education, natural history and folklore, navigation and hill-skills, and a peatland restoration session in collaboration with Ulster Wildlife. The next session planned is a certified outdoor first aid course. Engagement has been strong with participants drawn from all corners of the Sperrins.

The outcomes thus far include enhanced skill sets among youth ambassadors, increased environmental stewardship, stronger community connections, and growing ownership of local landscapes. The programme is also helping to preserve traditional knowledge, boost confidence and leadership, and promote ongoing care for the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As we continue to develop and learn from this project, we hope in time it will build its own legacy for future participants to aspire to join.

3.9 General Delivery Update

Beyond our core trail-maintenance and youth ambassador programme, a suite of complementary delivery projects is underway across the Sperrins which includes the roll out of hill-skills training, delivery of International Women's Day outdoor sessions, and coach education for Advanced-affiliated TOP clubs. Mountain bike youth initiatives have been delivered at all three trail centres, including a successful "Ready to Race" youth event at Davagh Forest Park in partnership with Mid Ulster Council and Cycling Ulster, which attracted 40 youth riders aged 8 to 14.

In early 2025 TOP successfully delivered a host of rural community and Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives in the Mid Ulster area through their Sport NI community planning application. A total of 16 activity sessions and 163 unique participants were engaged with through further coach education, disability sessions and community cohesion activities.

Building on the success of a previous Public Health Agency (PHA) "Clear" funding initiative with the Dennett Valley Health Care group, an application was resubmitted a 2025 to PHA to deliver a men's outdoor wellbeing project in Donemana. Delivery is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. We aim to expand similar projects across other parts of the Sperrins in 2026 and will engage council community officers to inform the planning of future programmes.

3.10 Funding & Sustainability

To sustain delivery and operations across the Sperrins AONB, The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) remains committed to securing external funding. In 2025 we have successfully secured funding from Mid Ulster's Sport NI / Community Planning grants, two PHA awards, and currently have live applications for Peace+ "Change Makers" funding themes. Concurrently, TOP is actively participating in Sport NI's consultation exercises to identify possible revenue streams for future funding.

4. Implications

Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection

4.1 N/A

Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other

4.2 The Sperrins Partnership project is equally funded by 4 partner Councils. External funding has been secured through the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 – 2028 to develop a Management Plan for the AONB. The Sperrins Partnership provides the delivery model to ensure the Management Plan can be achieved. Agreement was sought at this Committee in October 2024 to the following council contributions:

Sperrins Partnership Funding Breakdown:

2024 - 2025	£22k per council (no increase required)	Total contributions sought £88k. Salaries £78k, £10k programming costs
2025 - 2026	£25k per council	Total contributions sought £100k. Salaries £82k, £18k programming costs
2026 - 2027	£28k per council	Total contributions sought £112k. Salaries £86k. £16k programming costs

The Sperrins Partnership continues to increase activity moving forward on the Sperrins AONB with focus on developing the first ever Management Plan for Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Council notes the content of this report and specifically:

- The content of the Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031 and the next steps outlined with regards to AONB delivery.
- The proposed review exercise of the Sperrins Partnership Governance and Management Structure
- The 4-partner council agreed funding contribution up to March 2027
- That Council makes additional financial provision towards the maternity costs associated with the Sperrin AONB Project Officer to the value of £3,000 and also note the timelines for maternity cover.
- To accept the Terms and Conditions of the Department of Communities, Historic Environment Division, Revivals Scheme. Letter of Offer attached at Annex C.

Sperrin AONB DRAFT 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031



Aim 1: Conserve and Protect the Natural Heritage of Sperrin AONB					
Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (In no particular order)	Year(s)
1.1. Support the conservation of priority habitats and species within the AONB	Water course protection	Delivery of a results-based programme, providing small grants to landowners within the AONB for measures which will ensure improvements to water course protection. Initial small budget from Environment Fund & in year funding however will advocate for extension of the Sustainable Catchment Programme throughout the AONB. Grants: 75%. Match funding: 25% (can include in kind contribution) The provision of a Farm Engagement Officer could assist this action as they will carry out a farm visit, identifying potential measures and thereafter carry out another visit to ensure work has been carried out to a high standard.	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers & Landowners Loughs Agency NI Water Rivers Trust	Annually
	Raise awareness of water course Protection	To facilitate training and support for farmers, landowners and the broader community in relation to water course protection. This should be facilitated through delivery of an annual calendar of workshops and information sessions on key topics such as: - Nutrient and Fertiliser Management - Runoff Control - Buffer Zones and Riparian Management - Pesticide and Chemical Use - Drainage and Irrigation Management Existing provision will be mapped to ensure no duplication.	Sperrins Partnership	AFBI CAFRE DFI Rivers Farmers and Landowners Local Communities Loughs Agency NI Water Rivers Trust UFU	Annually
	Baseline Assessment of Peatland status within the AONB.	Survey across the AONB which will enable ongoing assessment of the condition, extent, and ecological health of the peatland. Establish a baseline for Peatland Restoration projects across the AONB which will be used to identify gaps and opportunities. The action will complement ongoing efforts by partners including UW, NI Water and RSPB.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Local Councils NI Water Peatland Collab Network	Ongoing

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		Includes training and education events on monitoring, recording.		RSPB UFU Ulster Wildlife	
	Carry out Peatland Restoration Works on priority areas identified above.	Work with stakeholders and landowners to advance Peatland Restoration projects in identified priority areas. We will adopt a partnership approach to funding applications where possible. Restoration works will be dependent on landowner agreement and securing additional funding.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Landowners/ Farmers Local Councils NI Water RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing
	Create a database of priority and Species of interest in the AONB	An up-to-date report on priority species and species of interest throughout the AONB will be produced using current data from designated sites. This will be regularly updated depending on update monitoring data. This report should act as a baseline to monitor the impact on conservation efforts.	Sperrins Partnership	BTO CEDAR DAERA Local Councils National Biodiversity Data Centre RSPB Ulster Wildlife	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	Support the conservation of Priority Species within the AONB	This should include training and education for local communities and stakeholders as well as practical works to support conservation. Examples of key species identified during the consultation include Red Squirrel, Hen Harrier, Atlantic Salmon, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Curlew and Marsh Fritillary.	Sperrins Partnership	BTO CEDAR DAERA DFI Rivers Local Councils Loughs Agency Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing
	Awareness of Invasive species	Raise awareness of invasive species, for example, through events, workshops, educational visits and the production of resources.	Sperrins Partnership	CEDAR Local Councils RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	Management of invasive species	Projects to manage the spread of non-native invasive species that have potential to negative impact priority habitats or species.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA – Forest Service Farmers and Landowners NI Water	Ongoing

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				NIEA Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife Woodland Trust	
	Habitat recovery projects	Establish a baseline of current condition using current data from designated sites and other sources. This will be regularly updated depending on update monitoring data. Key priority habitats in unfavourable conditions identified, exploring options to improve.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA – Forest Service NI Water NIEA Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife Woodland Trust	Ongoing
	Tree Planting	Encourage an increase in the percentage of native planting across the AONB. Work in partnership with key partners, local communities and landowners to ensure the preservation and conservation of existing native woodlands while promoting opportunities to encourage native tree planting via forestry funded schemes.	Forest Service/ Woodland Trust	DAERA Farmers & Landowners Local Councils NI Water RSPB Sperrins Partnership	Ongoing
	Support the identification of potential sites for inclusion within 30 X 30 political commitment	The Sperrins Partnership will support efforts to identify potential sites for inclusion within 30 by 30. This will include liaising and consulting with key stakeholders https://www.nienvironmentlink.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/30-x-30-What-does-it-mean-for-Northern-Ireland2-updated.pdf	Ulster Wildlife	Farmers and Landowners Landscapes NI NIEA RSPB Sperrins Partnership	2026/27 2027/28
	Support All Ireland pollinator strategy	Host one annual event within the AONB promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Strategy	Sperrins Partnership	Local Council Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	Big Butterfly Count	Encourage local participation in the annual Big Butterfly Count and share findings	Butterfly Conservation	Local Council Sperrins Partnership Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	Participation in Sperrins Wildfire Group	Establishment and participation in Sperrins Wildfire Group in line with the NI Wildfire Strategy	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers & Landowners NIEA NIFSR Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing

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	Conservation Awareness raising programme	Facilitation of an annual programme of workshops and information sessions raising awareness of key issues facing biodiversity in the Sperrins. Topics may include: - Impact of invasive species - Identifying and recording priority species - Impact of climate change & potential mitigation measures	Sperrins Partnership	BTO Butterfly Conservation Local Council National Biodiversity Data Centre Rivers Trust RSPB Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	Explore opportunities to support upland management in the AONB	Explore potential support for fencing and other innovative methods to support upland management in the AONB. This will address land abandonment by reintroducing livestock. Grazing of the land will support biodiversity recovery and heather management, thereby increasing wildfire resilience.	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing
1.2. Promote Sustainable Land Management and Conservation within the AONB	Sustainable Agricultural Practice and Biodiversity Promotion	To deliver an annual calendar of training and education workshops focused on sustainable agricultural practice and biodiversity promotion. Workshops should occur bimonthly (6 per annum) and complement existing provision. Focused on key priority topics-based needs and requirements. This will encourage nature friendly farming in AONB and participation in agri-environment schemes.	Sperrins Partnership	CAFRE Farmers & Landowners Local Council NI Water NIEA Rivers Trust UFU Ulster Wildlife Woodland Trust	Annually
	Farm Diversification	To organise and facilitate two best practice visits to diversified farms in the Sperrins and further afield per annum. The visits will be open to farmers across the Sperrins, enhancing capacity, resilience, and potential for farm diversification and shared learning.	Sperrins Partnership	CAFRE Local Councils NI Water Other Landscape Management Bodies both in NI & Cross Boarder TNI UFU	Annually

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	Farming Connections and Policy Consultations	To establish and support a collaborative farming working group with representatives from local farming groups. Proposed that the group will meet at least bi-annually to be determined by the group. Its purpose is to facilitate discourse and provide peer support on strategic matters of importance to farmers, as well as create a platform for local farmers to contribute to key policies and strategies. Local solutions to local issues. Bi-annual meetings will be enhanced by bi-annual site visits with existing local farming groups	Sperrins Partnership	DAERA Farmers and Landowners Landscapes NI Local farming groups National Sheep Association (NSA) NIAPA Rural Support UFU	Ongoing
	Farming Connections	To continue to build stronger connections between the Sperrins Partnership and farmers by: - Sperrins Partnership carrying out bi-annual site visits with existing local farming groups - Sperrins Partnership will continue to attend local and regional shows and Agri food events to promote and create awareness of the AONB Designation and management plan	Sperrins Partnership	Farmers and Landowners Local farming groups NSA RSPB Rural Support UFU Ulster Wildlife	Ongoing

Aim 2: Protect, Enhance and Promote the Historic Environment within Sperrin AONB					
Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (In no particular order)	Year(s)
2.1. Value, protect and enhance built	Establish a Heritage Working Group that will represent the entire Sperrin AONB.	This group will underpin heritage related actions & steer delivery of heritage projects. Increase opportunities for people to get involved with our heritage and celebrate the unique heritage identity of the people of the AONB. Provide opportunities for local people to engage others with their heritage and history and assist local heritage groups in promoting heritage.	Sperrins Partnership	HED Local Community Networks e.g. RCN & Rapid Local Community Organisations and heritage groups. Local Councils National Trust	Ongoing

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heritage within the AONB.				Ulster Architectural Heritage	
	Perform an audit of existing heritage assets across Sperrin AONB and explore options for potential to access heritage and create new heritage trails.	We will map existing heritage across the AONB, engaging with local communities to record heritage within their own locality. This will facilitate engagement with landowners about potential access to heritage on their land and how this access might look e.g. Physical or Virtual.	Sperrins Partnership	HED Local Community Networks e.g. RCN & Rapid Local Community Organisations and heritage groups. Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	Establish a heritage map showcasing key heritage sites in the Sperrins	Using data already recorded e.g. HED Map Viewer layers, a user-friendly map of built heritage within Sperrin AONB will be created. This information will be available online and via printed AONB wide guides.	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Community Networks e.g. RCN & Rapid Local Community Organisations and heritage groups. Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	2026/27 2027/28 2028/29
	Identify built heritage at risk within the AONB and support efforts for restoration	Identify built heritage at risk within the AONB and support efforts for restoration such as working with local communities and landowners to identify funding opportunities. Monitor and Review Heritage at Risk and liaise with local and regional partners and Historic Environment Division. Provide heritage advice, guidance, signposting to partners considering taking forward heritage led regeneration projects	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Community Networks e.g. RCN & Rapid Local Community Organisations and heritage groups.	Ongoing

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				Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	
	Perform an audit of heritage signage within the AONB.	An audit of existing heritage signage will take place to determine gaps and opportunities	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Local Heritage Groups and community organisations.	2026/27 2027/28
2.2. Champion and promote the cultural heritage of Sperrin AONB	Promote the tradition of storytelling and the recording of oral history within the AONB.	Champion the tradition of storytelling and its importance to the cultural heritage of the AONB. Encourage individuals and communities to record their history. Information session from NI Archive about how to collect and archive local history.	Sperrins Partnership,	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network Local communities and local heritage groups. Local Councils NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	Ongoing
	Townland Connections Project	Project exploring local historic townlands within the AONB and their connection to the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Aim to conserve the field names and townland of the AONB for future generations. Create a map viewer	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Local communities and local heritage groups. Local Councils (e.g. Irish language officers) NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services Niall Comer UU Irish language	Annually
	Language in the AONB	Project exploring the history of Irish Language within Sperrin AONB and its impact on the cultural heritage and legacy of the area.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network Local communities and local heritage groups. Local Councils (e.g. Irish language officers)	Annually

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				NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	
	Heritage focused Small Grants Programme	Administer an annual small grants programme open to local community and heritage groups with projects that promote the natural, built or cultural heritage of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and local heritage groups. Local Councils NI Archive via CCGBC Museum Services	Annually
	Annual Calendar of events promoting the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the AONB including one annual 'Sperrins Festival'	To establish and deliver an annual calendar of fairs and events that promote local crafts, skills, and produce. The annual calendar of events should be consolidated under the Sperrins AONB brand and consider the following: Events should be hosted at varying locations throughout the AONB Encourage and support uptake of stalls and stands from the Sperrin AONB region at other craft fairs and events across NI to build brand awareness	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. RCN. Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and local heritage groups. Local Councils	Annually

Aim 3: Protect and Conserve the Landscape Character of Sperrin AONB for future generations					
Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (In no particular order)	Year(s)
3.1. Monitor Landscape Character changes within the AONB	Monitor the landscape changes through Fixed Point Photography	Sperrins Partnership will establish a Fixed-Point Photography project across 8 sites. As per NIEA guidance, these sites will be selected based on Landscape Character Areas and will be photographed 4 times per year. Sperrins Partnership will present the findings to the Partnership Board and the photographs will be submitted to DAERA on an annual basis. The photos will also be uploaded on the website to allow public access.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils	Annually

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3.2. Promote Sustainable Development within the AONB	Re-establish Sperrins Planning Forum (4 local planning authorities)	The Sperrins Partnership would gain better understanding of development in this sensitive landscape through an annual summary of development applications in the AONB. Context to the scale, rate of approval and general trends. The Sperrins Planning Forum will primarily ensure a high level of co-operation and communication among neighbouring councils which will be achieved through a 'Statement of Common Ground'. Although unable to comment on individual planning applications, as members of Landscape NI the Sperrins Partnership will advocate for Sustainable Developments as per Landscapes NI Sustainable Development manifesto goal 7: <i>"Progress need not come at the expense of our landscapes or our sense of place. We call for the clear integration of landscape considerations into every facet of development, prioritizing sustainable practices that safeguard our natural and cultural heritage for current and future generations while meeting the needs of a growing and changing population."</i>	Sperrins Partnership	Local councils – planning	Ongoing
3.3. Promote Traditional Heritage Skills	Traditional Heritage and Crafts	To establish and deliver traditional heritage and craft projects across Sperrin AONB. The project will cover key topics such as: • Stone Wall Creation • Other • Traditional farming methods and tools • Conservation and repair of farm buildings • Thatching • Hedge laying The project will be a mixture of hands-on workshops, site visits, excursions and include an intergenerational component. It will promote the revival of traditional craft methods and techniques within the AONB. The project will in turn support the conservation of vernacular buildings within the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Networks & Rural Area Partnership Incorporated (RAPID) Farmers and landowners Historic Environment Division (HED) Local communities and heritage groups. Local Councils Ulster Architectural Heritage	

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Aim 4: Encourage sustainable use and access of Sperrin AONB which promotes the wellbeing and resilience of local communities					
Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource	Year(s)
4.1. Support initiatives that enhance the health and wellbeing of communities within the AONB.	Community Participatory Budgeting Project	A small grants programme for local communities aimed at promoting wellbeing and the natural, built or cultural heritage of the AONB. (4 Grants per year)	Sperrins Partnership	Community Networks e.g. Rural Community Network & Rural Area Partnership Incorporated (RAPID) Local Community Groups Local Councils – Community Development/ Community Planning	Annually
	Farmer Wellbeing	To establish and implement a small grants programme to fund local farming groups to develop farmer wellbeing initiatives during the course of the Action Plan. Support will be available to groups to interested in making an application.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Community Groups and Farming groups Local Councils Rural Support Ulster Farmers Union	Annually
	Outdoor Recreation Wellbeing Initiatives	Through the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Officer, the Sperrins Partnership will support a programme of activities aimed at promoting the health and wellbeing of local communities through outdoor recreation. This will include marginalised and underrepresented groups such as older people and those with additional needs.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local Sports Organisations Outscape Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
4.2. Encourage greater access to Outdoor	Review, update and support delivery of the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Action Plan 2013.	This will Increase the range of outdoor recreation opportunities and improve access to the countryside for all.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local Sports Organisations NIEA Outscape Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing

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Recreation opportunities within the AONB	Explore options to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB	We will engage with local farmers and landowners to explore options to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB. This may include Permissive Path Agreements, for example.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Outdoor Tourism Partnership (Embracing the Outdoors) Outscape Tourism NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
	Delivery of an annual Sperrins Youth Ambassador Programme	This will be delivered in partnership with The Outdoor Partnership (TOP). As well as equipping participants with a range of transferrable skills, it will encourage young people to explore future opportunities within the outdoor recreation sector and provide environmental awareness.	Sperrins Partnership/TOP	Landscapes NI	Annually
	Attend the National Outdoor Recreation Forum meetings	Provide feedback on AONB activity in relation to challenges and opportunities with regards to outdoor recreation.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	Attend and input into The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) stakeholder meetings	Provide feedback on AONB activity in relation to challenges and opportunities with regards to outdoor recreation.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Sports Clubs and Groups Sport NI The Outdoor Partnership	Ongoing
4.3. Promote Sustainable Tourism	Establish a tourism focused Working Group	To identify and deliver on projects within the AONB. Establish membership through Expressions of Interest.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Communities Local Councils Local providers and businesses Tourism NI	2026/27 2027/28
	Establish an eco-tourism partnership comprised of local business and providers	Access joint training opportunities and explore funding.	Tourism Northern Ireland	Local Communities Local Councils Local providers and businesses Sperrins Partnership	Ongoing

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within the AONB	Sperrins AONB Branding	To establish a brand identity for the Sperrins AONB as the banner under which the key actions in this document are developed and delivered. Key sub actions include: - Commissioning the development of the brand identity, ensuring involvement of all stakeholders - Delivery of a brand launch and marketing campaign to raise brand awareness	Tourism Northern Ireland	Local Communities Local Councils Local providers and businesses NIEA Sperrins Partnership	2026/27 2027/28
	Engage with councils' tourism teams and TNI to promote sustainable and regenerative tourism.	Sperrins Partnership will continue to engage with TNI and local councils tourism teams to promote sustainable and regenerative tourism	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Tourism NI	Ongoing
4.4. Encourage responsible use of the AONB	Promotion of "Leave No Trace"	Will include workshops, training where appropriate and the production and distribution of resources.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils	Ongoing
	Explore the feasibility of Sperrin AONB Rangers	Given the size and geographic spread of the AONB this may be difficult, but we will explore options.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Landscape NI	Ongoing
	Promote 'Get Wet Stay Safe' Campaign	Promote training and awareness sessions across the Sperrin AONB on the impacts of cold water and basic safety messages for Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, Kayak and Canoeing as well as open water swimmers	Sperrins Partnership	Sport NI	Ongoing
	Promote responsible and respectful dog walking within the AONB.	Raise awareness among the public to promote responsible and respectful dog walking within the AONB. Dogs should be kept on leads to ensure they do not disturb livestock, nesting birds and other wildlife.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils RSPB Ulster Farmers Union	Ongoing

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Aim 5: Raise awareness of the AONB and promote appreciation and pride in its landscape, and natural and historic environment.

Objective	Action	Description	Lead Coordinator	Partners/Resource (In no particular order)	Year(s)
5.1. Raise awareness of the AONB among local communities.	Develop a Schools Engagement Programme promoting the natural, built and cultural heritage of the AONB.	The action will target schools across the AONB, with locations being rotated annually. It will include a classroom-based session followed by a site visit within the AONB, aimed at encouraging a greater connection to the landscape and the heritage thereof.	Sperrins Partnership	Historic Environment Division (HED) Local Council officers Local Primary Schools Ulster Wildlife	Annually
	Raise awareness of the unique Geological profile of the AONB	Through the production of educational resources and workshops.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	Attend local events to promote the AONB status and benefits	Sperrins Partnership will attend local business/ provider events to raise awareness of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils Local providers	Ongoing
	Develop and circulate an AONB e-newsletter	The newsletter will contain information on the AONB and Sperrins Partnership activities to support the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	Deliver an annual AONB art competition	This will be aimed at local schools and will help to promote the AONB among children, their families and the wider community.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Schools	Annually
5.2. Raise awareness of the AONB among stakeholders & the wider public	Champion the AONB	Sperrins Partnership Board members will champion the AONB Designation.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing
	Provide and update the website with relevant AONB information	Sperrins Partnership will maintain and update the website and other communication platforms with relevant information and updates that effect the AONB. This will encourage better understanding of the AONB and its many special qualities.	Sperrins Partnership		Ongoing

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Aim 6: Adopt a collaborative and partnership approach to AONB Management					
Objective	Action	Description	Lead Agency	Partners/Resource (In no particular order)	Year(s)
6.1. Pursue a Governance structure that promotes inclusivity and best practice.	Working in Partnership for the benefit of the AONB	The Sperrins Partnership and all other stakeholders actively take part in knowledge sharing, and networking and engage and inform relevant individuals and groups about the AONB and build capacity among partners. The Sperrins Partnership will communicate effectively to all strategic stakeholders and the public in order to positively and effectively promote the AONB, avoid duplication and displacement, and have a coordinated approach to the management of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	All partners	Ongoing
	Review the governance structure and operation of the Sperrins Partnership	Carry out a review and analysis of the Sperrins Partnership Governance arrangements to ensure it is meeting the needs of the AONB and its people, place and planet. Continuously review effectiveness of operation of the partnership and ways of working.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI Local Councils Other AONB Management Organisations	2026/27 2027/28
	Review the Sperrins Partnership Board Terms of Reference	Sperrins Partnership will lead on the review of the Sperrins Partnership Board review of Terms of Reference to ensure that they meet the current needs of the AONB.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI Local Councils Other AONBs	2026/27 2027/28
	Enhance the Sperrins Partnership Boards understanding of legislation and policy that effect the AONB such as NCALO	Sperrins Partnership will engage with Landscapes NI and other organisations and groups to encourage networking and sharing of information and expertise. Sperrins Partnership will provide training to Board members when possible and deemed necessary.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI NIEA	Ongoing
	Expand existing staff resources to ensure the delivery needs of this plan can be met.	Successful delivery of this plan will be dependent on sufficient staff resources. Therefore, the Sperrins Partnership will explore options to expand existing staff.	Sperrins Partnership	Local Councils NIEA	Ongoing

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6.2. Promote a collaborative and coordinated approach to Landscape Management	Membership of Landscapes NI	Sperrins Partnership will maintain membership of Landscapes NI, attending and supporting regular meetings, events and other initiatives. The Sperrins Partnership will escalate and discuss any local issues/ opportunities facing the AONB to Landscapes NI.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI	Ongoing
	Advocate Government for stronger AONB protection	Landscapes NI and the Sperrins Partnership will advocate Government to improve statutory recognition of AONB's.	Landscapes NI/ Sperrins	Sperrins Partnership	Ongoing
	Continue to explore funding opportunities that will fund the action plan and lobby central government for Core funding for AONB similar to the model in mainland UK.	To ensure the management plan can be managed effectively it is vital to secure appropriate funding to support the partnership and partners to deliver effectively. The Sperrin AONB management and action plan will be used as a tool to leverage funding to support effective and meaningful delivery of AONB activities.	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI	Ongoing
	Advocate for a Just Transition programme that offers support for nature recovery projects.	If successful, the programme should include workshops and guidance on best practice restoration activity, and access to grant funding to support implementation across the Sperrins AONB	Sperrins Partnership	Landscape NI DAERA	Ongoing

ANNEX C



Department for
Communities

An Roinn Pobal

Depairtment fur Commonities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Dearbhaile Hutchinson

Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Council Offices
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt

Co. Tyrone
BT45 6EN

Historic Environment Division 7th Floor
CausewayExchange

1-7 Bedford Street Belfast
BT2 7EG

Phone: 028 9081 9414

Email: Historicenvironmentfund@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: CO1-25-20898

Date: 16 October 2025

Dearbhaile.hutchinson@derrystrabane.com

Dear Dearbhaile,

RE: Historic Environment Fund (HEF) Revival Stream 2025/26: Mid Ulster – Celebrating the Heritage of Sperrin AONB

The Department has now considered the application for Historic Environment Funding towards the above project entitled: Mid Ulster – Celebrating the Heritage of Sperrin AONB and is willing to offer an award of £9020.00, under Article 19 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995.

This offer is based on the cost proposal you have provided and is subject to the following conditions:

1. that the offer is accepted within 2 weeks from the date of this letter;

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2. for payment to be made works must be completed to the satisfaction of the Department, by 31st March 2026, any outstanding balance for works not complete will be withdrawn after this date. Any request for an extension of time to this clause will not be accepted by the Department due to end of Financial Year accounting requirements;
3. that you apply the funding solely for the purposes of carrying out and implementing the project as agreed with the Department (and summarised at Annex A) and that no departure from this project during the course of the works will take place without the prior approval of the Department;
4. that you do not transfer any rights or obligations under this Letter of Offer without the prior agreement of the Department.
5. that the Department's representative may at any reasonable time inspect the work in progress;
6. that the funding may be reduced or withdrawn if the agreed works are not carried out or if the work is not completed to the satisfaction of the Department;
7. that the funding may be reduced if the expenditure incurred proves to be less than specified on the cost information submitted;
8. that you maintain proper and effective accounting records which identify individual financial transactions relating to the Project, including the retention of original invoices and receipts and that you will retain all receipted accounts and evidence of expenditure relating to HEF-eligible works for a period of 7 years following completion for possible examination by the Department. The documents may be made available to the Comptroller and Auditor General (NI Audit Office);

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9. that digital record photographs/videos taken as part of this work will be made available to the Department for archival storage and identified in accordance with the Department's naming conventions. The Department reserves the right to use any of these photographs/videos for business purposes. Copyright of photographs taken by others remains the copyright of the author, however, DfC retains the right to archive and use for their business purposes any such photographs or video material;
10. that you ensure that you have obtained all relevant licenses and permissions where applicable to the Project;
11. that you ensure that all actions undertaken in relation to this Project comply with the relevant statutory legislation in existence during the lifetime of the Project;
12. that you comply with the requirements of all relevant/current EU Directives and legislation from time to time in force relating to working conditions, health and safety at work, etc. and the requirements of the Sex Discrimination (NI) Orders 1976 and 1988, the Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, The Race Relations (NI) Order, the Human Rights Act 1988, the Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, the Children's Act 1989, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and all Employment Equality Legislation and any enactments amending, extending or replacing them;
13. Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults: The applicant is responsible for ensuring effective procedures and controls are developed and maintained to ensure the protection of Children and safeguarding vulnerable adults. [Useful websites include www.safeguardingni.org and www.deni.gov.uk.]
14. that you acknowledge that the Department accepts no liability to you other than as expressly provided for in and subject to the terms and conditions stated;
15. that you acknowledge that the Department accepts no responsibility or liability for staff employed in relation to the Project. Mid Ulster Council shall be the employer of all staff it

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engages for the project and shall be responsible for all matters in connection with that employment including any legal or tax obligations.

16. that the Department has the right to publish and or advertise the fact that an offer of HEF funding has been made and the amount of that support in whatever manner the Department decides is appropriate. This may include requiring you to display publicity material during the course of the associated works;
17. That you acknowledge the Department's contribution to funding to your project as part of the Historic Environment Fund in relevant press releases, speeches, publications, banners, signage, advertisements and media interviews. A DfC logo incorporating the title of the fund is available upon request;
18. That you keep the Historic Environment Division regularly informed of marketing, press and PR activity including the planning and delivery of public statements, announcements and promotional activity concerning your project;
19. That you ensure that the funding shall not be used for the purpose of or in any way connected with the promoting of any religious or political viewpoint or use for a purpose that could be perceived as discriminatory on grounds of religion, sexual orientation, colour, race, gender age or disability;
20. that you will give a written declaration to the fact that you will / will not be able to recover any VAT payable since the grant offer excludes VAT (see overleaf);
21. that the Department requires you to forward full details of any other grant offers that you may receive for the proposed scheme and reserves the right to revise the HEF offer if/when details of other grant offers are known;
22. that where you have obtained an alternative source of funding, the department will take action to recover all Historic Environment Fund awards provided;

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23. that you are responsible for ensuring effective procedures and controls are developed and maintained to mitigate the risk of fraud occurring and to ensure any instances of fraud are detected promptly – this includes the requirement to have a whistle-blowing policy and fraud policy/response plan in place. In the event of suspected/actual fraud DfC must be informed immediately;
24. payment will be made via Banking Automated Crediting System (BACS), please supply details of your bank account on the Acceptance form attached;
25. that you repay to the Department any overpayment forthwith on first demand or on becoming aware that the funding has been overpaid, whichever first occurs.
26. The Division reserves the right to suspend, defer or withhold or claw back any or all of the payments and/or require to repay part or all of the financial assistance if:
 - a. the conditions of this offer are not met, or
 - b. any information given to DfC's Historic Environment Division in connection with the application or claims for financial assistance is found to be false or misleading or there had been failure to disclose any material fact which would have had a bearing on the initial consideration of the application, or
 - c. there is a substantial or material change in the nature, scale or timing of the Project; if the Project is used for purposes other than those specified in the application, or
 - d. the applicant receives duplicate funding from any other source for the same project, or
 - e. the operation of DfC's Historic Environment Division or any legislation or DfC's Historic Environment Division funding is changed to the Department of the funding made available for this project, or
 - f. if the project has in any other way not been implemented in accordance with these conditions of offer.
27. Tours to any State Care sites shall have the appropriate permissions in place from HED before the tours are advertised.
28. Tours to any privately owned sites shall have the appropriate permissions in place before the tours are advertised.

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29. HED staff shall be offered the opportunity to speak at and attend the Heritage Conference.

I should be glad to know whether you are prepared to accept the Department's offer of funding on these conditions.

Upon completion of works, the following documentation should be submitted: -

1. Evidence that the project objectives and targets as detailed at Annex A have been met.

Please note that only original documents are acceptable for audit purposes.

You should complete the enclosed forms and return them as soon as possible, indicating the name and address of the person to whom payment should be made (see attached).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Manus Deery', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Manus Deery

Assistant Director

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

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ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

For Project: Historic Environment Fund (HEF) Revival Stream 2025/26: Mid Ulster –
Celebrating the Heritage of Sperrin AONB

I accept / do not accept your offer on the conditions stated above.

In accepting this offer I agree to acknowledge DfC: Historic Environment Fund contribution as part of any media announcements, events or publications; to include displaying publicity material if requested.

In accepting this offer, I agree to an appropriate level of access and agree to participate in European Heritage Open days (EHOD) at least once within the next five years.

OTHER FUNDERS DECLARATION

- ☐ I have included full details of other offers of funding received for this scheme.
- ☐ I have not received any other offers for funding for this scheme.

VAT DECLARATION

- ☐ I cannot recover VAT on this scheme.
- ☒ I can recover VAT on this scheme and the amount recoverable is £

(Please delete as appropriate)

***If signing on behalf of a company, please state position (e.g. Manager/Director)**

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

*POSITION: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

[Please return this form to DfC: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION HEF
ADMINISTRATION Team at the address stated on the accompanying Letter of Offer](#)

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BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

For Project: Historic Environment Fund (HEF) Revival Stream 2025/26: Mid

Ulster – Celebrating the Heritage of Sperrin AONB Payee

Name/Address: -

(for remittance advice purposes – not bank name/address)

Payment will be made via Banking Automated Crediting System (BACS).

Please supply details of your bank account: -

If Departmental funding has not previously been paid into your bank account please provide confirmation from your bank that the above details are correct.

Bank Official's Signature

Date

Bank Stamp

Please return this form to DfC: HED –HED FINANCE TEAM at the address stated on the accompanying Letter of Offer

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ANNEX A SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Project Description	Historic Environment Fund (HEF) Revival Stream 2025/26: Mid Ulster – Celebrating the Heritage of Sperrin AONB	
Project Objectives	The following objectives have been identified for the project	
	Objectives	
	1	Delivery of Heritage Conference
	2	Integration of 4 heritage site tours into the Sperrins Festival
	3	Delivery of workshop promoting traditional craft skills
Project Targets	Targets	
	1	Completion of the above by end March 2026
Start Date	16 October 2025	
End Date	31 March 2026	