



Subject:	River Farset – Public Art Project – Cave Hill
Date:	13 October 2015
Reporting Officer:	Director of Parks and Leisure, Rose Crozier
Contact Officer:	Community Parks Outreach Manager, Paula Irvine

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The Council has received a request from Cultúrlann McAdam ó Fiaich to install a site specific art sculpture in Cave Hill Country Park. The project is a partnership between Cultúrlann and the Spectrum Centre.</p> <p>The art piece will form part of the Farset Project, a programme that aims to bring communities living beside the river together to celebrate the story of the Farset in the foundation of the City of Belfast.</p> <p>The project is funded by the Creative Belfast Fund, a joint initiative between Belfast City Council and Arts Council NI to promote arts in the City of Belfast.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grants approval for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultúrlann McAdam ó Fiaich to install a site specific sculpture in Cave Hill Country park subject to the necessary approvals including planning approval, and for;• Belfast Hills Partnership to install a new pathway and wildflower meadow from the Horse shoe Bend entrance down in to the main Cave Hill Country Park (working in partnership with Cultúrlann to seek and secure external funding)

3.0	<p>Main report</p>
	<p>The site that has been identified for the art sculpture is a grassy meadow which forms part of an entrance to Cave Hill Country park. Access to the site is at the Horse Shoe Bend. The site is highly visible as it sits quite high up on Squires Hill. It is visible from many parts of Belfast and is on one of the access roads to Belfast International Airport.</p> <p>Early conversations with the Belfast Hills Partnership have provided an opportunity for effective partnership working. The Hills Partnership would like to complement the art sculpture by installing a new pathway from the Horse Shoe bend entrance down to the art piece, across the grassy meadow and on down in to Cave Hill to connect with existing pathways on the Hill. This report therefore also seeks approval for the Belfast Hills Partnership to secure external funds for the installation of a new pathway form the Horse Shoe Bend entrance in to Cave Hill.</p> <p>Although there has been an effective partnership forged between BHP and Cultúrlann both projects would continue to be delivered in isolation if the other was unsuccessful at any stage in its delivery.</p> <p>See Appendix 1– Map of the area showing new pathway and area for Farset sculpture.</p> <p>The source of the Farset river is close to the chosen location and the river albeit culverted runs alongside the site.</p> <p>There will be a 2 stage process:</p> <p>Stage 1 - will be to invite expressions of interest from artists / artist teams who want to work on the project. At this stage they will need to demonstrate their ability to carry out this type of work. The panel will shortlist up to 5 artists / artist teams to move forward to stage 2.</p> <p>Stage 2 – Artists / artist teams will be asked to work up the proposals into detailed designs to include scale drawings, Marquette’s / computer renderings as well as details of the processes to be used in development and making.</p> <p>The artwork may need full planning approval.</p> <p>The appointed artist must engage creatively with the community groups specified by the</p>

project manager and community parks outreach manager and devise a programme of workshops, presentations and demonstrations which:

- generate dialogue which identify key values and aspirations which may be reflected in the final artwork;
- effect the transfer of creative skills and processes to local young people

It is important that the artwork responds to the site both in terms of theme and form. Consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders will be important in developing this aspect.

A mock up of the sculpture is not available at this time as the artist has still to be commissioned, however the specification has asked for a robust risk assessment and the design must take in to account public safety, threats of vandalism and damage through climate and extreme weather. The design and materials used should require minimal maintenance.

The Council will take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the piece once installed and handed over. A cost maintenance plan over at least 5 years will be included in the artist's submission; however any maintenance or rectification of fault in work in the first twelve months will be the responsibility of the artist and at their cost.

Investigations into new access links in the Belfast Hills has identified the possibility of improving access from the Horse Shoe bend to Carr's Glen in Cave Hill Country Park. The route is waymarked as part of the long distance route between Ligoniel dams and the zoo but it is across open fields and is currently not managed as part of the path infrastructure and at times can be difficult to navigate through.

Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP) plans to submit an application to the Alpha programme for up to £50,000 with the Landscape Partnership scheme (LPS) contributing any additional required match funding.

In addition to improving the access, it is proposed that the grassland is improved by reseeding the area with locally sourced wildflower and fine grass mix. Where appropriate a variety of woodland bulbs will be planted where there are hedgerows and woodland corridors running alongside rivers and streams. The BHP has already had early discussions with the Council's biodiversity officer who will, where required, provide

knowledge and guidance in respect of the planting scheme.

The Council will take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the new pathway and wildflower meadows once installed and handed over. The pathway will be maintained and inspected as part of the existing path inspection and maintenance regime already carried out by the Council.

All the necessary legal and license agreements with the various parties will be drafted by legal services.

Financial & Resource Implications

There is no financial implication for Belfast City Council to fund the art work or the site works. The total budget allocated to the sculpture is up to £98,000 to include all design, manufacture and installation. Belfast City Council is required to maintain the artwork and paths etc and this will be absorbed within the existing department's budget.

Human Resources

There are no human resource issues expected with this project

Asset and Other Implications

The project in its entirety will see significant improvements to an area within Cave Hill that is currently undervalued and under used. The sculpture will be visible across Belfast and should prove a popular visitors' attraction. The introduction of a new pathway and wildflower meadows will encourage greater use and improve visitors' experiences.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The project is a partnership between Cultúrlann and the Spectrum Centre. Local communities and agencies will be engaged throughout the process and consulted on the proposals

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
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	Appendix 1 - Map of the area defining new pathway in red.
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