

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>2020 Events Programme – The implications of COVID19</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure and Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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 ask Members to consider delegating authority to the Director of Leisure and Development to cancel Council events, on receipt of advice from the Public Health Agency (PHA) or based upon other evolving evidence relevant to Coronavirus.**

## **2.0 General**

The Council's events programme is attached at **Annex A**. It commences with the Ballymoney Spring Fair on the 10th April. Planning and preparation for these events is continuing unabated.

Based upon the advice from the PHA, there is currently no requirement for the cancellation of events, however, Belfast City Council voted to cancel the city's St Patrick's Day Parade.

Furthermore the Irish Government announced all parades and festivals in the Republic of Ireland would not go ahead.

Both decisions were taken by on a precautionary basis. The current advice is to continue to plan as normal but be prepared to cancel if circumstances change.

At the time this report was written - 10 March 2020, testing has resulted in 16 patients in Northern Ireland demonstrating presumptive positive results for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Furthermore, Public Health England (PHE) is delaying the decision to close schools and introduce other strict measures to combat Coronavirus, based upon an assessment of new cases on an hourly basis to achieve a "balanced response".

## **3.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended that Members consider delegating authority to the Director of Leisure and Development (or other member of the Senior Leadership Team) to cancel Council events, on receipt of advice from the Public Health Agency (PHA) or based upon other evolving evidence relevant to Coronavirus.**

## Causeway Coast & Glens 2020 Events

Go to [www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com](http://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com) to find out more about our events schedule and other things to see and do across the beautiful Causeway Coastal Route

### Ballymoney Spring Fair

**Fri 10 & Sat 11 April**

Festival fun at the new site of the Ballymoney Showgrounds. Watch some dog obedience and agility displays, visit the petting farm or take a pony ride. Enjoy Live music, Artisan market stalls & The Vintage Car Cavalcade.

### Easter Seasonal Programme

**Sat 11—Mon 13 April**

Free Easter entertainment with slapstick comedy routines in Ballycastle, Limavady, Portrush and Portstewart. Featuring daring circus skills including fire juggling and a lot of laughs for everyone.

### Rhythm of the Bann

**Fri 8 & Sat 9 May**

Come along & enjoy a fusion of sounds ripple through Coleraine Town Centre culminating in a gala concert on the Saturday. Rhythm of the Bann showcases a variety of talented local and regional musicians and choirs.

### NW200 Outdoor Concert & Fireworks

**Fri 15th May**

Live band and spectacular Fireworks display in Portstewart on Friday night to compliment NW200 race week.

### Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival

**Fri 22—Sun 31 May**

A nautical themed festival of events in Ballycastle and on Rathlin Island. Enjoy celebrations of the culture, cuisine and coastal treasures in the area but watch out for the Viking invasion.

### Salmon and Whiskey Festival

**Sat 13 & Sun 14 June**

Sumptuous Salmon, live cookery demonstrations, Bushmills Distillery Whiskey tastings, tours of the Salmon Station, Artisan stalls, tours & talks, kids STEM food activities and themed specials in local eateries.

### Summer Street Theatre

**Wed 15 July—Wed 26 Aug**

Spectacular free Summer street theatre and slapstick comedy routines in Portrush and Portstewart, featuring circus skills including fire juggling and a lot of laughs for everyone. Wednesdays & Fridays.

### Ould Lammas Fair

**Sat 22—Tues 25 Aug**

Enjoy another year of trading, bargaining and entertainment! Experience the hustle and bustle of the horse trading village, thrill of one of the many fun fair rides or soak up the atmosphere and local banter as thousands roam the streets of Ballycastle.

### Halloween Happenings

**Wed 28—Sat 31 Oct**

Ghosts, witches and creatures of fright, come and enjoy your local Halloween Night.

### Atlantic Sessions

**Thurs 12—Sun 15 Nov**

A four day festival of original music ranging from traditional to contemporary and electric to acoustic. Venues include bars, restaurants, coffee shops and arts facilities in Portrush & Portstewart.

### Christmas Lights

**Thurs 19 Nov—Sat 5 Dec**

Christmas Lights Switch-On festivities will see Santa make a number of visits to help switch on the beautiful twinkling Christmas lights in each town.

