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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of Report:</b>                | <b>153<sup>rd</sup> Open Championship</b> |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>  | Leisure and Development Committee         |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                | 17 June 2025                              |
| <b>For Decision or For Information</b> | For Information                           |
| <b>To be discussed In Committee</b>    | NO                                        |

| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b> |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Theme                              | Promote our tourist offer locally and internationally |
| Outcome                                      | Improve prosperity                                    |
| Lead Officer                                 | Head of Tourism and Recreation                        |

| <b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b> |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Date to be Completed                      | September 2025 |

| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Cost of Proposal                   |            |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | <b>YES</b> |
| Capital/Revenue                    |            |
| Code                               |            |
| Staffing Costs                     |            |

| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Input of Legal Services Required | <b>NO</b> |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           | <b>NO</b> |

| <b>Screening Requirements</b>            | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. |     |                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Section 75 Screening                     | Screening Completed:                                                                   | Yes | Date: 16 June 2025 |
|                                          | EQIA Required and Completed:                                                           | No  | Date:              |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)             | Screening Completed                                                                    | Yes | Date: 16 June 2025 |
|                                          | RNA Required and Completed:                                                            | No  | Date:              |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) | Screening Completed:                                                                   | Yes | Date: 16 June 2025 |
|                                          | DPIA Required and Completed:                                                           | No  | Date:              |

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on Council's role in the continuing planning in advance of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Open Championship in Portrush in July 2025.**

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting in April 2025, Council's Leisure and Development Committee received an update report which outlined Council's involvement in the planning and delivery of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Open Championship.
- 2.2 Following the April 2025 report, Council Officers have committed to bring further updates to Committee on a monthly basis.

## **3.0 Headline Updates on Council Led Activity**

### **3.1 Traffic and Transport**

- Enhanced public transport (bus and rail services timetabling) across Portrush, the CC&G area and beyond have been finalised and published.
- Online sales for Rail, bus and Park n Ride services are steadily growing.
- Reminder that Translink have committed to a final Train departure time from Portrush of 23.05 during the Championship week, as well as supplementing the local 140 Bus service with two additional services from Portrush Station at 22.30 and 00.00.
- Council, working with The R&A, has started to roll out its approach to providing passes to residents and businesses for displaced parking and access through road restriction zones. Through an application process, local displaced residents will be offered a parking place on either Metropole Park or Parker Avenue Football pitches. Displaced Business Parking will be allocated at Lansdowne Green.
- Significant planning and partnership working is being undertaken to prepare for the Saturday night of Championship week, during which we expect to see a significant increase in traffic, visitors and pedestrians in Portrush.
- The build of the Television Media Compound in East Car Park has commenced, and the partial closure is in place. The remainder of East Car Park will close to public use on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Council is undertaking preparatory works in Portrush to enable the safe erection of Traffic, Transport and Park n Ride infrastructure.

### **3.2 Business and Community Engagement**

- The second Business and Community Engagement Day in Portrush Town Hall was held on 28th May, at which The Open Legacy Fund was launched and promoted. Across the two engagement events there were more than 250 attendees.
- A rolling program of drop-in sessions in Portrush Town Hall continues, with colleagues from R&A and Council engaging directly with residents and businesses across 3 or 4 sessions a week.
- Council continues to promote widely amongst local businesses and community organisations including the benefits of the 2025 TNI Business Toolkit.
- Council continues to work closely with local community groups and Town Forums when making preparations for Championship week.

### 3.3 Tourism and Promotion

- Promotion and Branding Plans are complete and have been agreed by partners. We are now proceeding with the branded dressing of Portrush, working closely with our Estates Team and our partners at Tourism NI.
- Council's plans for wider branding and dressing opportunities have also started to rollout across the Borough. The focus is on main arterial routes, Borough threshold locations and key roundabouts.
- Council's mobile #THEOPEN letters are currently on tour across the Borough, arriving and leaving unannounced across various sites all across Causeway Coast and Glens.
- The majority of elements for the Event Programme for the Championship week are complete. The main program will run from Wednesday, culminating on the Sunday, with a focus on a Friday night showcase event.
- Council continues to explore further activities in other towns, such as promoting "Live at The Open" music and entertainment events.
- Council continues to create, capture and publish content for its Causeway Coast and Glens Live Channel, promoting the OurTownIsOpen Campaign.
- Council also continues to offer a platform for local businesses and accommodation providers to promote their offerings during Championship Week.

### 3.4 Service Continuity and Town Presentation

The most recent meeting of this group has taken place on Tuesday 17 June. Councils plans for Town presentation and service continuity during the Championship are well developed especially in terms of:

- Enhanced Bin Collections, street sweeping, litter picking & Special Waste Collections.
- Focus on presentation of Civic Amenity sites and Public Toilets.
- Environmental Health and Enforcement Issues including Street Trading and inspections of catering provisions.
- Entertainment Licenses/ Liqueur Licensing / Child Certification.
- Floral Displays and Grass Cutting.

## 4.0 Budget

- 4.1 All work stream areas are currently under budget, with no significant budgetary risks.

## 5.0 Other Key Areas of Work

- 5.1 Council also continues to play a key role in the following Open Championship planning groups:

- Safety and Security.
- Marketing and Communications.
- Technical and Regulatory.
- Recruitment, Skills and Volunteering.
- Sustainability and Legacy.

## 6.0 Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to note the content of this update report.