

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNCIL HARBOURS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING INTERESTS.</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	A Sustainable, Accessible Environment
Lead Officer	Head of Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£26,755.17
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</b>
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail an opportunity to avail of funding as part of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to enhance Harbour infrastructure and improve H&S for the commercial fishermen operating from them.

## 2.0 **Background**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council operate and manage several harbour facilities across the north coast. Several of the harbours provide a safe haven for fishermen to operate their licenced fishing vessels. In total, there are approximately 22 local fishing vessels with some visiting fishing vessels operating from Ballycastle and Portrush during local seasonal fisheries.

In 2014 CBC applied for and received grant funding of £188,932 under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) to conduct infrastructure enhancements to Portrush and Portstewart harbours. The grant provided 75% funding towards harbour infrastructure improvements and required a 25% Council contribution to complete the financial investment.

The works were completed successfully in 2015 and have benefited fishermen within the ports of Portrush and Portstewart. As part of ongoing consultation with fishermen across the Borough, further enhancement works have been identified within a number of harbours, including Portrush and Portstewart. An opportunity exists within the current European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF), the successor to the previous EFF fund.

The current EMFF programme provides assistance for Harbour Authorities to improve their Harbour infrastructure or services to the benefit of the fishermen. The applicable “measure” in this case, is reference to enhancing safety for the fishermen who use the facilities daily and help sustain the industry position at our ports.

The works identified include the following items;

- **New fuel supply berth** – Ballycastle Harbour
- **CCTV** – Ballycastle, Redbay & Portrush Harbours
- **Quayside water supplies** – Portstewart & Redbay Harbours
- **Storage totes** – Portrush, Ballycastle & Rathlin Harbours
- **Quayside landing davits** - Portrush, Ballycastle & Rathlin Harbours
- **Quayside fenders** – Ballycastle, Rathlin, Portstewart, Ballintoy & Portballintrae Harbours
- **Quayside ladders** - Ballycastle, Rathlin, Ballintoy & Portballintrae Harbours
- **Improved quayside access gates** – Ballycastle Harbour
- **Equipment storage unit** – Ballycastle Harbour

With the assistance of Councils Funding Unit - the Council's Harbour Master has applied to the EMFF programme and has secured letters of offer totalling £177,460.52 from the DAERA grants department to support the improvements identified by the fishermen.

Figure 1. Breakdown of the project values are listed below;

LOCATION	TOTAL PROJECT SPEND	EMFF GRANT AVAILABLE		COUNCIL CONTRUBUTION	
REDBAY	£20,521.96	87.50%	£17,956.71	12.50%	£2,565.25
BALLYCASTLE	£83,870.30	87.50%	£73,386.51	12.50%	£10,483.79
RATHLIN	£41,946.35	87.50%	£36,703.05	12.50%	£5,243.30
BALLINTOY	£9,665.55	75.00%	£7,249.17	25.00%	£2,416.38
PORTBALLINRAE	£9,665.55	87.50%	£8,437.35	12.50%	£1,228.20
PORTRUSH	£15,033.50	87.50%	£13,154.31	12.50%	£1,879.19
PORTSTEWART	£23,512.48	87.50%	£20,573.42	12.50%	£2,939.06
TOTALS	£204,215.69		£177,460.52		£26,755.17

Total Council contribution = **£26,755.17**  
 Total project value = £204,215.69

### 3.0 Project Outcomes/Benefits

Completion of the proposed project will;

- Contribute to decreasing Councils risk level within Harbour facilities in line with the recent revisions of H&S and risk assessments.
- Enhance working conditions for the commercial fishermen that use Council Harbour facilities to operate their businesses and livelihood.
- Help sustain the level of commercial fishing within the Causeway Coast and Glens area and provide modernised infrastructure to support future

### 4.0 For Decision

It is recommended that the Members accept the funding assistance to improve Harbour infrastructure for the commercial fishermen and to authorise an expenditure of £26,755.17 to contribute to these works.