

Title of Report:	North West Pipe Band Championship 2020
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18th March 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Promote our tourist offer locally and internationally
Outcome	Improve prosperity To provide a balanced portfolio for major events across the Borough and facilitate partnership with other event promoters.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£ 22,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	£10,000
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	n/a	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	n/a	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	n/a	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	n/a	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	n/a	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	n/a	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members a proposal from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland (RSPBANI) to hold the North West Pipe Band Championships on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August 2020 in Portrush.

2.0 Background

For many years Portrush has hosted the North West Pipe Band Championships. Usually located at the Recreation Grounds, this event has attracted participants and visitors to the town during the month of August often bringing up to 900 participants and over 3000 spectators. It has maintained its popularity over the years and is an established summer season event for Portrush complementing the range of events that takes place throughout the year.

In 2018 Council commissioned an Economic Impact study and the findings from this research highlighted the beneficial impact the event has on the local economy. The event generated a direct economic impact from visitors of £320,000 as a result of the spending by non-local event attendees. Of this £286,000 was in the Portrush area.

In 2016 and 2017 the event experienced some disruption as its traditional venue, the Recreation Grounds, was unavailable as a result ongoing work as part of Portrush Environmental Improvement Scheme. The Council agreed to compensate the event organisers, in addition to grant aid awarded through the Tourism Event Funding programme, and an additional good will payment of £10,000 was awarded to RSPBA.

3.0 Council Funding (TEFP 2020/21)

The 2020/21 Tourism Event Funding Programme opened for Stage 1 applications on 4 December 2019. The RSPBANI submitted a Stage 1 application and after assessment Council Officials advised that they should progress to a Stage 2 of the Growth Fund application. A Stage 2 application was not submitted.

4.0 Proposal from Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland

In the first week of March 2020, RSPBANI approached the Director of Leisure and Development and confirmed that an opportunity had arisen to bring the event to Portrush following a change in their previously agreed programme.

Having missed the opportunity to avail of a grant, the RSPBANI has requested that Council allocate £12,000 in addition to the £10,000 goodwill payment.

Standard grant funding invoice verification processes would apply.

The RSPBANI would like to host the event on the 31 July and 1 August 2020 in Portrush.

5.0 Summer Events Schedule for Portrush 2020

In 2019 Portrush hosted a number of high profile events. In addition to long established events such as the North West 200, the North West Pipe Band Championships NI and Airwaves, the town also benefited from the 148th Open and the Live at the Beach Lush event at East Strand.

In 2020 a decision was taken not to run Airwaves Portrush, an event which for many was the highlight of the end of summer season activities in the resort. An application from Cloughorr Ltd to run Live at the Beach Portrush in 2020 is currently being considered by Council but has yet to be agreed.

If the North West Pipe Band Championships NI does not proceed in 2020, the result would be that Portrush would have a significant reduction in the Summer Event programme. In addition to a reduced visitor experience over the summer months, the town will have a reduction in the economic benefit derived from hosting the event, which in the past has equated to £320,000.

6.0 Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to give consideration to the request from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI for £12,000 funding in addition to the £10,000 allocated within the Tourism Recreation Events budget 2020/21. The funding would allow the event to take place on 31 July and 1 August 2020.