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| <b>LOUGH FOYLE FERRY SERVICE - UPDATE</b>   | <b>6<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b> |
| <b>TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b> |                                 |
| <b>FOR DECISION</b>                         |                                 |

| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b> |  |
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| <b>Strategic Theme</b>                       | Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets   |
| <b>Outcome</b>                               | All environments in the area will benefit from proactive decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                          | Head of Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure   |
| <b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>                 | £3500 - £4500  |

### **Background**

Previously in Dec 2016, Members were informed that the previous operator (Rooskey Frazer & Co Ltd) had given notice not to continue with the service and will no longer be providing the ferry service hence forth due to limited usage and the associated limited revenue needed to sustain the service.

It was agreed that a new expression of interest would be sought in conjunction with Donegal County Council (DCC) via public tender during December 2016 to verify the market position. No expressions of interest were returned at that time.

Officers met with Donegal County Council to discuss solutions to the nil tender response from ferry operators - It was agreed (subject to Members approval) to investigate a possible subvention to encourage an operator to submit a tender to assist with the economic viability.

Councils Leisure & Development directorate brought a report to committee in March, requesting permission from Members to authorise officers in principal to investigate merits of subvention. Members decided not to authorise this avenue of investigation.

### **Current Position**

Donegal County Council did investigate subvention and retendered the service on this basis. Negotiations are still ongoing between an operator and Donegal County Council.

Donegal County Council have requested access to our slip way at Magilligan point, to facilitate this service. Officers are drafting a lease to provide this asset to a potential new operator to ensure they can avail of the facility for a limited period of 3 years and that all operational management with associated costs would be borne by the new operator. Crown Estate costs would be borne by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council – estimated at between £3500 & £4500 per annum. Appendix VII – identifies the area needed by the new operator.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that Members approve permission to allow a new ferry operator to avail of Council's available slipway at Magilligan and associated infrastructure in order that an operator can deliver a ferry service between Magilligan point and Greencastle in Donegal.



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