

Title of Report:	Council Managed Tourism Events Programme 2026/27
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Promote our tourist offering locally and internationally
Outcome	Improve prosperity. To provide a balanced portfolio for major events across the Borough and facilitate partnerships with other event promoters.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Tourism Events Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	December 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£626,693
Included in Current Year Estimates	For 2026/27
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
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 for the delivery of the schedule of Council-led Tourism Event programme for 2026/27 (i.e. tourism events directly organised and delivered by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council's 10-year strategic approach for the Tourism Event remit recommends that the Council need to provide a balanced approach to event development, facilitation, and delivery. With an increasing number of external event providers, the role of Council is more important than ever in terms of being supportive and allowing other event providers to develop the sector. The strategic approach recognises that Council will still be an event provider but recommends that to achieve a balance, Council delivered events should be fewer, better resourced and promoted more effectively. The 10-year strategic approach for Tourism Events was approved by Council in 2021. The recommendations from the strategic review of Tourism Events will be reviewed as part of the ongoing process to develop the Council's Destination Management Strategy for 2026-2036.
- 2.2 The Armed Forces Day in Northern Ireland will be hosted in Coleraine on Saturday 20th June 2026 and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will play a key delivery role as the event organiser along with partner MOD agencies to ensure that this event is a success. The Tourism Events team will be required to assist with strategic and operational planning for this Corporate led event.
- 2.3 During the 2025/26 year the Council's Tourism Events team delivered on the agreed programme of events and played a supporting role in the delivery of The 153rd Open Championship after returning for the second time within a six year period.
- 2.4 For Elected Members information, the Tourism Events team was shortlisted in November 2025 for the National Outdoor Events Association's "Best Council Events Team" award, recognising their excellence in delivering quality UK outdoor events and the benefit they bring to the visitor economy.

3.0 Proposed Council Events for 2026/2027

- 3.1 A summary of the dates and costs for each of the proposed Council-led events, based on the events schedule agreed in previous years by Elected Members, is shown in **Table 1** below. Further detail on each of the events is provided in **Annex A**.
- 3.2 Officers have made an assessment of the costs based on the requirements to deliver these events in 2025 with an uplift for 2026/27 due to the impact of inflationary pressures. (*The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 3.6% in the 12 months to Oct 25*). Headroom within budgets for the 2025-2026 period has been challenging and Officers have set the uplift for the 2026/27 budget at 4% on top of the current year's budget due in part to above inflation costs for crowd and traffic management and programme improvements from lessons learned this year. It is hoped that efficiencies can be achieved where possible. Additional costs required for programme delivery in 2026/27 have been detailed in **Table 1**.

			Table 1
Events 2026	Date(s)	Budget Requirement 2026/2027 (includes 4% for inflationary pressures) plus any additional costs detailed in adjacent Column	Rationale for additional expenditure over and above the 4% inflationary uplift
Ballymoney Spring Fair	Fri 17 th & Sat 18 th April	£31,951	Includes an additional £700 for expected rise in traffic management measures (pending new procurement) & additional cleansing/toilet facilities.
NW200 Race Week Festival	Mon 4 th - Sat 9 th May	£37,555	Includes an additional £900 for expected rise in crowd management costs (pending new procurement).
Rathlin Sound Festival	Thurs 21 st – Sun 31 st May (exact dates TBC)	£59,969	Includes an additional £8,000 for redesign of the programme of delivery to include a cultural and music based event for Ballycastle in addition to the retention of the Rathlin Island elements. Possible rebranding required.
Seasonal Summer Programme (Summer Theatre Programme)	July & August (exact dates TBC)	£16,828	
Summer Fireworks Evening Portstewart (Finale of Red Sails)	Sat 25 th July	£14,850	Includes an additional £350 for expected rise in crowd management costs (pending new procurement) & additional cleansing/toilet facilities.
Summer Entertainment & Fireworks Evening Portrush	Sat 8 th August (exact date TBC)	£14,728	Includes an additional £350 for expected rise in crowd management costs (pending new procurement) & additional traffic management measures.
Ould Lammas Fair	Sat 22 nd - Tues 25 th August	£163,466	Includes an additional £9,500 for expected rise in crowd management costs and £8,500 for anticipated

			traffic management measures (pending new procurement), £5,500 for extended park & ride provision, £3,000 for additional fair hardware and £2,800 for enhanced entertainment provision
Bushmills Salmon and Whiskey Festival incorporating longer duration food & drink experiences across the Borough	Fri 2 nd - Sun 4 th October (exact dates TBC)	£69,080	Includes an additional £5,000 for expected rise in infrastructure and traffic management costs (pending new procurement) and £4,500 for rejuvenation
Seasonal Halloween Events x 4	Ballymoney - Saturday 24 th October (tbc) Coleraine - Tuesday 27 th October (tbc) Limavady - Thursday 29 th October Ballycastle – Saturday 31 st October	£99,816	Includes an additional £3,000 per town to allow for transport and venue hire costs and an expected rise in crowd management costs (pending new procurement).
Atlantic Sessions	Thurs 12 th Nov – Sun 15 th November	£37,567	Includes an additional £2950 to allow for expected increases in artist fees, media spend & venue hire.
Seasonal Christmas Light Switch On's	Ballymoney Thursday 19 th November Limavady Saturday 21 st November Ballycastle Thursday 26 th November Coleraine Friday 27 th November	£80,883	Includes an additional £3,250 per town to allow for festive programme development and an expected rise in crowd management and traffic management costs (pending new procurement).
Total Request		£626,693	

4.0 **Budgetary Position**

- 4.1 In advance of the 2026 rate setting process, the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the budget allocation for the delivery of Council led events (as detailed in **Table 1**).
- 4.2 The delivery of the proposed Tourism Event programme requires significant procurement, with numerous procurement exercises taking place throughout the year. Officers are requesting that, subject to adhering to Council's procurement guidelines, approval is given for the total expenditure as detailed in **Table 1**, and rather than seeking individual procurement exercise approvals, Officers be enabled to tender and

spend up to the maximum detailed per event as shown in Table 1, with future reports presented to Committee as required confirming expenditure details.

5.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approves the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2026/27 as detailed within the report:

The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in **Table 1** and **Annex A**, at a cost not to exceed £626,693, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2026-27.

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Ballymoney Spring Fair – Fri 17th & Sat 18th April

Ballymoney Spring Fair is an annual event held in April each year to animate the town, support the local businesses/community and to attract visitors to the town. Traditionally this event is organised by the Council's Tourism Events Team supported by Ballymoney Chamber of Commerce and Fuse FM, to include family entertainment to promote visitor and community participation where possible. The theme of the fair is aligned to the family fun segmentation of Tourism Events.

Friday of the Fair takes place at Castlecroft and consists of live music, Fuse radio and an artisan market. There is also a tea dance at the Town Hall.

Saturday has several aspects to the event over a number of locations, including Quiet Time, Vintage vehicle display, live music, amusements, children's activities, carnival entertainment and stalls within closed roads in the town centre and finishes with a multi-participant parade. The event typically attracts 3,000 – 5,000 visitors across the various event activities.

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Naturally North Coast Artisan Market ◆ Live Music – Local Acts ◆ Fuse Radio – Outdoor Broadcast ◆ Tea Dance ◆ Quiet Time for Children with Additional Needs including New Quiet area at COI ◆ Children's Craft Activities ◆ Flower Arranging Workshops for Adults ◆ Dog Agility Displays / Sessions ◆ Saturday all day street closure within the town for carnival entertainment and stalls ◆ Soft Play activities ◆ Children's Amusements ◆ Mobile Farm ◆ Vintage vehicle display ◆ Walkabout Entertainment ◆ Circus Skills ◆ Archery ◆ Traditional Games & Horseshoe Toss ◆ Dance Groups ◆ Maypole Dancing ◆ Carnival Parade throughout Town ◆ New Exhibition, Crafts & Trading Zone at Church Street ◆ Chamber of Commerce promoted discounts & fashion showcase ◆ Biodiversity Outreach ◆ Recycling Team Outreach ◆ Ballymoney Museum exhibitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Castlecroft Square & Castle Street Car Pk ▪ Ballymoney Town Hall ▪ Seymour Street Car Pk ▪ Railway Station Car Pk ▪ Church Street ▪ Church of Ireland Old Schoolhouse ▪ Animation & Parade also throughout: High Street, Main Street, Meeting House Street, Union Street, Queen Street, Victoria Street and Linenhall Street 	<p>£31,951</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £30,049)</i></p>

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of past events and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content.*

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

NW200 Race Week Festival – Mon 4th - Sat 9th May

As part of North West 200 Race Week Festival, Causeway Coast and Glens BC, in conjunction with Coleraine and District Motor Club, stage Meet the Riders at the Event Space in Coleraine Town Centre on the Friday. This is a free, no-ticket event giving the public an opportunity to meet the riders and personalities at that year's NW200.

A NW200 Firework Display is held on the Friday of Race Week, at The Crescent, Portstewart. Entertainment will be live music at the Witches' Hat Band stand followed by the Firework Display from Atlantic Circle. Historically a crowd of between 3000 - 5000 is expected depending on the weather.

On the back of the 2025 success of the first ever NW200 Beach Race, Council and the organisers of this element are once again working towards a similar showcase as part of the race week programme.

NB: Tourism and Recreation Officers in conjunction with Environmental Services are investigating impacts of firework on livestock and domestic pets.

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
◆ NW200 Meet the Riders	▪ Event Space at Coleraine Town Hall	£37,555 (Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £35,245)
◆ NW200 Beach Races, non-competitive motorcycle races	▪ East Strand, Portrush	
◆ Firework Display (late evening approx. 10pm)	▪ The Crescent, Portstewart	
◆ Soft walkabout characters ◆ Live band from early evening		
Branding activation throughout course week and promotion of race week activities		

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Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Rathlin Sound Festival

Proposed Dates: Thurs 21st – Sun 31st May (exact dates TBC)

Rathlin Sound Festival celebrates the local heritage through community organised events featuring music, song, talks, exhibitions, workshops and storytelling.

For 2026, the emphasis will feature a celebration of the Causeway Coast and Glens culture and music, with an enhanced music and song programme with live gigs and folk sessions throughout Ballycastle's participating host venues, to attract visitors to stay longer and benefit the nighttime economy.

Rathlin Island will continue to promote its unique island heritage through authentic maritime adventures and vibrant community culture, giving visitors the chance to experience the best of the 'Sound', the iconic waters connecting the Island with Ballycastle.

This Council-led event will be delivered with support from Rathlin Development Community Association and other voluntary organisations and external bodies. For 2026 the main themes will be:

- Island life
- Maritime heritage through storytelling
- Food and drink
- Music and cultural connections

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities & Planning considerations	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of a new festival strapline, "song meets the sea" or similar will be used to promote Ballycastle & Rathlin Island. ◆ Cultural connections with Scotland and other Celtic connections will highlight the range of influence on the area's musical traditions and heritage. ◆ Local food and drink ◆ Music festival elements with possible indoor and outdoor showcases, elongating the Bank Holiday weekend. ◆ Outdoor family activities over the Bank Holiday weekend ◆ Storytelling sessions in local establishments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ballycastle Seafront & Town Centre ▪ Rathlin Island 	<p>£59,969</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £49,970)</i></p>

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of an event itinerary and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content.*

The proposed dates are subject to change.

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Seasonal Summer Programme – July & August

The Summer Street Theatre takes place during July and August in various locations in Ballycastle, Portrush and Portstewart. The programme includes fire manipulators, Punch & Judy shows, unicyclists, stilt walkers and lively circus performers. This fun family entertainment is free to attend and often enhances the visitor offering within seaside resorts.

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stiltwalkers ◆ Fire Manipulation ◆ Unicyclists ◆ Kite Display ◆ Juggling ◆ Street Theatre ◆ Magic Shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amphitheatre / Kerr St, Portrush ▪ The Crescent Portstewart ▪ Ballycastle Seafront 	<p>£16,828</p> <p>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £16,180)</p>

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Summer Fireworks Evening Portstewart – Sat 25th July

The summer entertainment & fireworks evening held at The Crescent in Portstewart, is a brilliant free fun outdoor summer event. Live concert, family entertainment and Fireworks extravaganza. This is the culmination of the Red Sails Festival.

Activities	Location	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Concert - Live Band ◆ Fireworks ◆ Walkabout Characters ◆ Fire Poi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Portstewart 	<p>£14,850</p> <p>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £13,942)</p>

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Summer Entertainment & Fireworks Evening Portrush – Sat 8th August (exact date tbc)

The summer entertainment & fireworks evening held at Ramore Head, Portrush, is a brilliant free outdoor fun summer event. Live concert, family entertainment and Fireworks extravaganza.

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Live music ◆ Walkabout Characters ◆ Fire Poi ◆ Fireworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower Lansdowne Green, Portrush 	<p>£14,728</p> <p>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £13,825)</p>

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of past events and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content.*

Ould Lammas Fair – Sat 22nd – Tues 25th August

The Ould Lammas Fair is Ireland's oldest recorded fair dating back for hundreds of years. This event takes place on the last Monday and Tuesday in August each year. The weekend has now been extended to a four-day event for all to enjoy. The fair takes place in the beautiful seaside town of Ballycastle with traders lining the streets, selling traditional items, homemade arts & craft, food and more.

The agricultural element takes place on Fairhill Street just off The Diamond in Ballycastle and includes horse trading, farrier displays, pony rides and an animal petting farm. The event attracts hundreds of thousands to the town with many family members returning for this nostalgic event. There are new additions to the fair that have been added to, including family fun entertainment, live music and Agri zones.

The event typically attracts up to 130,000 visitors at various activities over the 4 days.

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Horse Trading ◆ Pony Rides ◆ Horse Shoe Demonstrations ◆ Horse Farrier ◆ Activities on Ballycastle beach ◆ Heavy Horse Show ◆ Amusements ◆ Vintage Vehicle Display & Parade ◆ Seafront Stage music entertainment ◆ Artisan Market ◆ Live Bands on big stage ◆ New Stretch Tent Music stage at Seafront ◆ Fireworks ◆ Falconry ◆ Mobile Animal Farm ◆ Family entertainment/rest area ◆ Traditional market style street trading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clare Street ▪ The Diamond ▪ Castle Street ▪ Ann Street ▪ Fairhill Street ▪ Quay Road & Quay Road Playing Fields (subject to Leisure Centre development) ▪ Seafront ▪ Sheskburn House & Car Pk ▪ Harbour Area ▪ Marina Car Park ▪ Ballycastle Beach 	<p>£163,466</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £129,005)</i></p> <p><i>As the fair continues in popularity, additional crowd, traffic and entertainment additions are required for 2026 and beyond. In addition to this, the budget uplift is also required due to the shortfall in amusements income as the Quay Road facility is under construction.</i></p>

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Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Ould Lammas Fair is split into event zone spaces to indicate the various locations throughout the town.

Zones	Event Space - Proposed Activities & Zones
Zone 1 Clare Street, Diamond, Castle Street, Ann Street	Activity includes: Rest area, street traders, music concert and craft stalls and animation.
Zone 2 Fairhill Street	Fairhill Street by tradition is the home of the agricultural elements of the fair, which in the main is a horse-trading area. Over the last few years this zone has expanded to include activities for children such as pony rides. Additional horse related showcase activities have been developed including, horseshoe demonstrations and horse farrier.
Zone 3 Quay Road minus the Playing Fields	Street Trading and Family entertainment.
Zone 4 Seafront / Harbour / Sheskburn/ Beach / Marina Car Park	Beach activities including Kite Display, Fireworks display at the seafront, Artisan Market, Non-Mechanical Amusements, Artisan market, hot food vendors.

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Bushmills Salmon & Whiskey Festival – Fri 2nd - Sun 4th October (exact dates TBC)

This revitalised event will showcase the area's food and drink sectors including artisan suppliers and small-batch beverage producers, bringing together the rich flavours and heritage that defines Causeway Coast and Glens food and drink offerings.

As October unfolds, the festival will serve as the official launchpad for a month of curated food and drink experiences across the borough. Visitors will be invited to explore the stories, skills, and traditions behind local produce, discovering a place where quality ingredients, skilled craftsmanship, and cultural heritage are at the heart of every bite and sip.

Attracting around 5,000 visitors, the Bushmills Salmon & Whiskey Festival draws passionate food and drink enthusiasts eager to immerse themselves in local craftsmanship, authentic produce, and the warm hospitality that defines the destination.

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cookery demonstrations by celebrity & local chefs, using local ingredients ◆ Opportunity for young upcoming chefs to showcase their talents in partnership with FE Colleges ◆ Artisan markets showcasing local & NI food & drink produce / producers ◆ Localised inspired menus ◆ Music entertainment will take place at various hospitality venues ◆ STEM related elements for children ◆ Bushmills Taste Trail ◆ Circus skills workshop ◆ Arts and crafts ◆ Themed walkabout characters ◆ Musical walkabouts ◆ Community art projects ◆ Fishing demonstrations ◆ 'Have a go' fly fishing casting ◆ Artisan market ◆ Whiskey Hub (Sampling, Meet the Makers & Purchase tent) ◆ Restaurant Week ◆ Food Trails across the Borough ◆ Foodie Tours and Experiences 	<p>Bushmills venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main Street Bushmills ▪ Millennium Park ▪ Sharvagh House ▪ Designerie Car Park ▪ Main St Car Park ▪ Bushmills Distillery ▪ VIC ▪ Community Garden ▪ The Courthouse ▪ Parish Church Hall ▪ Bushmills Inn ▪ Bush House ▪ Market Square ▪ Tartine ▪ Bushmills Townhouse <p><i>Council will explore options of promoting hospitality venues and foodie experience offerings from across the Borough to promote a longer food & drink showcase.</i></p>	<p>£69,080</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £57,288)</i></p>

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of past events and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content.*

The proposed dates and duration of the project are subject to change.

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Seasonal Halloween Events x4 - 24th – 31st October

Ballymoney Saturday 24th October (tbc)

Coleraine Tuesday 27th October (tbc)

Limavady Thursday 29th October

Ballycastle Saturday 31st October

Halloween Happenings brings some spooky themes into the local towns of the Borough. These include parades, spooky characters, fire poi, live music, amusements, spooky trails and fireworks. These events are organised by Council and local voluntary organisations. Each event attracts over 4,000 visitors.

Ballymoney's Halloween venue will require a site capability assessment moving forward. The popularity of the event has proven difficult to weatherproof within the current site at Ballymoney Showgrounds which is agricultural lands with poor ground conditions. Council Officers will therefore reevaluate all other potential venues for an appropriate firing point and event space within the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre grounds.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Ulster University (UU) have built a positive working relationship having delivered successful Halloween events since 2023. Council hope to further enhance the partnership with UU as this venue is central to many attendees throughout the borough, therefore able to provide for a higher visitor demand. The size and scale of the site, enables the Events Team to accommodate large numbers, both as an entertainment site and cater for an effective traffic & transport plan. This also includes a Park & Ride Service from Coleraine town centre.

The Limavady Halloween event has continuously increased in visitor numbers over the last number of years, therefore careful event programming is required that appeals to the public and that is in fitting with the current event site constraints.

The Ballycastle Halloween event will remain unchanged at Ballycastle Seafront and will require access to the Marina Car Park and Pier to assist with the event footprint.

Synopsis of Event Activities includes:

Activities	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fireworks Displays ◆ Quiet Time for Children/Adults with Additional needs ◆ Balloon Modellers & Magicians ◆ Amusements ◆ Circus Skills / Bushcraft workshops ◆ Live Music & Dance Displays ◆ Fire Poi / Glow Poi ◆ Halloween Performers incl. Stilt walkers ◆ Spooky Trails with live animation, spooky characters, uplighters, sound and smoke ◆ Food Traders ◆ Local school children artwork displays ◆ Scarecrow workshops/ displays ◆ Low Noise Fireworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ballymoney Showgrounds or Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre ▪ Ulster University Coleraine or Rugby Avenue ▪ Roe Mill Playing Fields ▪ Seafront Ballycastle 	<p>£99,816</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £84,438)</i></p>

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of past events and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content. The proposed dates are subject to change.*

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Atlantic Sessions – Thurs 12th – Sun 15th November

The Atlantic Sessions Festival is a high-quality music event now well established on the NI Festival calendar, featuring a broad range of live original music performers in bars, hotels, music and hospitality venues across the seaside resorts of Portstewart and Portrush throughout the 4 days, with 30 + FREE gigs plus some showcase ticketed events.

Council appoints an Event Music Promoter within the music industry to liaise with all artists and venues to deliver the Atlantic Sessions Festival Programme.

Activity	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Music trail ◆ Original artists music ◆ Emerging artists ◆ High profile artists ◆ Unique artists ◆ Local hospitality venue participation ◆ Various genres: traditional, contemporary, blue grass, electronic, indie, acoustic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Portrush ▪ Elephant Rock Hotel ▪ Holy Trinity Church ▪ KIWI's Brew Bar ▪ Kelly's Complex ▪ Portrush Town Hall ▪ Portrush Yacht Club ▪ Safehouse Café Bar ▪ The Playhouse ▪ The Station Bar ▪ The Quays ▪ The Marcus Hotel ▪ Portstewart ▪ Flowerfield Arts Centre ▪ Portstewart Arms ▪ The Anchor ▪ Agherton Parish Church 	<p>£37,567</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £33,285)</i></p>

**NOTE: The activities above are an example of past events and are subject to change to allow for event development and emerging new content.*

Tourism Events Programme 2026-27

Annex A

Seasonal Christmas Light Switch On's

Proposed 2026 Dates:

Ballymoney - Thursday 19th November

Limavady - Saturday 21st November

Ballycastle - Thursday 26th November

Coleraine - Friday 27th November

Christmas switch ons and parades within the borough. These are a chance to kick-start your Christmas shopping with late night openings, parades featuring local children, walkabout characters, live music and meet Santa!

These events typically attract between 2,000 and 6,000 people.

Activities & Planning considerations	Locations	Budget Requirement 2026/2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Santa ◆ Mrs Claus storytelling ◆ Santa's Grotto ◆ Quiet Time with Santa ◆ Santa's Transport ◆ Children's gifts (selection boxes) from Santa ◆ Local children in parade ◆ Dance troops ◆ Parade items incl. Hire of Floats, Children's Costumes and Lanterns. ◆ Live Pipe Band performances ◆ Bubble Car and Elves ◆ Festive Walkabout Characters – soft ◆ Festive Walkabout Characters – stilt walkers ◆ Hire of DJs with Festive Music ◆ Compere for Council floats ◆ Balloon Modellers ◆ Snow Globes ◆ Christmas Photobooth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ballymoney Town Centre ▪ Limavady Town Centre ▪ Ballycastle Town Centre ▪ Coleraine Town Centre 	<p>£80,883</p> <p><i>(Budget Requirement 2025/2026 £65,272)</i></p>

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