

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Blue Flag and Seaside Awards

9th June 2015

For Information

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition and Transformation Prosperity Health & Wellbeing Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Richard Gillen
Cost: (If applicable)	

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Members regarding the Blue Flag Beach Awards and Seaside Awards.

Background

At the 2015 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Beach Awards the North Coast's stunning coastline was well represented with the Mayor accepting six Blue Flags and three Seaside Awards on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Of particular note was the twenty fifth consecutive Blue Flag being awarded to Benone Strand with Downhill, Castlerock, Portrush West and White Rocks also receiving the award. Ballycastle Marina also played its part as a Blue Flag marina.

The Blue Flag Award is an independent recognition of environmental excellence run by the non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Worldwide there are over 2,000 Blue Flag beaches in 36 countries.

The Blue Flag award works towards sustainable management of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, safety and lifeguard provision and other services.

In addition Portrush East Strand, Ballycastle and Waterfoot all received Seaside Awards which recognises that whilst these beaches may not meet the high standards of bathing water quality, they are managed to the same standard as a Blue Flag beach with respect to lifeguard provision, information and facilities.

The following sites managed by Council have been awarded Blue Flag, Seaside Resort or Seaside Rural status.

Name of Beach	Award
Magilligan, Benone	Blue Flag
Magilligan, Downhill	Blue Flag
Castlerock	Blue Flag
Portrush West	Blue Flag
Whiterocks	Blue Flag

Ballycastle Marina	Blue Flag
Portrush East	Seaside Resort
Ballycastle	Seaside Resort
Waterfoot	Seaside Rural