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| <b>Foyle District Motor Club Beach Race</b>                       | <b>11th April 2017</b> |
| <b>To: The Leisure and Development Committee<br/>For Decision</b> |                        |

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| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b> |   |
| <b>Strategic Theme</b>                       | Contributing to Prosperity                          |
| <b>Outcome</b>                               | Secure the area as NI's premier tourist destination |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                          | Head of Tourism and Recreation                      |
| <b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>                 | N/A   |

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for the proposal by Foyle District Motor Club to hold a beach race at East Strand, Portrush.**

The Council 'Land Use Policy' is currently being worked on and this will allow for Council facilities to be used by 'third party' events. This policy is likely to distinguish between major and minor events, with applications for major events being brought to Council for consideration. In lieu of the policy being in place this report presents a proposal for a new event that officers believe should be considered by Council for approval due to its potential scale, impact on the surrounding residents and users of the location.

This event has been planned for the last weekend in October 2017.

### **Background**

This type of event for motorcycles and quads has never taken place before in Northern Ireland but has proved very popular in many seaside resorts in England such as Blackpool, Skegness, Weymouth and Weston-Super-Mare, as well as at Peel and Ramsey in the Isle of Man. The event will be held over two days and could attract over 100 competitors, which along with support crews and spectators has the ability to encourage overnight stays and generate business for shops, hotels, bars and restaurants in the off- season. East Strand together with the front of the car park can provide a natural amphitheatre venue for this proposal.

The Council's Event Team have a direct management role in delivering Council Signature Events, a partnership role in working with other key event providers and a facilitation role for non-Council events.

The event planned for October is defined as a 'pilot' and if successful it may be possible to build on and improve for future years.

### **Proposal**

Foyle District Motor Cycle Club Ltd would like to run an endurance Motorcross racing Event. The format includes riders on solo motorcycles and quad bikes competing on a marked beach course with manmade jumps and artificial 'sandy hills' constructed on the course. The club was formed in 1968 and for many years has been organising motorcycle racing events.

### Event Design

- Number of Entries restricted to 110 competitors.
- Proposed Dates Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.
- 9.00am – 4.00pm Saturday.

- 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday.

The Foyle District Motor Cycle Club Ltd will be responsible for the event in its entirety. Full consideration will be given to ensure that all other beach users are accommodated and that access to Curran Strand and Whiterocks is not prohibited.

**Council Requirements**

If approval is provided, it will be subject to a number of conditions including:

- Completion and agreement of Council Event Management Plan (including Health & Safety and Emergency Plans).
- Consultation with residents, church groups and beach users, to ensure that no other party is restricted from established regular usage of the site, e.g. Parkrun, Watersports Users, St Patricks Church, denial access for residents of Strand Road and visitors to East Strand carpark.
- All Insurance documentation in place.
- Waste Management and environmental re-instatement.

**Envisaged Benefits**

- Potential for a significant number of day visitors to Portrush for the two days of the event.
- Potential for a significant number of bed nights from competitors and some spectators (110 competitors plus support crew).
- Potential for significant expenditure in the locality.
- Assists in addressing the seasonality factors, experienced in the local economy.

**Potential Concerns & Mitigation Measures**

| Potential Concerns  | Mitigation Measures   |
|---|---|
| Restriction of other users who regularly use the beach over this weekend. | Of 620 carpark spaces, 400 will remain free for public use including area behind St Patricks Church.  |
| Noise disturbance of church users and local residents.                    | Full consultation with residents in locality. No racing prior to 10am and no racing during the church service times.                                  |
| Disturbance of beach material by sand movement.                           | All sand movement will be monitored by the Council's Coast & Countryside team and no sand disturbance will be allowed below the mean high water mark. |
| Potential for beach pollution.  | Anti-spill mating and zoned fuelling areas will be designated.  |
| Reinstatement of beach profile.   | Beach to be returned to the pre-event profile allowing the council beach rake to operate for a final sweep.   |

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approve the proposal by Foyle District Motor Cycle Club Ltd, permitting the Beach Race Event to take place on the last weekend of October 2017, subject to the requirement and conditions outlined in this report.