

Extract of Minute of 22nd April

To consider further the minute under the heading "Lagan Canal Trust - Request for Support" of the meeting of 22nd April.

"Lagan Canal Trust - Request for Support

The Committee was reminded that the Council had been a member of the Lagan Canal Trust since 2006. The Director of Development outlined the aims and objectives of the Trust. He reminded the Committee that the Council, together with a range of other councils, had made a financial contribution towards the work of the Trust based on the proportion of the canal which lay within the various boundaries. With the change of the Council's boundary on 1st April, the percentage of the Lagan Canal within Belfast had risen from 18% to 22%. He added that a request had been received from the Trust seeking a contribution from the Council of £37,963.20, £42,281.80 and £42,563.84 for the next three financial years.

During discussion, Members expressed concern that the figure requested from the Trust had risen significantly. It was pointed out that, in 2014/2015, the former Council had contributed a sum of £17,341 to the Trust, which had been based on the fact that 18% of the canal lay within the then Council boundary. However, that amount had more than doubled within in the space of a year, despite the fact that the length of the canal within the Council's boundary had increased only by 4%.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable representatives of the Lagan Canal Trust to attend a future meeting to discuss in detail its request for financial assistance."