DRAFT
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OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Ref. No:			
Type of decision:	**Urgent decision**		
Decision Maker:	**Chief Executive Officer**		
Service Area:	**Commercial Operations, Seafront**	**Date:**	
Contact Name:	**Anthony Rogers, Head of Seafront**	**Tel No:**	**01202 123313**
E-mail:	**anthony.rogers@bcpcouncil.gov.uk**		
Subject:	**Seafront Infrastructure Funding – East Cliff**		

Decision taken:

To reallocate £1.76m Levelling Up Funding (LUF) from the Bournemouth Pier restoration scheme to undertake urgent cliff stabilisation works at East Cliff, Bournemouth.

Reasons for the decision:

To urgently address key infrastructural failures at East Cliff to:

- mitigate immediate risks to public safety
- prevent further cliff collapse and infrastructural issues
- support the continuity of key seafront services and income generation
- reinstate promenade and visitor access
- secure current procurement opportunities, and
- reduce future repair liabilities

Background:

Since approval of the £19.99m Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Seafront Infrastructure Programme in 2023, further deterioration and recent inspections have identified an urgent need to increase funding for cliff stabilisation works at East Cliff, one of the Council's highest-risk seafront assets.

The programme originally allocated £4.31m to stabilise the East Flank following a significant landslip in 2016. However, a further landslip occurred on the West Flank in 2024, creating an additional requirement for major stabilisation works. A substantial exclusion zone remains in place, restricting public access, limiting the operation of key facilities and impacting income generation until permanent works can be completed.

A competitive tender process for stabilisation of both flanks was undertaken in 2025. Four compliant bids were received, with the lowest-priced tender exceeding the budget currently available. Additional funding is therefore required to enable delivery of the full stabilisation scheme and address the significant safety, operational and financial risks associated with the site.

Consultations undertaken:

- Seafront Development Group (cross-service officer group)
- Cliff Management Group (cross-service officer group)
- Corporate Management Board
- Cabinet

Note: It is the responsibility of the 'Responsible Officer' – that is the Officer making the decision – to obtain the comments and signature of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer before taking the decision and then send the completed record of the decision to Democratic Services for publication.

Financial and Resourcing Implications:

The £19.9m LUF awarded to the Council by MHCLG in 2023 has been reallocated as follows:

Scheme	Original allocation £m	Spend to date £m	Remaining funds £m	Virement for CEO approval £m	Revised allocation £m
B'mth Pier restoration	9.57	0.31	9.26	(1.76)	7.50
East Cliff stabilisation	4.31	0.47	3.84	1.76	5.60
Other infrastructure projects	6.11	4.72	1.40	0	1.40
TOTAL	**19.99**	**5.50**	**14.50**	**0**	**14.50**

Using available LUF funding to allocate additional resources to East Cliff provides a cost-effective solution to a key infrastructure risk, enabling works to be delivered sooner and helping to avoid further asset failure, emergency expenditure, and future financial pressures. If this funding is not utilised, the Council may need to fund essential works through borrowing or other financing arrangements, creating additional revenue and budget pressures.

It is recognised that the reallocation reduces the funding available for works to Bournemouth Pier, which remains a longer-term infrastructure challenge for the Council. The remaining allocation will however fund the removal of the landing stages due to their deteriorated condition and the associated health and safety risks. Despite access restrictions being in place, the structures are subject to frequent unauthorised access by members of the public, particularly young people. Urgent safety works to begin removing the metal grilles and timber piles are scheduled to commence shortly.

The remaining funding will also support delivery of the most critical sub-structural repair works, aiming to safeguard the pier's continued operation and prolong the life of the structure. Alternative construction methods and technologies will be explored to identify the most cost-effective solutions and maximise the extent of repairs that can be undertaken within the available budget, while a longer-term investment strategy is considered.

As LUF funding must be expended by 31 March 2028, reallocating resources to projects that are more advanced or address immediate infrastructure risks will increase the likelihood of full programme delivery within the funding period.

Name: Matthew Filmer **Date: 5/8/26**

Signature:

Legal Implications:

This decision in being made pursuant to the powers delegated to the Chief Executive under reference 68 of the scheme of delegation to officers. (Part 3 of the Constitution.)
Consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer was undertaken at the meeting of the Corporate Management Board on 27 July 2026.

The reallocation of the funds is in accordance with the revised conditions and increased funding flexibility under the Local Regeneration Fund. MHCLG approval is not required to alter project activities proved that conditions such as value for money and expenditure deadlines are adhered to.

All decisions, procurement exercises, contracts or project delivery arrangements arising from the decision will be subject to compliance with relevant legislation, the Council's Constitution and applicable governance requirements and appropriate legal advice must be sought at the appropriate time.

Name: **Date:**

Signature:

Risk Assessment:

The decision enables the Council to address significant risks to public safety, infrastructure resilience, service continuity and income generation arising from cliff instability at East Cliff.

The proposed reallocation of Levelling Up Fund resources will help mitigate these risks by directing available funding towards one of the Council's highest-priority infrastructure projects.

The current cost estimate and delivery assumptions remain subject to refinement through further technical assessments and construction activities. Unforeseen ground conditions, structural issues, supply chain pressures or constraints, or other project-specific risks could affect the affordability, scope or programme of the works. Appropriate governance, monitoring and risk management arrangements will be maintained to manage these uncertainties, and any material changes will be reported through the Council's capital programme monitoring and reporting processes.

Bournemouth Pier remains a longer-term infrastructure challenge for the Council. The proposed allocations will safeguarding the piers' continued operation while a longer-term investment strategy is considered.

Impact Assessments:

Human Resources

Delivery of the LUF programme is being led by the Seafront Service, with project ownership by the Director for Commercial Operations. Day to day commissioning activity is managed by the Seafront Development Manager with strategic support from the Council's Seafront Development Group. All project delivery costs including project management and support service costs are to be included within the project budget.

Equality

The decision and associated works support the continued availability of accessible coastal infrastructure and public access routes. Closure or deterioration of key seafront assets may disproportionately affect older people, disabled people and those reliant on accessible transport and recreation facilities.

Sustainability

The decision provides opportunities to improve the long-term sustainability, resilience and condition of the Council's coastal infrastructure assets. As individual schemes are developed, due consideration will be given to the Council's climate and ecological commitments, including opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, enhance resource efficiency, improve climate resilience and support biodiversity where practicable.

Associated works will be subject to the appropriate environmental assessment and consent processes, including consideration of impacts on designated sites, protected species, habitats and the wider coastal environment. Mitigation measures will be incorporated into project design and delivery as required to ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and policy.

Public Health

The decision supports the ongoing management and improvement of the Council's seafront infrastructure assets. Although no specific public health impacts have been identified at this stage, the maintenance of safe, resilient and accessible coastal infrastructure contributes positively to public health, wellbeing and community use of the seafront. Any health and safety implications associated with individual projects will be considered as part of their detailed design and delivery.

Information for publication / not for publication The Council publishes information related to cliff maintenance and stability on its website and other communications channels which will be updated in light of the decision.

Any declaration of interest by the Officer responsible for the decision	Nature of Interest

Note: No Officer having a personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Officer taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
No			

Decision taken by: (print name and designation)

Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive Officer

Signature: **Date of Decision:**

Date Decision Effective: Immediate

Date of Publication of record of Major Operational decision: As shown on web site

Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls