

Title of Report:	RDP Co-operation project – Lower Bann Infrastructure Projects
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 th June 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting & enhancing our environment and our assets.
Outcome	Generating economic and social returns without compromising the sustainability of our natural assets.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Estimated £150,000 Council contribution (10%) £15,000.
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Capital - £15,000 (10%)
Code	RDP
Staffing Costs	Revenue - £22,500 (15%) recoverable cost from RDP.

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No – n/a	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No – n/a	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No – n/a	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No – n/a	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No – n/a	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No – n/a	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Elected Members a proposal to implement visitor and recreational facilities on the Lower Bann as part of the Cooperation Projects administered by Rural Development Programme and Council. Approval is sought to advance this project to Stage 1 of Council's Capital Works process.

2.0 Introduction

The opportunity to deliver this project recognises the potential value of outdoor recreation on the waterway and identifies a number of sites along the course of the river that would benefit from minor capital works to improve access to and from the water for recreational and holiday users.

3.0 Background

Staff from the Tourism and Recreation Service have been working with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) team to identify a number of minor projects within Council ownership and management that can be delivered.

The Lower Bann Infrastructure Projects fit within the priority themes of the RDP Co-operation Project and the key objectives within the Council's Destination Management Plan. Key to this is the development of what is known as a 'Blueway Concept' for the river, based on the 'Greenway' approach, this can be used to market and raise the profile of the river for activities on and off the water.

4.0 Proposed Project Detail – Lower Bann Infrastructure Projects (total maximum estimated capital costs £150,000)

These projects were identified after the completion of the Lower Bann Recreation and Tourism Study, part funded by Causeway Coast & Glens Council, to improve the river as a resource for local communities and visitors. A scoping study funded through RDP has also been completed to identify appropriate sites along the Lower Bann which help to unlock the potential for recreational pursuits and bring benefit to the visitor economy.

The sites identified are:

- Camus (west bank of River Bann-A54) Plans include installation of canoe steps to improve access and egress to the waterway which are currently somewhat restricted at the pontoon facility for canoe and small paddle boat users.
- Agivey Bridge (Bann Road B66). This scheme involves improvements to the small car park and installation of canoe steps on the up-stream of the bridge.
- Drumaheglis Holiday and Leisure Park. This scheme potentially involves extending the pontoon facilities at the Marina to attract and facilitate private sector operators to use the Lower Bann for water-based holiday and leisure activities.

The overall cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £150,000.

The RDP Programme will provide 75% of the project costs with the remaining 25% (£37,500) of project costs requested by way of a contribution from Council through Capital contribution and routine business support.

5.0 Next Steps

With the strategic connection to the Council's Destination Management Plan and the availability of potential funding, Elected Members are asked to consider the advancement of this project under the Capital Works process. The Tourism and Recreation team would like to engage with the infrastructure team to assist with the development and Stage 1 of the Capital Works process. Outline design, costings and planning implications will be addressed prior to

advancement of this project. The cost and administration of an economic appraisal will be covered by the Rural Development Programme.

6.0 Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to provide approval for Council Officers to advance these projects to Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process.