

## COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026

### ITEM 6 – CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Scrutiny comments on the Moira Furnace Visitor Experience Improvement Programme (Phase 2)

Date considered by Cabinet: 19 May 2026

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the Scrutiny meeting	Cabinet response
<b>C1</b>	<b>Improvements to date:</b> Members welcomed the improvements made to the site and praised the quality of the refurbishment works. The Furnace was described as one of the district's key heritage and tourism assets, and members highlighted the importance of continuing to promote the positive work undertaken by the Council.	-	Noted.
<b>C2</b>	<b>Potential parking charges:</b> Members raised concerns regarding potential parking charges, stressing the need to avoid excessive charges that could deter visitors or local residents. Suggestions included consideration of local resident concessions and ensuring a balance between income generation and accessibility.	-	Noted.
<b>C3</b>	<b>Historic building:</b> Questions were raised about the Council's responsibilities as custodian of a historic building.	Officers confirmed that all necessary consents had been obtained and that Historic England requirements had been met.	Noted.

<b>C4</b>	<b>Delivery timetable:</b> Members discussed the tight delivery timetable in the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).	Officers acknowledged the challenging timescales but advised that delaying approval would significantly increase the risk of the project not proceeding. Arrangements were being made to support continuity, including risk management and handover planning.	Noted.
<b>C5</b>	<b>Community impact:</b> Members commented on the positive impact the site had on the area including reducing anti-social behaviour, volunteer engagement, opportunities for younger people and work experience placements. Planned future activities as well as possible ideas for the future were also acknowledged.	-	Noted.
<b>C6</b>	<b>Project support:</b> The committee was in full support of the project and the allocation of funds required to complete the phase 2 improvements.	-	Noted.
<b>R1</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>  That Cabinet allocate the £2.455,000 over the two year period 2026-2028 to the Council's Capital Programme from the Business Rates Reserve for Improvements at Moira Furnace.		Supported and formally agreed that:  'The allocation of £2.455m to the Council's Capital Programme be recommended to Council.'