

Title of Report:	Carrick Dhu Holiday and Leisure Park Touring Pitches
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18th May 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating Our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	Development of visitor economy. Continuously examine and introduce ways to provide services in more accessible and efficient ways.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£290,000 maximum estimated project costs including professional fees.
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	HALP
Staffing Costs	Routine Business

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to advance to stage 2 of the Councils Capital Investment process (detailed design, procurement and production of tender report) on infrastructure improvements for the touring caravan pitches at Carrick Dhu Holiday and Leisure Park, Portrush.

2.0 Background

Stage 1 approval for this project was given in December 2020 when officers presented on the operational problems and reduction in the quality of service as a result of degradation and damage to the site, due to water ponding, compaction of the soil and loss of turf.

Despite efforts to repair the pitches over the past number of years they continued to deteriorate and the decision was taken to remove the grass areas at each of the designated pitches and replace it with a hard-core gravel and dust surface.

With the assistance from the Infrastructure Team, Officers have investigated potential solutions which can provide a long term, hardwearing surface to enable touring vans with awnings etc. to use the touring pitches at Carrick Dhu.

3.0 Proposals

Proposed interventions as part of this project include:

- Addressing the site drainage issues through the touring field.
- Design for modern and hard-wearing pitch surface materials to accommodate longer staying visitors with touring vans, larger awnings and motorhomes.
- Maximise capacity of the site, whilst improving surrounding amenity space.
- Adhere to latest fire and safety regulations for site spacing.
- Improve pedestrian access throughout the touring site.
- Re-instate all electrical and water supply services to pitches.

A presentation on the background, issues and proposals to address these will be given by officers at the Leisure and Development Committee.

4.0 Maintenance implications

The proposal will create a hard wearing and long-lasting solution to the heavily used pitches at Carrick Dhu. This site is occupied from the 17th of March each year and is in continual use through to the end of October. Easy draining bitmac surfacing and major improvements in the drainage throughout the site will address the issues that exist around water run-off and standing water in poorly drained grass areas. Ongoing maintenance and cleaning of the hard surfaces will be required along with landscape care and grass cutting in amenity space. This work can be carried out by the existing staff at the site. Replacement of the green matting material for the awnings is estimated at approximate intervals of 10-12 years.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee provides approval for Council Officers to advance the design and procurement process and complete on Stage 2 of the Capital Works process, prior to reverting to the Committee for and investment decision for capital works and project completion.