

Title of Report:	Feedback on the Introduction of Seasonal Car Parking Charges (1st April 2025 to 30th Sept 2025)
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 13th January 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee –YES/NO	No

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.

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 feedback on the recent introduction of seasonal parking charges at seafront car parks in Ballycastle and at West Bay car park in Portrush.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 Members previously made a decision to introduce seasonal car parking charges at all sea front car parks at Ballycastle and at West Bay car park Portrush. This year's season has now finished, which began on the 1st April 25 and finished on 30th September 25.

- 2.2 Members made the following concessions.

Free car parking within any of the Harbour area car parks at Ballycastle to the following users (by use of a virtual permit system)

- 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 within the marina to have one permit per berth.

The resultant permit applications received and issued are below.

Ballycastle Permits - 189 Applications

Yes	162
No	15
Duplicated Applications	2
Undetermined	10
Grand Total	189

Breakdown

	Yes	No	Duplicated	Undetermined
Berth Holder	57		1	4
Resident	71	2		2
Employee	34	13	1	4
Totals	162	15	2	10

Undetermined – applicants who did not supply the relevant evidence to support their application. Requested information was never provided.

- 2.3 Income was budgeted at £220k, however the actual income was £166,739.38. With enforcement costs, this has resulted in net income of £139,122.10.

Car Park Location	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Income £	Budget Net Income £	Variance
Ballycastle Harbour Car Parks	60,458.51	10,076.16	50,382.35	76,705.00	-26,322.65
Ballycastle Marina Car Park	34,915.12	4,730.88	30,184.24	23,550.00	6,634.24
West Bay Car Park	71,365.75	12,810.24	58,555.51	119,745.00	-61,189.49
Resultant	166,739.38	27,617.28	139,122.10	220,000.00	-80,877.90

- 2.4 Officers met with representatives of the berth holders and residents on the 8th of April and the 24th of October, the request of Mr Jim Allister MP who attended both meetings. Issues and concerns with the introduction of the car parking charges were raised and effects on both berth holders and residents who reside near to these car parks.

Officers have been able to alleviate berth holders concerns which had been mainly around access to their vessel with goods and supplies. Solution has been found whereby berth holders can now use the loading and unloading pontoon on the main harbour.

One resident from the locality to the sea front car parks at Ballycastle mentioned residents were incurring some displacement due to the introduction of charging and have requested permits for the sea front carparks for nearby Ballycastle residents. However, members previously made a decision not to introduce a car parking residents permit scheme (except Rathlin which has an Island Status). An on-street residents parking scheme would be the responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the feedback on the first year season on the introduction of seasonal car parking charges at West Bay (Portrush) and at the sea front car parks (Ballycastle).