



Title of Report:	Ballycastle Sea Wall – Mouth of Margy River
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 March 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting & enhancing our environment and our assets.
Outcome	Generating economic and social returns without compromising the sustainability of our natural assets.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	May 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Under £30k
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
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 the report is to update Members on the structural stability of the sea wall at the mouth of the River Margy, Ballycastle which has become compromised over a period of time, along with planned repair works.

2.0 Background

2.1 The promenade walkway in Ballycastle has a reinforced concrete retaining wall acting as a seawall. This low wall rests upon large, placed stones that go on to form the beginning of the eastern breakwater of the marina. In November Council Officers became aware that a section of the wall had become undermined by a combination of action by the sea and outflow of the Margy River, which as a spate river is capable of significant discharge events when in full flood due to the steep and rocky nature of catchment.

2.2 Estates subsequently instructed Ivan Scott Association Ltd to carry out a visual inspection of the minor sea wall at the mouth of the River Margy on Ballycastle Beach. They reported that water scour had undermined the wall by up to 1.7m in places and some voids exceeded 0.4 deep.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Estates will progress the repairs through the proposal set out by Ivan Scott Associates:

1. Measure up, get permissions and mobilise to get a small excavator on the beach in a week of low water daytime tides.
2. Clean up all debris, kelp fragments and all loose pebbles and sand to get down to large stones that have not moved. Work in short lengths in parallel with step 3 to avoid collapse of wall.
3. Using 20mm reinforced bars at close centres, drive in stakes to restrain formwork extending above the level of the underside of the concrete wall base.
4. Pour 40N structural concrete pump mix to make it easy to poker into voids and use a long rebar.
5. In preparation for rock armour, it is recommended to lay a non-woven heavy-duty geotextile to act as a filter layer.
6. It is vital to protect this area from high scour environment using very large stones as rock armour, all major stone to be at least 5 tonnes.

5.0 Recommendation

To protect the integrity of the seawall and promenade, these works are deemed essential. Elected Members are asked to note the contents of this report.