



Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 26 March 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Director - Resources

Lead Officer: Mark Eyre, Business Manager - Corporate Property, Ext. 5440
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Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report, Key Decision
Report Title	Update on Jubilee Bridge Maintenance Costs
Purpose of Report	To update the Cabinet on the current position regarding the proposed future maintenance requirements of the Jubilee Footbridge over the River Trent and request financial direction.
Recommendation	That Cabinet approve Option 1 as set out in the report – Replace existing softwood deck boards with hardwood timber boards.
Alternative Options Considered	There are other options available, however these options do not represent good value for money as evidenced in the body of this report.
Reason for Recommendation	The recommended course of action is considered to be the most viable option and is considered to offer value for money.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A report was presented to members in February 2023 detailing the proposed works with a series of options which could be selected in order to upkeep and maintain Jubilee Bridge. These options included estimated costs forecasted by an external Quantity Surveyor (QS) appointed by N&SDC.
- 1.2 Since this report was received by Members in February 2023, Corporate Property have undertaken a procurement exercise for the options of repair outlined in the report. The purpose of this update report is to give Members an update of the costs received through the tender exercise. With a request for a change in the recommended option from the Cabinet on the grounds of value for money.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 A procurement exercise was undertaken by Corporate Property in the summer of 2023. This gave contractors an opportunity to price for all required repair options (as detailed in the table below).
- 2.2 The outcome of this procurement exercise was that the tender returns were vastly beyond those forecasted by the quantity surveyor (QS) appointed by N&SDC. The cheapest contractor for all three repair options was Hankinson Whittle. They also scored highly on the quality assessment of the tender. A summary of the Hankinson Whittle submitted tender costs for each repair option is outlined in the table below alongside the costs estimated by the consultant quantity surveyor (QS) for each option. An explanation of the difference between the QS estimates and the tendered price return has been received. The consultant quantity surveyor stated that “The cost plan was prepared by a QS as a ‘current’ cost at the time the specification was initially compiled and when the tender returns were received, market costs had increased due to a mix of design development and construction market factors in 2023.”

Option	Predicted life expectancy	Estimated cost by Consultancy Quantity Surveyor	Lowest cost submitted and received by tendering contractor
Option 1 – Replace existing softwood deck boards with hardwood timber boards	20 – 25 years	£314,296.67 + Vat	£321,624.60 + Vat
Option 2 – Replace existing with a mild steel deck which is coated with a shell grip type anti-slip coating / finish	30 – 35 years	£323,899.67 + Vat	£487,832.40 + Vat
Option 3 – Replace existing with steel trays which are infilled with Tarmacadam to match the existing bridge	30 – 35 years	£333,499.67 + Vat	£536,960.60 + Vat

- 2.3 The preferred option recommended to Members in February 2023 was to refurbish the Jubilee Bridge as per Option 3, i.e. Replacing the existing softwood timber approach ramps with steel trays which are infilled with Tarmacadam to match the existing bridge. This was because of the predicted lifespan and durability of the product compared to cost, was justifiable at the time of reporting.
- 2.4 Since the report has been submitted and the tender returns have been received the officer opinion on the best value for money option has now changed. With the most sensible option being Option 1, to replace the existing softwood deck boards with new hardwood timber boards. This recommendation will still give a relatively long-life span for the bridge.

- 2.5 The original budget approval at Cabinet in February 2023 was £333,500. The total cost for the bridge works are quoted at £321,624 for Option 1 as defined in the table above. Given that there will be a further requirement for an ecologist watching brief for the project and some vegetation clearance the project team request that the remaining budget surplus of £11,876 is retained within the project budget to cover these additional costs.
- 2.6 The preferred contractor Hankinson Whittle have confirmed that the work can commence in the early summer of 2024, subject to Hankinson Whittle being in receipt of an order by the 31st March 2024. It is therefore requested that members are asked to approve their appointment and the instruction of Option 1 being implemented at March 2024 cabinet.
- 2.7 It is the intention of the authority for officers to continue to investigate the proposed adoption of the Jubilee Footbridge by Nottinghamshire County Council. Should any specification changes be required to facilitate the formal adoption of the bridge a further report will be brought before the Cabinet Committee.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications FIN23-24/4516

- 3.1 In the previous report regarding the same Jubilee Bridge works that went to cabinet on 21 February 2023, option 3 was approved for £333,500 funded by borrowing. Option 3 had a lifespan of 35 years and therefore had would cost £9,530 in Minimum Revenue Provision and £13,910 per year in interest.
- 3.2 Since the costs have increased to a point where it is no longer best value for money, option 1 is now being considered, which can be carried out within the existing budget, but the lifespan will be 20-25 years. This means that the revenue costs of carrying out the scheme would cost £13,340 in Minimum Revenue Provision and £17,910 per year in interest.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.