



Title of Report:	Mobile Sauna Provision Council Managed Coastal Locations
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed in Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Resilient, Healthy and Engaging Communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to our natural environments to help develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Service for Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	April 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£20,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES
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 update Members on work being undertaken to identify coastal sites under Council management that could potentially host mobile saunas.

2.0 Background

2.1 Members will recall an information item brought to the Leisure & Development Committee in September 2025 outlining the proposed review of coastal sites within Council's estate to assess which may be suitable for mobile sauna provision. The popularity of cold-water exposure has grown significantly at many coastal sites which fall under Council's management. No longer a seasonal activity it is very much a year-round interest. The combination of consistent bathing water quality and the value of the coastline also contributes to the popularity. Increasing awareness of the health benefits associated with cold-water exposure following a sauna has contributed to demand for mobile beach sauna provision.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The original shortlist of 10 sites has been reduced further so that sauna provision is not over saturated and remains commercially viable.

The five sites shortlisted are as follows:

- Benone Strand
- East Strand, Portrush (subject to available infrastructure)
- Whiterocks
- Ballycastle seafront
- Waterfoot

Subject to market response additional sites may be considered in the future.

Regarding East Strand, the necessary statutory requirements will be sought, but it is not proposed to advance this site in the immediate future, without further assessment.

3.2 Officers have made application for statutory permission for the identified sites as required by Planning. Subject to obtaining planning approval, it is proposed to run an Expression of Interest for the identified sites to gauge private sector interest and subsequently hold a competitive procurement process by way of auction. It is intended that both the Expression of Interest and auction process are completed by April 2026.

4.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.