

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Environmental Improvement Scheme</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 October 2023
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation.
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity and Place/ Regeneration Officer

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£133,159 – ICT £1,220,890 – Construction (100% funded by DfC)
Included in Current Year Estimates	Not applicable
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	Existing Staff

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>N/A</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the successful completion of the Environmental Improvement Scheme at Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour.**

## **2.0 Background**

The Environmental Improvement Scheme at Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour was the final stage of the Department for Communities (DfC) funded works for improvements to the Portrush town area which began in the town in 2012. It serves to draw together previous projects and the final part of the Executive-endorsed £17m Portrush Regeneration Programme.

The final design involved environmental improvements largely to the Harbour walkway on Kerr Street. It extends from Station Square to the Harbour and on to Lower Main Street to link with previous improvements carried out during the Portrush Regeneration Project. Improvements have included the widening of pathways, resurfacing, improved lighting, additional seating and the installation of railings to certain areas.

Stage One of the Capital Works Project Management process was approved by Leisure and Development on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Stage One was 100% funded by DfC at a value of £113,159 and took the project to Outline Business Case stage – full scheme design (including cost estimates, planning approval (where applicable), and preparation of the tender for construction works.

Moving to Stage Two of the Capital Works Project Management process was approved by Leisure and Development on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022. On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Leisure and Development Committee considered the tender report for the construction phase and approved the appointment of the successful tenderer at a Stage Two at a cost of £1.4m.

Works to the Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour area commenced in November 2022 and were completed on time and within budget on 30 September 2023.

The official launch of the Scheme took place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and a press release was issued to the local press. News of the event was also posted to the Council website, X Twitter and Facebook as per **Annex A** and the link below:

<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/reception-marks-completion-of-portrush-kerr-street-and-harbour-public-realm>

## **Annex A – Press Release: Reception marks completion of Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Public Realm scheme**

Wed, September 20, 2023

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has hosted a special reception at Portrush Town Hall to mark the completion of the **Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Public Realm scheme**.

It represents one of the final stages of the Department for Communities multi-million pound commitment to regeneration throughout the town.

The scheme involved the upgrading of lighting, paving to the pedestrian walkways from Station Square to the west side of the Harbour and also incorporated special features such as increased and accessible seating, improved walkways and historical story boards.

**Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan**, welcomed the improvements saying: “Over the past decade Portrush has benefitted from the Department for Communities commitment to fund regeneration works and this latest scheme represents one of the final pieces of the jigsaw for improvements to the town.

“Council continues to invest in our town centres to make them welcoming places where people want to spend time enjoying the scenery, exploring our shops, local businesses, and attractions.

“Portrush is a great example of how working with partners such as DfC can deliver improvements that attract greater business, hospitality and recreational investment, as well as creating safer and more appealing surroundings for locals and visitors alike.

“I would like to extend our special thanks to the Department for Communities for their long-standing commitment and support to improve and upgrade so many areas of Portrush. This has been brought to a fitting conclusion with the improvements to the Kerr Street and Harbour area.”

The scheme was designed to complement the improvement works in other areas of the town and incorporate necessary safety measures, whilst striving to retain the essential character of this popular area.

After the initial design work and public consultation was concluded, the work moved into the construction phase of the project in November 2022.

The financial commitment for works to this area was almost £1.4 million with the Department for Communities providing 100% funding to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to progress the design scheme and undertake the construction.

**Mark O’Donnell from the Department for Communities** said: “Regeneration is a collaborative effort, involving government at all levels, stakeholders and, most importantly, the local community itself.

“Today, there is a real sense of collective achievement among all those who played a part in this transformative project in Portrush. In marking the culmination of work which began

before the 2019 Open and in the lead up to the upcoming Open in 2025, I applaud all those involved.

“I hope the benefits of this investment will be enjoyed for many years to come, and ensure that Portrush continues to be a place where people want to work, visit and live.”

**Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Public Realm Scheme** *The total cost of this assignment is £1,220,980. The Department for Communities is providing all the funding with £113,159 provided for the design stage.*



