

PAYMENT FOR ERECTION OF EMERGENCY FENCING WORK AT SOUTH SHORE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Leader Councillor G Clements
Councillor G Blackwell
LEAD OFFICER: Keith Parker – Head of Leisure and Environmental Services
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Fyfe – Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer

Summary and Recommendation:

The purpose of this report is to request that members consent to pay from contingencies for the erection of 100m length of fence to make safe dangerous and unstable cliffs at South Shore, Whitehaven following the fatal accident on New Years Day.

Plus erection of 5 warning signs on metal poles cast in concrete and 4 signs (backed on wooden board) secured to existing fence.

The invoice total is £5054.05 plus VAT. There is no other budget available for this work and the recommendation therefore is that this budget needs to be taken from the Council's contingency provision for 2007/08 which currently stands at £120,085 .

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This is a retrospective request to agree to fund – from Contingencies - essential works carried out in response to the South Shore tragedy on New Years Day.

1.2 In December 2006 an Urgent Action form was signed in respect of fencing work at South Shore, Whitehaven. This was in response to concerns over increased rates of cliff erosion and public safety. As a result the existing fence was re-aligned and warning signs were erected.

1.3 On New Years Day a fatal accident occurred at South Beach when a section of the soft cliff collapsed on top of a member of the public whilst they were standing on the beach. High winds over the Christmas and New Year period had destroyed the warning signs erected earlier in December.

1.4 The land at South Shore is owned by Copeland Borough Council and an immediate response was required to ensure the area was made safe. Following consultation with Liam Murphy (Chief Executive), Keith Parker (Head of Leisure and Environmental Services), Vic Emmerson (Environmental Health Manager), Mike Sharrock (Health and Safety Officer) and others the urgent decision was taken to extend the existing fence so as to 'deny' access to the beach. A further 9 signs were erected, replacing those that had blown away. 5 of these signs were secured to metal posts set in concrete and a further 4 backed onto wooden board secured to the fence.

2. CURRENT POSITION

2.1 The site has now been secured with the 100m length of fence and signs erected. Maysons Brothers Ltd who carried out the work have now been paid out of the Flood and Coastal Defence Budget. This budget has been earmarked for other important works and it is therefore requested that this budget is reimbursed from Contingency funds.

3 LEGAL POSITION

3.1 Copeland Borough Council is the landowner at South Shore and the urgent and immediate action in response to the incident was taken on New Years Day to secure the site.

4. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

Not applicable

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

5.1 The invoice total is £5054.05 plus VAT. There is no other budget available for this work and the recommendation therefore is that this budget needs to be taken from the Council's contingency provision for 2007/08 which currently stands at £120,085 .

5.2 It is envisaged that staff costs will be subsumed within normal staff working hours.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 It will be necessary to continue to monitor the site for further erosion. The rate of erosion has increased in recent months and it is possible that the fence may need to be re-aligned again within 1-2 years time.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 None.

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.1 It is recommended:-

- (a) that members approve the payment of the invoice from contingencies.

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team
Vic Emmerson, Environmental Health Manager
Cllr Geoff Blackwell (Portfolio Holder)
Mike Sharrock, Health and Safety Officer

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Yes
Impact on Sustainability	Yes
Impact on Rural Proofing	Yes
Health and Safety Implications	Yes
Project and Risk Management	See Paragraph 6 above
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Yes
Children and Young Persons Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act Implications	Yes

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO