

Report on	Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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	To agree on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) proposal for Lough Neagh Rescue covering the financial period April 18 – March 19.
2.0	Background
2.1	Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR) operates a 24/7 all year service of search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries.
2.2	<p>As a registered charity LNR operated on a voluntary basis and has 3 stations around the Lough, with one established at Battery Harbour, Ardboe. Each station endeavours to finance their needs sharing costs, such as, insurance, audit and accounting.</p> <p>LNR receive funding from the Councils surrounding the Lough and other public bodies. Majority of annual running costs are met through voluntary fundraising.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council agreed funding of £6,000 towards Lough Neagh Rescue for 17/18, and a proposed SLA for future service level requirements and associated funding to be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	By agreeing Lough Neagh Rescue's request for financial assistance of £6,000 towards eligible operating costs of running the service from Battery harbour in 2018/19, subject to terms and conditions.
3.2	Financial assistance will benefit the Lough Shore area within Mid Ulster by providing faster response times for rescues and other operations carried out in and around the Western Shores of Lough Neagh, and provide an emergency flood response service for Mid Ulster (subject to receipt of the necessary accreditation to provide the service).
3.3	<p><u>Terms and Conditions of Offer</u></p> <p>The Council's funding is towards site establishment and maintenance costs, insurance premiums for equipment and public liability, fuel and direct operating expenses for the service (but excluding wages/salaries and administrative expenses), and relevant costs associated with crew training.</p>

	<p>A Resilience Unit is established at the Battery Harbour to provide a community rescue service covering the Lough and surrounding inland waterways.</p> <p>A copy of a current certificate of public liability insurance for a minimum of £10 million cover must be submitted to Council and at renewal.</p> <p>Proper accreditation of LNR's practices and procedures must be in place for regular equipment inspection and maintenance in the interests of safe and proper operation and usage with copies supplied to Council.</p> <p>A full risk assessment, including fire risk assessments, shall be provided to Council (updated as required) indicating how LNR will ensure public safety from the installation and operation of its equipment for example, but not confined to, trip hazards from wires and cables and hazards arising from using portable equipment.</p> <p>A copy of annual audited accounts for LNR should be submitted to Council for the current financial year, when available, and for each subsequent year during this agreement.</p> <p>LNR shall indemnify the Council against all actions, suits, proceedings, costs, losses, claims, damages, charges and claims for personal injury or loss or damage to any person, body or property arising from or in connection with any of the terms and conditions of this offer, or any act or omission of the LNR, or their respective workers, servants or agents.</p> <p>The Council reserves the right to suspend or terminate its Corporate Financial Assistance to LNR at its discretion should any of the terms and conditions of this offer be breached or not complied with, and where necessary, appropriate action will be taken by the Council to recover its funds.</p> <p>A claim to drawdown the grant aid should be submitted to the Council by not later than Friday 13 April 2018 detailing eligible expenditure incurred supported by proper invoices/receipts and bank statements clearly showing the movement of funds. Cash payments must be supported by valid receipts.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: £6,000 in respect of 18/19 expenditure.</p> <p>Human: N/A</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> Potential damage to Council's reputation were it not to fund LNR and the decision resulted in a reduction in service to users of the lough.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Council approves the proposed SLA for 2018/19 to provide £6,000 financial.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	