

Title of Report:	Replacement of the Boardwalk, Waterfoot Beach Hinterland
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Sub Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 October 2025
For Decision or For Information	Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Promote our tourism offer locally and internationally. Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing and Cohesive Community.
Outcome	Improved access to our natural environment. Development of Visitor economy and health and wellbeing opportunities.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	Pre-April 26

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£50,000 (initial estimated costs)
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

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

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to advance to Stage 1 of the Council's Capital Works Process (scoping project and outline design) for the replacement of Waterfoot boardwalk.

2.0 **Background**

The existing timber boardwalk was originally installed as part of the Antrim Coast & Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme in 2015, which delivered a range of environmental and recreational improvements. These included the provision of natural play area equipment, renovation works to the existing play area, installation of site furnishings, interpretative signage, landscaping works, creation of wildflower meadows, and various access enhancements including the supply and installation of timber boardwalks. Over time, the boardwalk has deteriorated significantly and now poses safety and maintenance concerns, necessitating its removal and replacement.

Appendix A (Map of existing path location)

3.0 **Proposals**

It is proposed that the existing timber boardwalk be fully removed due to its advanced state of deterioration and associated safety risks. In its place, a compacted dust path is proposed to be installed, providing a durable, low maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practices for sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments.

4.0 **Options**

Option 1

This option proposes the complete removal of the existing timber boardwalk and its replacement with a compacted dust path, approximately 550 metres in length and 2.5 metres in width. The new path would follow the current alignment of the boardwalk and provide a more durable, low-maintenance, and accessible surface suitable for all user groups.

Estimated Cost - £16,500 (removal) + £33,500 (path) = **£50,000**

Option 2

This option proposes the complete removal of the existing timber boardwalk and its replacement with a new composite/hardwood path. The new path would follow the current alignment of the boardwalk and provide a more durable, low-maintenance, and accessible surface suitable for pedestrians and recreational use.

Estimated Cost - £16,500 (removal) + £137,000 (path) = **£153,500**

Maintenance

Post 5-year annual maintenance Compacted Dust Path

Routine maintenance (inspections, grading, vegetation, small top-ups) is estimated at £2,150 per year.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of progression with Option 1 – replacement of the existing boardwalk with a compacted dust path and the commencement of Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process (design, feasibility, and outline design).

Option 1 provides the most cost-effective solution. It ensures compliance with accessibility and usability requirements, significantly reduces long-term maintenance obligations, and aligns with the Council's sustainability objectives.

Appendix A

