



Title of Report:	Ballycastle Museum Capital Project Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council
Date of Meeting:	30 June 2026
For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	Priority 2: Empowering and supporting our people
Outcome	A Council which reflects the diversity of our community and creates an inclusive culture where everyone can thrive
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture; Head of Performance

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	December 2028

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£358,000 net (estimate)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

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:
	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 the report is to provide an update to members in relation to funding secured for the Ballycastle Museum capital project.

2.0 Background

2.1 Following a report to the Leisure and Development Committee in December 2025, Council approved authorisation in January 2026 for the project team to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process. This stage includes detailed design and refinement of capital costs for the restoration and extension of Ballycastle Museum, following the acquisition of neighbouring premises on Castle Street, Ballycastle.

3.0 Proposal/Project Synopsis

3.1 The project will work with local people to revitalise Ballycastle Museum through the conservation-led restoration of the 18th-century Grade B+ listed courthouse and market building. By expanding into 57 Castle Street, it will create a community-focused museum and heritage hub that strengthens local skills, celebrates shared heritage and supports the site's long-term sustainability.

3.2 The new museum will explore the area's unique stories, including Ballycastle's place in pre-industrial Ireland and its foundational role in the Irish Arts and Crafts Revival. It will also provide accredited training programmes and volunteer opportunities, supported by fully accessible and interactive permanent and temporary galleries, workshop space and essential accessible collection stores.

3.3 The capital phase will restore the museum's 18th-century Grade B+ listed building and extend it into the adjoining property, purchased by Council for this purpose in 2025. This will almost quadruple gallery space from 64m² to 240m². The works will be supported by a wide-ranging activity plan, using the museum collection to engage diverse audiences, including people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds. Activity will take place while the museum is closed and continue after it reopens.

4.0 Funding Proposal

4.1 Council applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund seeking £2,104,268 towards overall project costs and have subsequently confirmed an award of £2,104,268 to support final construction and the associated animation and activity programme.

4.2 The outstanding cash contribution required from Council is estimated at £358,000. Additional in-kind costs are valued at approximately £66,000.

5.0 Next steps

5.1 Officers will continue to pursue additional external funding for the activity and programming elements of the project. This will help reduce the level of financial contribution required from Council, with further applications due to be submitted in September.

5.2 A report seeking a final investment decision will be presented to Council in August.