

Title of Report:	Parking Consultations & Decision on Introduction of Charges
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	14th January 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Information & Decision –
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No – Except for Appendix 1 & 3 – for Confidential Consideration – In Committee.

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing Our Environments & Assets
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Head of Capital Works, Energy, and Infrastructure.

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Subject to Options
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with the outcome of recent public consultations with regard to the introduction of parking charges at seafront car parks in Ballycastle and at Westbay Portrush and to request a decision on the introduction of these charges.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members previously considered proposals about the introduction of charges at the sea front car parks at Ballycastle and West Bay Portrush (March 2024 Council meeting). The report is attached for ease of reference – **see appendix 1 - In Committee.** Members requested a public consultation be conducted to aid further consideration prior to the introduction of these charges.
- 2.2 The public consultation opened on the 20th of September 2024 and closed on the 20th of Dec 2024. A copy of the consultation format is attached for ease of reference – **see appendix 2.**

The consultation sought public opinion on all the options.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The options are the same as listed in appendix 1 and summarised in Table 1 for ease of reference are below.

Car Parks Charged	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Ballycastle Marina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ballycastle Grannies Rock	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ballycastle Harbour	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Westbay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Exemptions Mechanism						
Dedicated Spaces	✓		✓		✓	
Whitelist		✓		✓		✓
Exemptions for						
Rathlin Islanders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rathlin Island Permanent workers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Berth holders			✓	✓	✓	
Time limit for Unloading						
Berth holders (30mins)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Income Generated						
Ballycastle Car Parks	£114,023	£114,023	£94,913	£94,913	£41,405	£72,618
Westbay Car Park	£113,386	£113,386	£113,386	£113,386	£113,386	£113,386
Total	£227,409	£227,409	£208,299	£208,299	£154,791	£186,004

Assumptions

- 70% occupancy (when charging)
- White list / dedicated white list for Rathlin Element equates to charging spaces reduced by 30 spaces
- PCN income approximately equals enforcement cost

Option 1

Charging at all Seafront car parks in Ballycastle – with the following concessions and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

Provide dedicated spaces within the car park to the rear of Ballycastle Ferry Terminal to the following users by way of a permit scheme.

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

Berth Holders at Ballycastle Marina to receive a 30-minute loading and off-loading dispensation. Two spaces allocated for this purpose.

Option 2

Charging at all Seafront car parks in Ballycastle – with the following concessions and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

Provide free parking within any of the Harbour area car parks at Ballycastle to the following users by way of an enforcement white list*

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

*Enforcement whitelist – a vehicle registration is entered to the service providers software which identifies that particular vehicle as permitted to park in a location without charge.

Berth Holders at Ballycastle Marina to receive a 30-minute loading and off-loading dispensation. Two spaces allocated for this purpose.

Note: Option 2 shall have no dedicated space allocation.

Option 3

Charging at all Sea front car parks – with the following concessions and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

Provide dedicated spaces within the car park to the rear of the Ferry Terminal at Ballycastle to the following users by way of a permit scheme.

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

Berth Holders at Ballycastle Marina to have free parking within any of the Harbour car parks. They also benefit from a 30-minute loading and off-loading dispensation. Two spaces allocated for this purpose.

Option 4

Charging at all Seafront car parks in Ballycastle – with the following concessions and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

Provide free car parking within any of the Harbour area car parks at Ballycastle to the following users by way of an enforcement whitelist.*

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

*Enforcement whitelist - – a vehicle registration is entered to the service providers software which identifies that particular vehicle as permitted to park in a location without charge.

Berth Holders at Ballycastle Marina to have free parking within any of the Harbour car parks. They also benefit from a 30-minute loading and off-loading dispensation. Two spaces allocated for this purpose.

Note: Option 4 shall have no dedicated space allocation.

Option 5

Charging at Seafront Marina car park only – with the following concessions and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

Given the likely displacement of cars, wishing to avail of free parking at the Ferry Terminal/Harbour car park in Ballycastle as a result of charging at the Seafront Marina car park, dedicated spaces within the Ferry Terminal car park

or adjacent area shall be made available by way of a controlled space (free to use – circa 40 spaces) to the following users by way of a permit scheme.

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

Berth Holders at Ballycastle Marina to have free parking within any of the Harbour car parks. They also benefit from a 30-minute loading and off-loading dispensation. Two spaces allocated for this purpose.

Option 6

Charging at the Harbour car parks only with the Seafront Marina car park remaining free and also charge at West Strand car park Portrush.

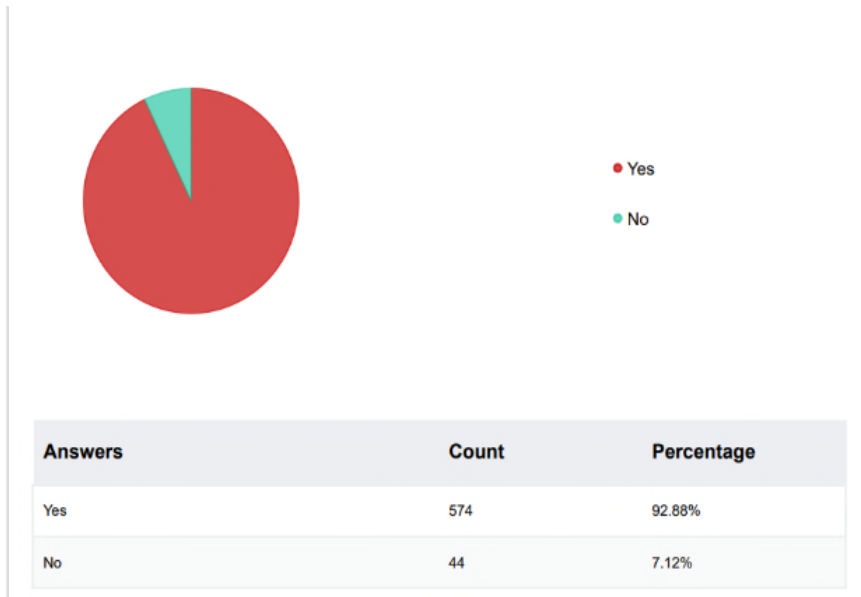
Provide free car parking within any of the Harbour area car parks in Ballycastle to the following users by way of an enforcement whitelist.*

- Residents of Rathlin who park their car overnight at Ballycastle.
- Non-resident of Rathlin with permanent employment on the Island, e.g. Teacher, Nurse etc.

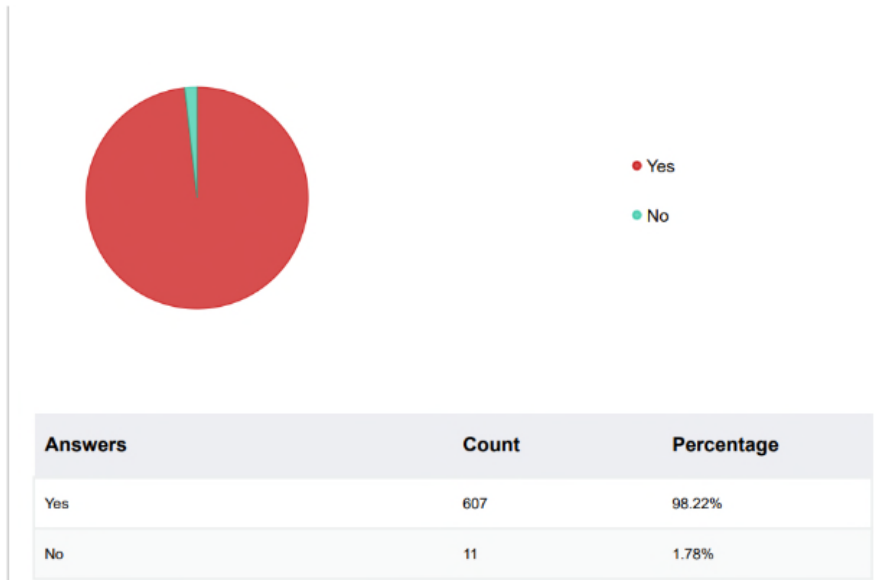
*Enforcement whitelist - a vehicle registration is entered to the service providers software which identifies that particular vehicle as permitted to park in a location without charge.

- 3.2 The findings of the consultation are summarised below, respondents comments are attached – **see appendix 3 - In Committee.**
Out of the 618 respondents 98% were vehicle drivers and 93% stated they were regular users of the car parks at the Sea front/Harbour/Ferry Terminal car parks. Out of the 116 who completed this section of the survey, 67.2 % parked for leisure purpose, 16.4% for work purposes and 16.4% for other reasons.

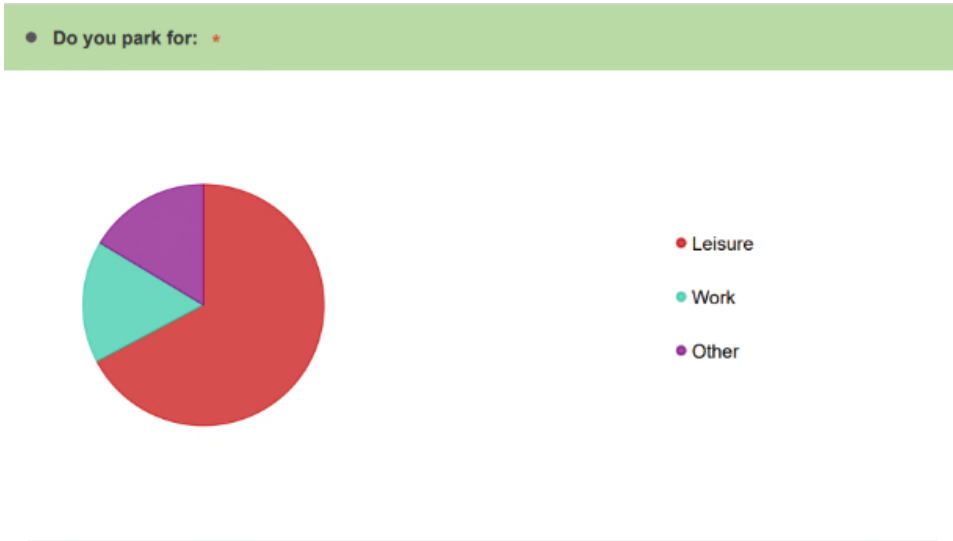
- Are you a vehicle driver?



- Do you regularly park in the Sea front/Harbour/Ferry Terminal car parks?

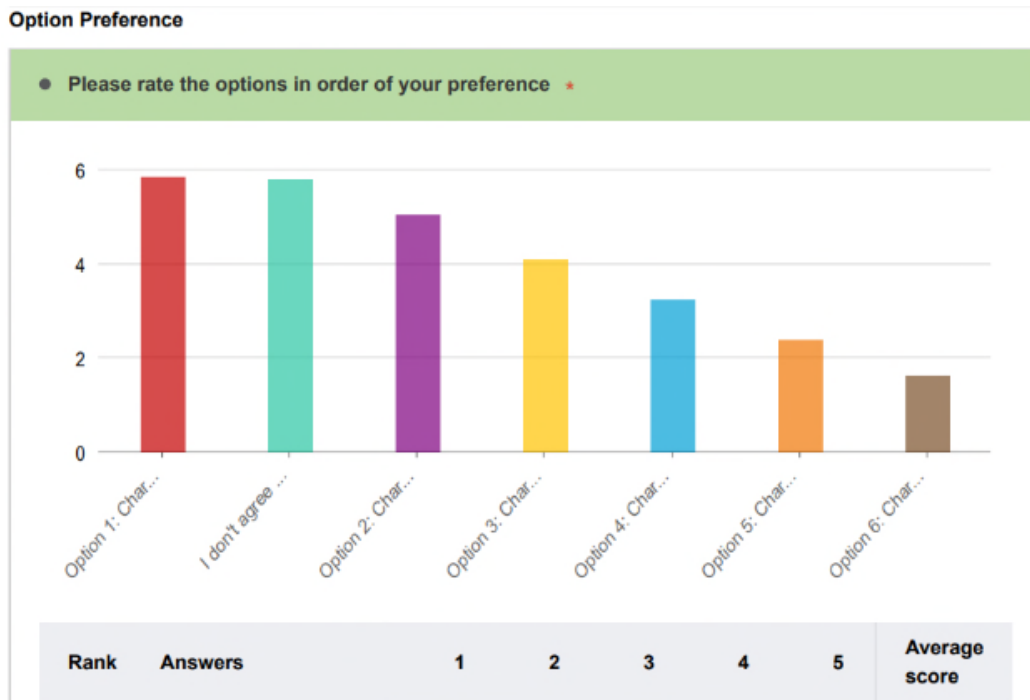


- Do you park for leisure, work, or other purposes?



3.3 Option preferences.

Out of all the options listed, respondents selected option 1 as their most preferred option.



- 3.4 The findings of the consultation are summarised within the attached report – **see appendix 3.**

618 respondents completed the survey questionnaire.

Options	Number of Comments	
1	286	Comments in respect of each option can be viewed at appendix 3
2	222	
3	207	
4	195	
5	195	
6	205	

- 3.5 Rathlin Community Development Community Association contacted the Director of Environmental Services via email with some concerns they had and requested that these be taken into consideration when Council deliberate on the results of the survey and any subsequent proposals – the correspondence can be viewed at **appendix 4.**

- 3.6 A recently Council commissioned draft Traffic and Parking survey across the Connected Causeway area conducted by AECOM on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th August 2024 , showed that in Ballycastle there was an under provision of parking spaces at peak times at the Sea front/Harbour/Ferry Terminal car parks.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee considers the findings of the public consultation (attached) and advise which charging option (if any) they wish to recommend to Council.