

Report on	Motorsport Task Force
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Consideration of a request from Motorsport Taskforce to Mid Ulster District Council for a financial contribution towards commissioning of a Motorsport economic research impact report for Northern Ireland. The decision was deferred from August committee meeting in order to review the membership and scope of representation of the Motor Sport Task Force group.
2.0	Background
2.1	In January 2017 the Sports Minister Paul Givan announced the establishment of a Motorsport Taskforce. The Taskforce will bring together representatives from sport, stakeholders and officials from Government Departments to help to address safety issues and explore how motorsports events can grow and attract further support. Up to £20,000 has been secured to take forward the Taskforce.
2.2	The Taskforce funding is in addition to significant investment of £500,000 already provided by the department to motorsport in the current financial year to take forward important safety works and provide equipment at race courses and tracks at a number of motorsport venues.
2.3	The Department is providing £500,000 investment in motorsport for: road racing venues at the North-West 200, the Ulster Grand Prix and Armoy Road Races; for short circuit tracks at Kirkistown, Nutt's Corner and Bishopscourt; and for the Motor Racing Association and the NI Karting Association. The Department is also providing £40,000 to improved disabled access for the Ulster Grand Prix circuit.
2.4	It is acknowledged by the Minister that Motorsport in all its forms makes a significant contribution to tourism and positively markets Northern Ireland as a venue to come to for major international sporting events. While the sport provides a spectacle and undoubted excitement, motorsport faces significant challenges. There is no doubt that a high priority must continue to be the continuous improvement of safety for both competitors and spectators.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Mid Ulster District Council are in receipt of a request from a representative of the Motorsport Taskforce for a contribution of £1,000 to undertake research, which is being asked from all council's that have a two or four wheel motorsport interest.
3.2	The research report is being commissioned and lead by the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) with local Universities and once completed will belong to the Department and Councils that have motorsports in their areas.
3.3	Tourism NI have committed a contribution of £5,000 in support of the commissioned work.
3.4	The Motorsport Task Force membership is comprised of the Department for Infrastructure, Tourism NI, Sport Northern Ireland, SOLACE, Department for Communities, Invest NI and Chaired by Ian Paisley MLA.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: £1,000 contribution as requested from the Motorsport Taskforce. Human: Existing staff resources sufficient.
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A.
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Subject to approval make a contribution of £1,000 on behalf of MUDC towards the Motorsport Task Force report as requested by the Motorsport Taskforce.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Correspondence Appendix 1.