

Title of Report:	Portballintrae Air Force Memorial
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Museums Services Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	Unconfirmed

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	<u>n/a</u>
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

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:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date: December 25
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	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

To request that the application from Bushmills Through the Wars (BTTW) is approved, granting permission to install the *Portballintrae Air Force Memorial* on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 BTTW have submitted an application for a public memorial - *Portballintrae Air Force Memorial* - to be situated near Runkerry Beach, Portballintrae.
- 2.2 On 28th November 1943, the crew of Vickers Wellington DV664 had successfully completed their bombing practice and were turning when the aircraft stalled and dived into the water just off Runkerry Beach. The proposed memorial will commemorate four members of the Royal Air Force and two members of the Royal Australian Air Force who lost their lives as a result of this incident.
- 2.3 Community consultation has been carried out by BTTW and the application included letters and emails from Causeway Coast Community Association, Portballintrae Residents' Association, J H Allister KC, Member of Parliament for North Antrim, Australian Executive, Bushmills Branch of the Royal British Legion and family members who were all in support of the memorial.
- 2.4 The application includes a mock-up of the proposed memorial, and the group have the funding in place to produce the memorial. **(Annex A)**.
- 2.5 After consulting with the Coast & Countryside team the proposed location is attached in **Annex B**. Council owns the land.
- 2.6 A planning application has been submitted by BTTW, they have the funding in place to support this.
- 2.7 BTTW have confirmed that they will cover the insurance and maintenance costs for the memorial.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 That council grants permission to BTTW to install the *Portballintrae Air Force Memorial* subject to planning approval.
- 3.2 The memorial will consist of two pieces of granite, one with a brief description of the incident and the other with the names of the six airmen who perished. The proposed location overlooks the site where the plane crashed and will be sited on a concrete platform that was used for a hut during the Cold War, therefore enhancing the current site.

4.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves the application from Bushmills Through the Wars to install the *Portballintrae Air Force Memorial* on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted, and that the application is presented to Land & Property Committee for consideration.

Annex A

Proposed Design



Dimensions to be finalised and subject to planning.

Annex B

Proposed Location

