



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Seaport Avenue, Portballintrae, Coastal Erosion</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	The Leisure and Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 June 2021
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting our Environment
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£50,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	Officer time

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	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 seek approval for immediate repair works to failed sea defence infrastructure at Seaport Avenue, Portballintrae, and to carry out a site investigation and ground assessment to determine the stability and potential for future erosion within the targeted locality.

## **2.0 Background**

The bay at Portballintrae has suffered in the past from coastal erosion. In May 1997 timber groynes were installed on the beach, as well as a timber palisade along the base of the cliff.

In 2005 further works were carried out to protect the cliff from wave attack and erosion and enhance retention of sand on the beach.

In 2014 a site inspection of the cliff face concluded that there was some movement along the edge of the cliff. This movement was limited to the surface topsoil strata and the overhanging vegetation, with the underlying cliff strata remaining intact.

Since 2014 there has been damage to the timber palisade at the toe of the cliff and it is no longer providing satisfactory protection from direct wave attack.

## **3.0 Ownership**

Ownership of the beach, cliff face and land behind, including the road is in Council's title and legal opinion has confirmed that the Council is responsible to take action to mitigate against further erosion and ensure safety of members of the public traversing the roadway.

## **4.0 Current Situation**

Council Officers have met with Officials from NIEA, who have advised that immediate intervention is required to reinstate any damaged sea defences at the toe of the cliff (see Annex A).

## **5.0 Proposals**

The Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Capital Works team, would like to undertake repair works to the palisades and associated sea defences at the toe of the cliff. In addition it is proposed to carry out a wider assessment and condition of the ground, cliff face and toe at the western side of the bay, adjacent to Seaport Avenue. This will require the appointment of specialist services and localised site investigations to assess the ground conditions, determine the stability and the potential for erosion. Proposals for actions to address future erosion will be investigated. Whilst no significant erosion is anticipated over the summer months, Officers would like to fast track the Capital Works Programme by integrating Stage 1 and Stage 2, to allow repair works in the early autumn. This will help to avoid difficult working conditions and possible additional erosion. It is therefore proposed to bring back to Council procurement details for the appointment of contractors etc to the August Leisure and Development meeting.

## **6.0 Cost**

The Capital Works team has estimated that the costs of completion will be in the region of £50,000.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approve:

- Complete on Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Capital Works Programme to allow immediate intervention works to prevent further erosion at the toe of the cliff. The tender report to be brought back to August Leisure and Development Committee for further consideration (estimated cost £30,000).

- Appointment of specialist services to carry out survey work and site investigations of the target area; to determine stability issues; potential for future erosion and develop remedial design solutions for future intervention (estimated costs £20,000).

**ANNEX A**

***Photo 1: Ownership title, hatched area.***

***Blue line with 'X' – target area for erosion.***



***Photo 2: Damaged Sea Defences***

