

<p><b>Title of Report:</b></p> <p>Castledearg- Green Infrastructure Masterplan</p>	<p><b>Officer Presenting:</b></p> <p>Head of Environment</p> <p><b>Author:</b></p> <p>Programme Manager</p>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To present the Castledearg Masterplan to Members and seek endorsement for the recommendations as outlined. See Appendix 1.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the PEACE IV -Castledearg Shared Space project which aims to improve community relations through the following community-led initiatives: (i) planned programme of activity; (ii) preparation of a Green Infrastructure Masterplan; (iii) acquisition of lands to increase shared-use green-space in Castledearg; and (iv) to undertake capital drainage works to existing sports pitches in order to facilitate programmed activity.
- 2.2 Following a procurement process, Council appointed MWA Partnership Ltd (Landscape Architects) to prepare a Green Infrastructure Masterplan for Castledearg, through consultation with key statutory and community stakeholders.
- 2.3 Over 20 local stakeholder groups were invited to attend a stakeholder engagement event with groups encouraged to book a half hour timeslot over two days during the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, in the Derg Valley Leisure Centre- to advise of their needs and aspirations for green-space development going forward. Approximately 15 stakeholders organisations engaged in the process.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Green Infrastructure study area focussed on lands in the ownership of Council, St. Eugene's GAC, Dergview FC and Derg Valley Care Ltd (with their permission).
- 3.2 The emerging Plan and consultation report (see appendix 2) represents stakeholder aspirations for the study area lands. A number of stakeholders also expressed their aspirations for other privately owned lands which did not form part of the study

area. Officers have however taken the decision to include these private lands in the Plan at this time, with the caveat that the lands could only ever be developed through negotiation/agreement with the landowner.

- 3.3 Implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan for Castlederg is not time bound as it is envisaged that the Plan will be developed in stages, subject to funding availability.
- 3.4 In the short -term the following two elements of the plan are being progressed by Officers: (i) environmental improvement works to Castle Park through Rural Development Programme- Village Renewal funding; and (ii) Council's Greenways Development Officer is assessing the feasibility of developing a riverside path, along the River Derg, from Castlederg to Spamount. To date, landowner details have been retrieved from Land and Property Services and mapped accordingly. The next step will be to approach these landowners over the coming months in order to determine their views on progressing this proposal.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications**

- 4.1 The development of the Green Infrastructure Masterplan for Castlederg has been fully funded through PEACE IV funding.
- 4.2 Whilst there are no other Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs or other implications associated with this item at this time it is envisaged that issues will arise as the Plan is progressed. These will of course be brought to Members for consideration in due course.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Members: (i) endorse the Green Infrastructure Masterplan for Castlederg; (ii) Officers progress implementing the Plan through a phased approach: and (iii) Officers progress the environmental enhancement scheme at Castle Park and the feasibility assessment of the Derg riverside path, as the first phases of the Plans implementation.

#### **Background Papers**

##### **Appendix 1. Green Infrastructure Masterplan for Castlederg**

##### **Appendix 2. Green Infrastructure Masterplan- Stakeholder consultation report**