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| Title of Report: | Repairs to Gabion Wall and Coastal Path Waterfoot |
| Committee Report Submitted To: | Leisure & Development Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 20 February 2024 |
| For Decision or For Information | For Decision |
| To be discussed in Committee | NO |

| Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23) | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 wellbeing opportunities. |
| Lead Officer | Head of Service – Tourism & Recreation |

| Budgetary Considerations | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cost of Proposal | £60,000 (initial estimated cost) |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | NO |
| Capital/Revenue | Capital |
| Code | |
| Staffing Costs | |

| Screening Requirements | 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

The purpose of this report is to update Members on a coastal erosion issue at Waterfoot Beach and to seek approval to allow Officers to enter into Stage 1 of the Capital Management process to assess and scope options for repair.

2.0 Background

The bay at Waterfoot has suffered in the past from coastal erosion. At the beginning of November 2023, the European windstorm Ciaran severely affected the beach entrance and chestnut paling and sea defences. The storm removed approximately three to four feet of sand off the beach damaging the gabion wall and raised footpath above the beach. (Please see images 1 – 3)

Inspections were carried out by Coast & Countryside and the Estates team and deemed that in the current condition the access along the path posed a serious Health & Safety risk to members of the public accessing the beach. The Estates team secured the access by blocking off with barriers and signage.

Ownership of the beach, gabions, and land behind, including the hinterland is in Council's title and Council is responsible to take action to mitigate against further erosion and ensure safety of members of the public traversing the footpath.

3.0 Proposals

The Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Capital Works team, would like to undertake repair works to the sea defences and path. 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. Officers would like to initiate the Capital Works Programme Stage 1, to allow the potential for repair works. Subject to the Capital Works, and Council decision making process, Officers would be keen to initiate and complete repairs prior to November 2024. This will help to avoid difficult working conditions and possible additional erosion later in the year.

Initial analysis indicates that the likely costs will be in the region of £60,000 (subject to completion of Stage 1 and Stage 2). Based on the visit to site and the discussions with Councils Infrastructure team the length of the wall to be repaired is approximately 80m.

4.0 Options

As per the Framework document for Marine and Coastal Engineering, it is recommended to appoint the Consultants Byrne Looby to prepare the Stage 1 Feasibility and Outline Design report.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council to complete on Stage 1 of the Capital Works prior to advancement of this project.

Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

