



Subject:	Lagan Valley Regional Park – response from LCCC
Date:	19 th January 2024
Reporting Officers:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officers:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on a response received from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council regarding a request to provide match funding for Lagan Valley Regional Park.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the response received from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in relation to providing match funding for Lagan Valley Regional Park and to note that officers will continue to engage with LCCC on this matter.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the People and Communities Committee held on 8 August 2023, it was agreed that Council would write to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to express its concern at the withdrawal of core funding for Lagan Valley Regional Park for the 2023/24 financial year.
3.2	At the November 2023 meeting of People and Communities Committee, Members were advised that a response from DfI had been received, which advised that whilst the Department understood that the withdrawal of the discretionary funding of £42,000 for Lagan Valley Regional Park had left the park in a precarious situation, the decision to cut all discretionary spending and therefore the funding to LVRP had been taken at Departmental level due to overall budget cuts that had affected all Departments, and that the Department would not be able to enter into a new Operational Service Agreement with LVRP. Members agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that additional funding of £21,000 be awarded to LVRP from reserves and to write to LCCC asking it to contribute the same amount to address the shortfall in funding from DfI.
3.3	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 24 November 2023 subsequently agreed to allocate £21,000 to the Lagan Valley Regional Park on condition that it be matched by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and agreed that a review be undertaken of future funding requirements.
3.4	Following issue of a letter to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council requesting formal consideration of this request (attached at Appendix 1), a response was received which advised that LCCC are also having to consider several budget cuts from Central Government and their impact at a local level – a copy of this response is attached at Appendix 2. LCCC have highlighted that this and other similar requests have been discussed at Council and Member workshops and will be considered in the round to ensure Members are fully informed before taking any decisions with a financial impact.

3.5	<p>Officers have met with LCCC to discuss future funding requirements and will continue to engage with LCCC going forward. Members will be kept updated on any decision by LCCC in relation to the request for match funding.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>As agreed at SP&R Committee in November 2023, £21,000 will be provided to Lagan Valley Regional Park if LCCC confirm that they will match this funding.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter to LCCC re Lagan Valley Regional Park</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Response from LCCC re Lagan Valley Regional Park</p>