

# Report to Executive

Agenda  
Item:

**A.6**

Meeting Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Portfolio: Environment & Transport  
Key Decision: KD 34/20  
Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes  
Public / Private: Public

Title: RELEASE OF CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ESSENTIAL  
MAINTENANCE WORKS AT SKEW BRIDGE (DENTON HOLME)  
CARLISLE  
Report of: The Deputy Chief Executive  
Report Number: CS 03/21

## Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of the report is to seek Executive approval for the release of the capital allocation for the restoration of the Skew Bridge (Denton Holme). The figure of £70,000 for this project is included in the 2020/21 capital budget.

## Recommendations:

1. That the Executive approves the release of £70,000, as allocated in the 2020/21 capital programme for the restoration of the Skew Bridge (Denton Holme).
2. To award the tender to Thomas Armstrong Construction Ltd.

## Tracking

Executive:	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Skew Bridge is located on the river Caldew, to the rear of the Lidl store at Denton Holme. It formerly carried a branch railway line but is now part of the well-used cycle path from Carlisle to Dalston following the Caldew.
- 1.2 The bridge is in the ownership of the City Council, having been purchased for £1 at the time of the construction of the cycle path. The cast-iron superstructure of the bridge is sound. The timber decking, however, is in need of restoration after a number of accidents to cyclists and pedestrians due to the dilapidation of the boards and the previous non-slip surfaces.
- 1.3 After a number of unsuccessful trials with different non-slip surfaces the timber decking is currently surfaced with chicken wire. However, this is only a temporary solution until a long-term solution is found. Investment of new anti-slip decking boards is required to ensure a permanent non-slip surface for the bridge.
- 1.4 Advice from a local civil engineering company (Bingham Yates) has been sought and their specification has been put out to tender on the CHEST. The successful tenderer was Thomas Armstrong Construction Ltd who provided two options that are within budget. Further information will be sought as to which option offers the best value and the work commissioned.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The proposal is to replace the existing bridge deck with a new, non-slip version that will improve the safety of bridge users – cyclists and pedestrians – based on the proposals put forward by Bingham Yates. The work will be carried out in the autumn and winter of 2020-21.
- 2.2 There is an alternative option of not spending the money and closing the bridge. However, this would result in a significant loss of amenity for Carlisle's residents as it would cut off the riverside cycling and walking path.

## **3. RISKS**

- 3.1 There is a risk that the costs will exceed the budget – however the indicative costs provided by Bingham Yates strongly indicate that this will not be the case.

- 3.2** There is a risk that the Council will face further compensation claims as a result of personal injury if the project does not proceed.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1** Residents and user groups (e.g. Cycle Carlisle) will be informed about the planned work when we have specific start dates. Signage will also be erected giving advanced notification of the works.
- 4.2** Technical consultation with local civil engineers.

#### **5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1** The Skew Bridge forms an important link for users of the Caldew riverside cycle and pedestrian route between Carlisle and Dalston. The decking has caused problems in the recent past due to its slippery surface and the failure of anti-slip materials previously tried. This investment will protect users of the riverside path and also protect the City Council from unnecessary insurance payments.

#### **6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

- 6.1** The restoration of the Skew Bridge supports the Carlisle Plan priorities:
- Support the health and wellbeing of residents
  - Improve the local environment

**Contact Officer:          Darren Crossley**

**Ext:    7120**

#### **Appendices**

**attached to report:**

- None

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:**

- None

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL** - An appropriate contract for works should be entered into.

**FINANCE –** There is £70,000 within the current Capital Programme in 2020/21 for improvements to Skew Bridge decking. This report provides an update on the project and requests release of the funding to progress the works.

**EQUALITY –**

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –**