

## **WHITEHAVEN TO PARTON COASTAL FOOTPATH – CLIFF REPAIRS**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Elaine Woodburn, Leader, Portfolio Holder for Asset Management.

**LEAD OFFICER:** Pat Graham, Corporate Director – People and Places.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Clinton Boyce, Legal Services Manager.

### **WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?**

The report provides an update to members in respect of cliff management work being undertaken by the Council to deal with slippage of soil and other materials and a risk of rock fall between Whitehaven and Parton. The works are being carried out to protect members of the public who use footpaths close to the areas of risk and property owners whose properties may be affected. The benefits therefore relate to the safety of the community which the Council regards as being of paramount importance.

### **WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE? (Eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)**

This report provides an update to members on progress being made with matters which have previously come before the Executive on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The report requests a decision in respect of works necessary to one further area – the detailed recommendation is contained in the part II report due to tenders being invited for such work. Decisions of this nature invariably incur expenditure above the key decision level and additions to the capital programme which require Executive approval.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (a) that the current progress on works relating to the stabilisation of the cliff at the rear of Bransty Road properties be noted; and
- (b) that in respect of the cliff work repairs outlined in the report that expenditure up to the level specified in part II be authorised subject to the conditions set out in the recommendation in that report, such expenditure being financed from the General Fund Reserve.

## **1. CURRENT POSITION – SOIL SLIPPAGE WORKS**

- 1.1 Members will recall that at their meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 they approved works being carried out to remove a risk of further soil slippage of part of an embankment located between the rear of 1-14 Bransty Road, Whitehaven and an access-way which runs from Bransty Row and Parton. Previous expenditure of £29,675 dealing with immediate problems arising from the soil slippage was noted. The cause of the soil slippage which had occurred to date was caused by a mixture of high saturation levels in the slope and soil nailing was recommended as the preferred solution.
- 1.2 Members approved long term works being carried out by soil nailing which would last up to 100 years. This would allow the footpath traversing the area to be kept open and the roadway below the cliff face leading from Bransty Row to the skatepark to be kept open.
- 1.3 The current position is that soil nailing design works should be completed week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> March and that tenders will then be invited for the works themselves. Due to tenders being invited the estimated cost is not contained in this report. It is possible that works could start within the next 6 weeks and then last up to 5 weeks. Soil nailing itself will take 2 weeks with planting and drainage taking 3 weeks.
- 1.4 Landowners affected have been approached and their consent sought to the works being carried out.
- 1.5 The diversion of part of public footpath 431001 which was lost during the slippage in 2009 is in the process of being diverted to an equally commodious and much safer route. The Planning Panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010 approved its diversion.

## **2.0 CURRENT POSITION – CLIFF EROSION**

- 2.1 Members will also recall considering a report received from Atkins in December 2010 which highlighted moderate and high risks arising from cliff erosion of land between Lonsdale House and Parton, part only of which lies within the ownership of the Council. The attached plan shows the areas involved. A large part of the area edged red and all of the area edged green are within the Council's ownership whilst the area edged yellow is in unknown ownership. There are varying degrees of erosion requiring different degrees of attention. The coastal strategy plan will allow for regular inspections and monitoring of these areas.
- 2.2 Negotiations are continuing with Network Rail regarding their responsibilities for the area.

- 2.3 Those risks highlighted as moderate and two areas described as high risk will be dealt with by the coastal management strategy which is currently being prepared. The risk regarded as high in a further area requires more immediate attention and the report in part II deals with putting budget in place for possible works in this area.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the current position in respect of the soil slippage.
- 3.2 In respect of the cliff erosion members are asked to endorse the recommendations set out in the part II report.
- 3.3 The former Whitehaven Borough Council acquired the land affected in 1959. The land now causing problems came with the land needed for the Bransty housing estate. Land between the railway and New Road was acquired at a time when the cliffs were relatively safe and the legal position was such that adjacent landowners had reduced liabilities to each other in terms of support or rock fall.
- 3.4 The Council has recently addressed a variety of dangers which have arisen at the same time without warning. It is hoped that once the current high risk area is resolved a more strategic and budget planned approach can take place for future repairs dealing with the cliff areas between Saltom and Parton.

### **4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS**

- 4.1 Monitoring officer comments- are detailed throughout the report.
- 4.2 Section 151 officer comments – the work can be financed from the General Fund Reserve.

### **5. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?**

Any works necessary will be externally managed by Atkins. The report itself is about risk management. This may be developed further through a cliff management strategy for the area.

**6. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?**

None other than enhanced safety in the area and no loss of land.

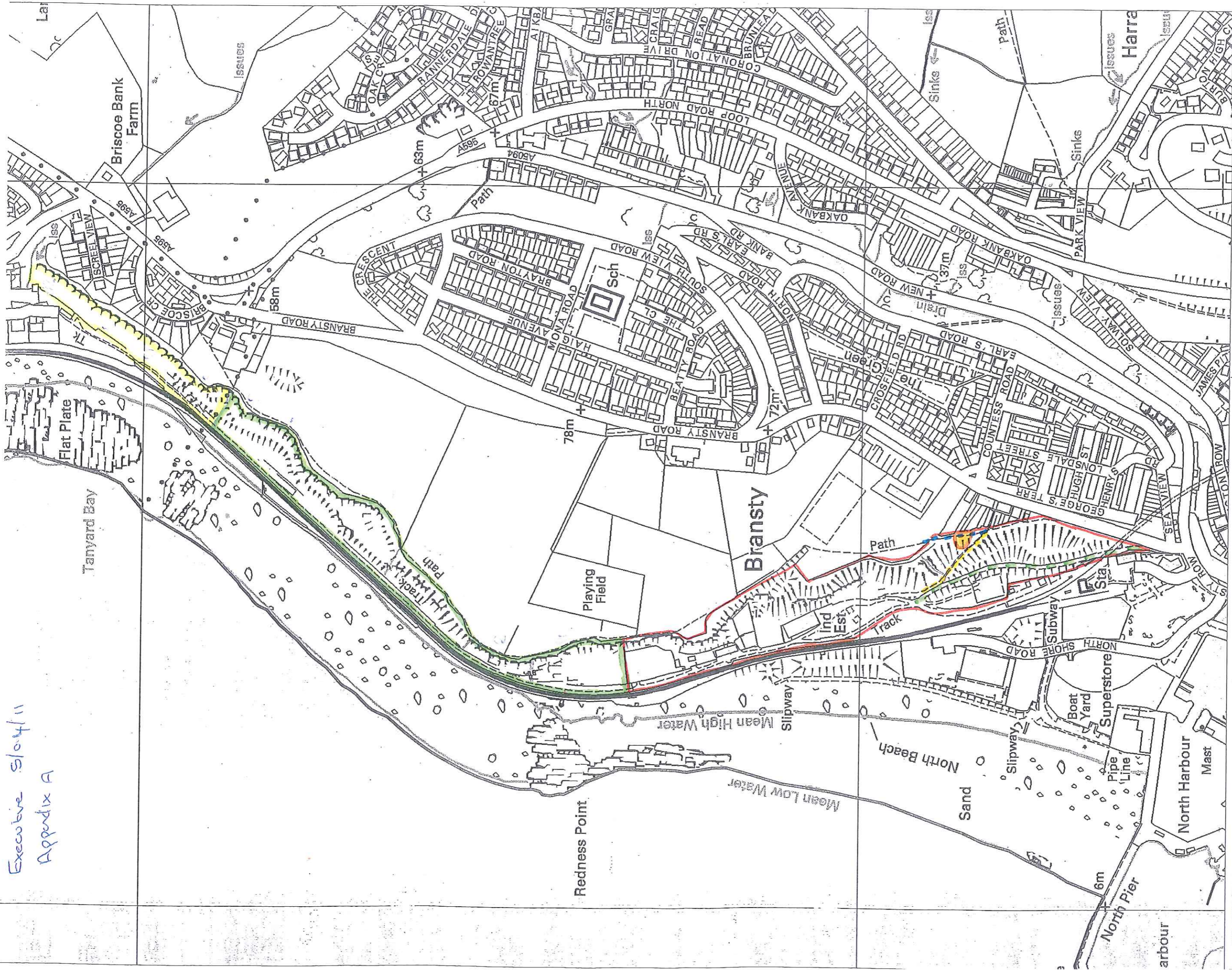
**List of Appendices**

Plan showing risk areas extracted from report dated December 2010.

**List of Background Documents:**

Report from Atkins dated December 2010 which is an exempt document under paragraphs 3 and 5 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Executive S104/11  
Appendix A



NORTH SHORE - PARTON  
PROVISION

Legal & Democratic Services  
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