



Subject:	Lagan Valley Regional Park Scheme
Date:	12 th May 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Space & Active Living Manager

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
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the funding position of Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) and to obtain approval for additional funding of £41,055 in 2015/16 due to Local Government Reform (LGR). The Parks & Leisure Committee at its meeting on 11 December 2014 was informed that this level of funding had not been provided for in the estimates. Officers have subsequently identified savings within the revenue budget for the additional funding and this has been provided for in the estimates.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report and approves funding of £41,055 to LVRP for 2015/16 subject to the relevant funding agreement being updated.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council has benefitted significantly from its partnership with LVRP and funding it in 2015/16 will support and enhance work undertaken by the Council in countryside recreation, biodiversity, promotion and community engagement.

	<p>Local Government Reform has resulted in funding for the Regional Park moving from a split from three Councils to a split between two Councils namely Belfast City Council and the new Lisburn and Castlereagh Council. LVRP which also receives funding from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has been informed that this funding stream will continue until the end of June 2015 and funding thereafter remains uncertain.</p> <p>If the Committee agrees to this request, it will be necessary to review the Funding Agreement between LVRP and the Council. The longer term viability of the partnership will need to be considered given the uncertainty of central government funding to LVRP and BCC should therefore assess the merits of continuing in this partnership. An assessment of longer term funding arrangements will be carried out and a report brought to Committee at a later date.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>£41,055 has been provided for in the estimates for 2015/16</p>
3.3	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known equality and good relation implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None