Local MPs David Amess and James Duddridge are delighted with their success in securing funding to fix the cliff slippage at Leigh - and are continuing to seek further funding for the slipping sites closer to Southend town centre.

David Amess, who is the MP for Southend West, and James Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, have received notice from the Government that just over £1 million has been allocated for repairs at two sites at Cliff Parade and Belton Way.

This follows sustained calls by David over many years and repeated calls by James since he was elected in 2005.

In response to the announcement, David said, “I am absolutely delighted that the Minister has responded positively to the request that James and myself made in the House of Commons for financial help for cliff slippage. Now, perhaps, the cliffs can be restored to their former glory.”

James said, “The news about funding for the cliff slippage is brilliant, but the battle’s not yet over. We’ll still be pressing the Government to provide funding to repair the slip at the bandstand, a situation that’s been allowed to go on for far too long. The Council are committed to solving it, but without help from central Government they simply couldn’t afford to.

“I feel very strongly about this issue - so much so that I raised it in my very first speech to Parliament back in June 2005 and have repeatedly spoken to the Minister orally and in writing. I know David Amess has been campaigning for cliffs funding since even before I was elected, when he worked with my predecessor. We’re relieved that someone in Whitehall has finally sat up and listened to the danger that the cliff slip problem poses to our area.”

The repairs will address the problem of water absorption and nearby cliff falls which have created a risk of land slippage. In a letter from the Transport Minister, James and David were told that the Minister has “approved the allocation of £1.013m towards a scheme to carry out highway repairs” at the two sites, and that Southend-on-Sea Borough Council “have commenced the work, which is scheduled for completion this spring.”

However, James and David will be continuing to seek funding for a solution to the cliff slippage problems closer to Southend town centre.

Promoted on their own behalves by James Duddridge MP and David Amess MP, both of House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and paid for from their respective Communications Allowances.
Who’s your local MP?

David Amess and James Duddridge work together for the residents of Southend - but only one of them is your local representative in Parliament. If you need help or advice, or want to speak to your MP for any reason, here’s who you should contact:

**Email:** david@davidamess.com  
**Tel:** 020 7219 3452  
**Fax:** 020 7219 2245  
**Write to:** David Amess MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

www.davidamess.com

**MP for Southend West**

David Amess

If you want to be totally certain, visit www.theyworkforyou.com and enter your postcode.

**Representing the Southend wards of:**  
Belfairs, Blenheim Park, Chalkwell, Eastwood Park, Leigh, Prittlewell (west side), St Laurence, West Leigh and Westborough

**Representing the Rochford wards of:**  
Barling & Sutton, Foulness & Great Wakering and Rochford

**Email:** james@jamesduddridge.com  
**Tel:** 01702 616 135  
**Fax:** 01702 619 071  
**Write to:** James Duddridge MP Strand House 742 Southchurch Road, SS1 2PS

www.jamesduddridge.com

**MP for Southend East**

James Duddridge

**Representing the Southend wards of:**  
Kursaal, Milton, Prittlewell (east side), St Luke’s, Shoeburyness, Southchurch, Thorpe, Victoria and West Shoebury
Tackling local flood risk

The risk of flooding is ever present in Southend given its coastal location, not least thanks to climate change and the corresponding rise in sea levels that will only get worse in future years - and no-one wants a repeat of the great flood of 1953, which some local residents still remember vividly.

James and David take this risk very seriously and work closely with the relevant local and national authorities to ensure that Southend is both protected and prepared for the storms that come our way. James is also the Vice-Chairman of the cross-party Flood Prevention Group in the House of Commons, where he uses Southend’s experience and needs as a catalyst to help get national flood prevention policy on the right track.

One particular local project that is currently ongoing will shore up the defences at Great Wakering to make sure they remain fit for purpose in future years. James was pleased to work with the Environment Agency at the design stage, when they consulted widely in the local area to get residents’ views and keep them informed, and remains in touch with them as the project develops.

The Environment Agency has a free service that gives people advance warning of flooding in their area by telephone, mobile, fax or pager. If you want to sign up for the warnings, or get practical advice about how to prepare for a flood and what to do if one happens, call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

Save our Post Offices

You may already know that Post Offices around the country are under threat of closure as the whole of the network is downsized. David and James want Southend’s Post Offices to stay open as they are because they provide invaluable services for residents, and the two MPs have been campaigning to secure their futures.

The announcement about which of Southend’s branches might have to close will be made in May, but David and James aren’t waiting until then to take action. They’ve joined Essex County Council and other Essex MPs in calling for full consultation periods about any possible closures, and are on the lookout for any hints about specific branches that may be under threat.

James said, “The Post Offices in Southend and the surrounding area provide vital services that we’ve got to fight to retain. The branches provide a lifeline to local residents, especially older people. “To say that our post offices would be sorely missed if they closed would be an understatement - for many people they’re a necessity, not a luxury. How exactly are residents without a car or a computer meant to draw their pension or pay their TV licence when their local post office is no longer open?”

David also believes that funding cuts shouldn’t be allowed to affect local services without local people having their say, “It’s an outrage that someone in Whitehall can come along and make central ‘efficiency savings’ without taking the local situation into account.”

“What we need is a proper consultation period where local people can have their say on the situation in their area. We need the results of that consultation to be listened to and heard.”
As the two local Members of Parliament for Southend, we work together on behalf of your interests.

Whether you live in the east of the town or the west, we believe that you have the right to fair funding from central government, top-class health services, protection from flooding, and decent local services like buses and post-offices. By working with the Council and other local service providers, as well as raising the town’s needs in Westminster, we do our best to fight for these rights.

We also know that some of you may need help with an individual problem you have, whether it’s a difficulty getting access to the services you need or a concern you have about something going on in your neighbourhood. Each of us is here to help out our constituents, and we both hold regular surgeries where we can hear about problems face to face.

Have a look at the map on page 2 to find out which one of us is your local MP, and therefore which one of us you should get in touch with.

David Amess
MP for Southend West

James Duddridge
MP for Rochford & Southend East

PETITION:
Give us a fair deal for Southend
Sign here to have your say about the fact that Southend Council receives less funding than it should (see overleaf for full story).

Local Authority Funding (Southend)
To the House of Commons.
The Petition of the residents of Southend,
Declares that they deserve a fair funding deal for their local council so that it can provide the services to which they are entitled. And further declares that the funding received by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is too low because it is based on an incorrect calculation in the 2001 census.
The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to do everything in her power to secure a fair deal for Southend, by ensuring that the allocation of funds to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is calculated according to the true size of the local population.
And the Petitioners remain, etc.

When complete, please return to:
James Duddridge MP, Strand House, 742 Southchurch Road, Southend SS1 2PS

Data Protection Act - The answers to this survey will be recorded for the sole use of James Duddridge MP and David Amess MP. The information you have provided will not be made available to any other person/organisation.

Please use block capitals

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Are you registered to vote in local and national elections?
Remember, local Council elections are on 1st May and a General Election could be called at any time, so it’s important that you keep your registration details up-to-date to ensure that you can have your say.

To find out if you are registered, and to complete the necessary form, contact the Electoral Registration Officer at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council on 01702 215 116.

If you live in Rochford, call Rochford District Council’s Elections Line on 01702 318 187.