

Title of Report:	The Crescent Portstewart – Summer Season Operations 2020
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17th December 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy and engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal			
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO		
Capital/Revenue	Revenue		
Code			
Staffing Costs			

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of Officers' intention to enhance the Summer Season provision at the Crescent in Portstewart for 2020, including provision of fairground / amusement equipment on site to complement the existing recreational and play opportunities for residents and tourists to the town of Portstewart.

2.0 Background

In September 2016 Council took the decision to bring to an end the Lease arrangement at the Crescent in Portstewart and revert to a Council owned and managed facility which would see the retention of the play equipment area, water fountains and a re-developed paddling pool along with the entertainment space.

As a consequence of yearly flooding on the site and the unpredictable consequences of damage to the fabric of the Cafe building, a decision was taken by officers not to continue with a cafe style service at the venue. Provisions for refreshments are now made via vending machines which are brought on-site at the commencement of the season and removed immediately after it comes to an end.

Reconfiguration of the building has also enhanced on-site public toilet space to now include Male & Female Toilets, Baby Changing facility and Disabled Toilet.

3.0 Current Position

In the 2019 Summer Season Council gave approval for a private operator to install and operate a Panoramic Wheel on the site for a period of 28 days. Whilst the operation of the Wheel caused some issues and it remained on the site for longer than the original application, the positive impact of the Wheel, coupled with a revenue benefit of circa £14,500 (licence agreement) has led Officers to conclude that there would be merit in considering how to build upon that impact for the 2020 Summer Season.

It is Officers intention to tender for the provision of "Fairground/Amusement" equipment on the site for a period of time from 1st July to 31st August, subject to all legislative and planning approvals. (Planning approval was granted in 2019 for an application to operate a Panoramic Wheel for a specified period of time in July & August of 2019).

The extent of the equipment provision is yet to be determined and will be dictated by what can operate on the site without impacting or causing disruption to all other activities that take place there throughout the summer season.

Officers have received expressions of interest from a number of private operators for the delivery of a cafe style service in the Crescent building. The Heads of Service for Sport & Wellbeing and Infrastructure are currently considering what opportunity, if any, exists to benefit Council in establishing a new licence agreement for this service on the site. Any decision must be taken in the context of the unpredictability of the sea breaches that take place each year and the insurability of the building.

The facility management of the site as a whole remains with Council and irrespective of any decision taken on the future use of the building, Council Officers will operationally manage the remainder of the play / paddle pool / water fountain / entertainment areas.

4.0 Summary

Members are asked to note the above information. Any further action requiring Member input / approval will be brought to the relevant committee for consideration.