



Title of Report:	RNLI Beach Lifeguard Service
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 March 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Resilient, Healthy and Engaging Communities
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£145,000 per annum
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	Officer time as liaison

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 seek approval from Members to proceed with the renewal of the contract with RNLI to provide beach lifeguarding services for a five-year period.

2.0 Background

The RNLI initially delivered beach lifeguard services on behalf of Council in 2010. This was for Coleraine Borough Council and Limavady Borough Council. In December 2015 Council approved a new agreement between Causeway Coast & Glens Council and RNLI for the following beaches:

- Benone Strand
- Downhill Strand
- Castlerock
- Portrush West
- Portrush East
- Whiterocks
- Ballycastle

A renewal of the agreement is now required between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and RNLI.

3.0 Service Provision

As part of the agreement RNLI is responsible for the following elements;

1. Recruitment, selection and training of lifeguards.
2. Provision of Beach Lifeguard Units and associated shore works.
3. Provision of all surf rescue equipment including vehicles and watercraft.
4. Undertaking of beach risk assessments for lifeguard service provision.

In addition, the service also provides;

- Advice and support to Council with respect to beach and coastal events, beach safety signage and public rescue equipment.
- Beach safety annual reviews for each site.
- Delivery of an education programme where possible.

The service is operational during;

- Easter (selected beaches only).
- Weekends and Bank Holidays in May and June (All beaches).
- Daily from late June – early September (All beaches).

At the request of Council Officers RNLI is assessing the logistics of beach lifeguard provision at Ballycastle at Easter. This will be dependent on the availability of qualified beach lifeguards at this stage of the year. There will be a cost to make this provision.

In the past two years beaches have seen increasing numbers of visitors and a wider range of activities both on and off the water, especially during the summer months. The service provided by RNLI is invaluable in support of Council's ongoing approach to beach management to ensure the public are able to enjoy a safe environment and have a quality

experience. As the RNLI is the only known provider of this type of service, Elected Members are asked to give consideration to award on the basis of a Direct Award Contract.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of a contract with RNLI to provide beach lifeguarding services for a further five-year period from April 2022 through to March 2027. This is subject to an agreed contract for services and is based on a predicted increase per annum for the period of the contract capped at 2%. (Officers will revert to Council if there is a requirement to increase on 2%).