

West Bay, Portrush – Beach Access Infrastructure Improvements	12th February 2019
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Promote our tourism offer locally and internationally Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing and Cohesive Community
Outcome	Improved access to our natural environment. Development of visitor economy and health and well-being opportunities.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation
Cost: (If applicable)	£703,000

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed and complete on Stage 2 of the Council’s Capital Investment process for works at West Bay, Portrush. (Complete procurement to Final Tender Report and produce the Final Business Case).

Background

In November 2018 a report was brought to Council detailing issues regarding safe public access at West Bay Portrush. Stage 1 approval was given for the assessment of solutions to address the issues.

Doran Consulting has been appointed to develop outline designs and cost estimates.

Key Issues

- At the Black Rock end of West Bay, the access point to the beach on one side of the ramp is permanently inaccessible due to failed structure.
- On the other side of the ramp Officers need to closely monitor sand levels and close the access when levels fall below the point where the ramp meets the beach (again due to failed infrastructure).
- At the south pier end of the promenade, Officers have identified conflict between pedestrian access and maintenance vehicles such as tractors and surf rakes (beach cleaning equipment) accessing the beach. This concern is concentrated around the width of access to allow safe movement of vehicles onto the beach.

The locations of the access points can be seen in **Annex A**.

Proposed Interventions for Consideration

1. Removal of existing ramp at Black Rock end and installation of a fully DDA compliant pedestrian ramp onto West Bay beach.
2. A reconfiguration of the public space leading to the promenade and beach at the south pier end to allow safe access and egress for Council vehicles onto the beach.

Costs

The Infrastructure team has worked on outline costs prior to full design and are as follows;

- Works comprising Pedestrian Access and Ramp widening - £703k
- Works comprising Pedestrian Access only - £581k

These costs include all professional fees, site investigations and statutory application charges.

Next Steps

Members are asked to consider both elements and the proposals for addressing the issues. An Officer from the Infrastructure team will present on design solutions and costs at the February Leisure and Development Committee meeting. As outlined in the previous report in November 2018, the repair to the pedestrian access at Blackrock end, if approved, could be incorporated as part of the revetment repairs offering a saving of £80,000 (as part of the Infrastructure scheme being developed to repair the sea defences at West Bay). The ramp widening proposal at the harbour end could potentially be realised through a separate procurement process depending on Members investment decisions at Stage 3 of the Capital Works process.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to give consideration to the design proposals, and consider approval for the advancement to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Project Management process (full design and procurement of a contractor before reverting to Council for investment decision).

Annex A



Improved Vehicular Access Point from South Pier - Area A works



New Pedestrian & Wheelchair Access Point - Promenade West - Area B works



Aerial view identifying 2no. work zones