

## 8. SUMNER PROMENADE: ACCESS OVER THE SEA WALL

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's recommendation to the Board to approve a ramp to provide access to the promenade over the sea wall, to serve the needs of handicapped people, in particular those in wheelchairs.

### BACKGROUND

The Board has considered a previous proposal to put a cut in the sea wall.

At the Board seminar on 26 February 2004, the Board decided to "abandon the proposal to put a cut in the sea wall, on the basis that the minor social benefits provided by a cut would be outweighed by the environmental and ecological risks".

### INVESTIGATION

Since the Board's decision not to proceed with a cut in the wall, staff have undertaken further work in an endeavour to meet the needs of handicapped people for access from the Esplanade to the promenade.

### PROPOSAL

At the junction of Menzies Street and the Esplanade, a set of steps exist for access across the sea wall to the promenade.

This can be converted to provide dual steps and ramp access similar to locations further north along the promenade. A 10 metre long ramp would be required on both sides of the wall to complement the existing steps. Minor adjustments to the existing path across from the Esplanade footpath would also be necessary.

Costs have been calculated by City Solutions structural engineers at \$23,000 for the complete work, inclusive of the access path and surrounding lawn restoration.

### DISCUSSION

Many requests have been received by the Board to provide access for handicapped people from the Esplanade to the promenade.

At the Scarborough end of the promenade, there is no provision for such access other than by the paddling pool.

The Menzies Street junction is a suitable area due to the proximity of the Edith Cavell Home Hospital and the gentle gradient of the lawn by the proposed ramp.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While calculations for the cost of this project are \$23,000, there is currently no funding allocation within the Greenspace Unit capital budget.

Upon approval of the proposed ramp, funding would need to be sought.

### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Committee recommend to the Board that the proposed ramp to provide access over the sea wall at Menzies Street for handicapped people be approved, subject to funding becoming available.