

RNLI Beach Lifeguard Service	14th February 2017
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	Resilient, healthy and engaged communities
Objective	Citizens will have access to recreational facilities and protected natural environments to help develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to present a request from RNLI to relocate two Lifeguard units at West Bay and East Strand, Portrush.

Background

The following recreational beaches have benefited from a beach lifeguard service provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

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

This agreement for services between RNLI and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council was renewed on 31st December 2015 for 5 years.

Service

As part of the agreement RNLI has been responsible for the following elements;

- Recruitment, selection and training of lifeguards.
- Provision of beach lifeguard units.
- Provision of all surf rescue equipment including vehicles and watercraft.
- Undertaking of beach risk assessments for lifeguard service provision.

In addition the service also provided;

- Advice and support to Council with respect to beach and coastal events, beach safety signage and public rescue equipment.

- Delivery of the 'Hit the Surf' education programme to a range of primary schools.
- **The service is operational during;**
- Easter, weekends and bank holidays in May and June, and weekends in September/early October (Portrush - West, East, Whiterocks & Benone).
- Daily from mid June – early September (All above named beaches).

As part of the infrastructure required to deliver this service the RNLI have specially constructed Beach Lifeguards Units (BLU), which provide observational, shelter and operational hubs for the service. These are located as close as possible to the designated swim zone on each beach. To provide the best observation point at West Bay and East Strand the RNLI team have requested that permission is given to locate the BLUs in the locations as depicted in Annex A.

Given the seasonal nature of this service provision, RNLI propose to remove the BLU and base infrastructure from East Strand at the end of each lifeguarding season. However, in order to minimise disruption at West Bay promenade, RNLI propose to leave the BLU on site throughout the year.

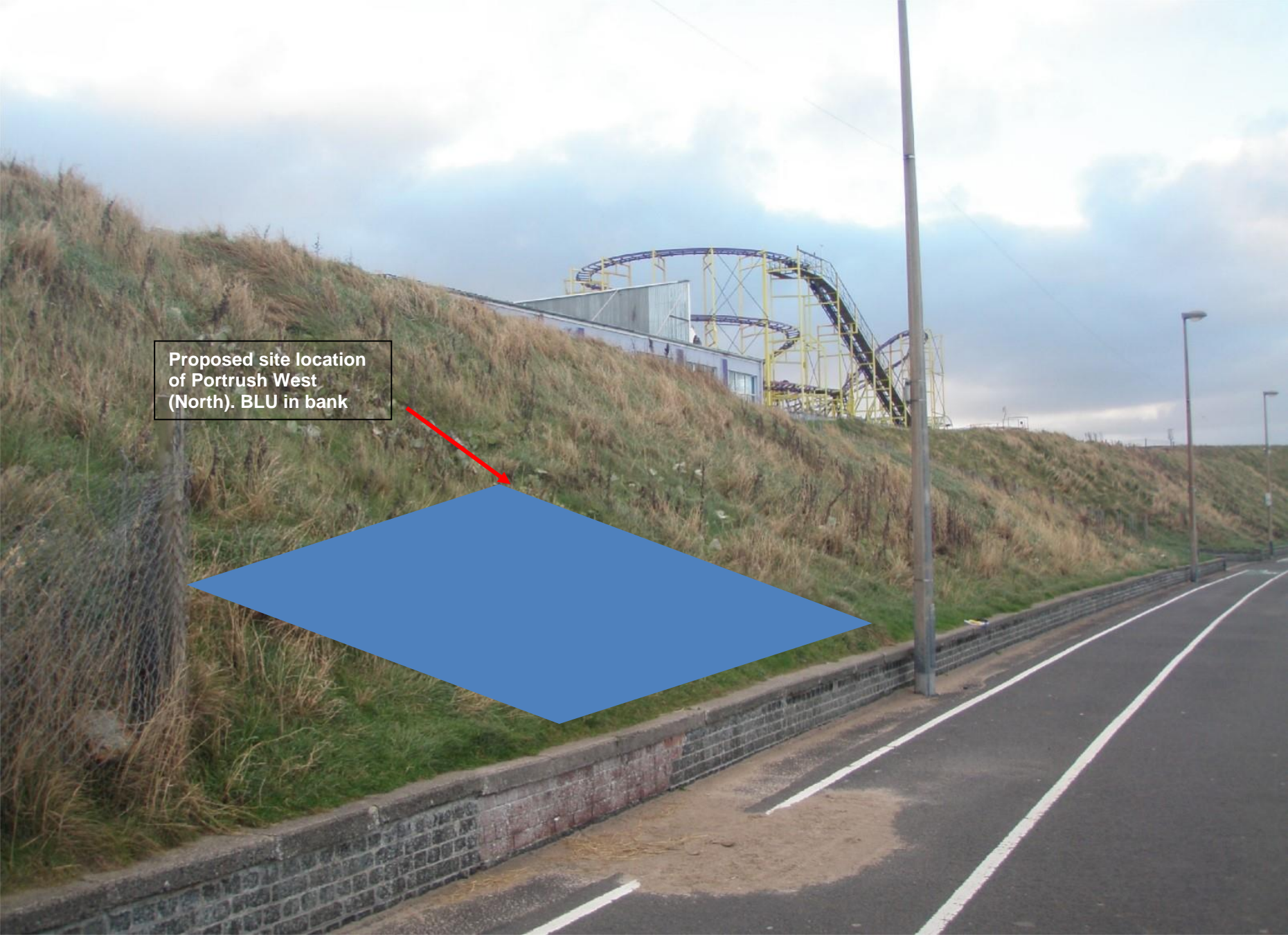
Statutory Requirements

All statutory requirements including planning permission have been met, and the RNLI are keen to install this infrastructure before the late spring.

Recommendation:

Council approval is sought to permit the siting of the two BLUs at the designated sites as detailed in Annex A, with a view to these being operational by late spring 2017.

ANNEX A



Proposed site location
of Portrush West
(North). BLU in bank



Example of temporary structure proposed for East Strand.

ANNEX A

