

<b>REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b>			
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 NOVEMBER 2001		
<b>Public</b>			
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Recorded in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Inside Policy Framework</b>			

**Title: UPDATE ON REMEDIAL WORKS TO  
IRISH GATE BRIDGE LIFTS**

**Report of: CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY**

**Report reference: TC.233/01**

**Summary:**

Further to the Executive meeting on 5 November, the report updates Members on funding the costs of the work.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Executive note the current position and that a further report will be presented to the next meeting on 17 December when recommendations in respect of funding will be made.

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## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 Members will recall that the Executive on 5 November last resolved in principle to proceed with works to the Irish Gate Bridge Lifts which include installing strengthened doors and shutters at night time, together with certain amendments to the lift tower.

1.2 It was reported that the total costs of the works would be in the sum of £25,000. In addition, the Executive agreed in principle that it should install anti-slip treatment to the steps on the Irish Gate Bridge at a cost of £5,000 and provide a contingency in the sum of £5,000 in respect of the works. The agreed package would therefore cost £35,000 and, as there was no provision in the budget, a further report was requested on proposed funding prior to any works proceeding.

1.3 It was further reported that, to proceed with the works, the views of the Millennium Commission and English Heritage on the proposals should first be sought. These views have been requested and, at the time of writing, a response has been received from English Heritage. They have broadly expressed support for the works with the exception of the roller shutters and further discussion is taking place between the Director and English Heritage to endeavour to resolve those design issues.

1.5 The question of funding for the works was deferred to enable Officers to investigate further and to await the outcome of an adjudication between the Council and one of the consultants on the Irish Gate Bridge, where the Council were claiming reimbursement of extra costs incurred in the construction works. It was anticipated that, if any award was made to the Council, this might be used to fund the cost of works to the lifts.

1.6 The claims consultants acting on behalf of the Council in the matter have now reported that the adjudicator has given his decision and has not made any award in the Council's favour. This means, therefore, that there will be no funds due to the Council from this particular adjudication. If the Executive wishes to proceed with the works to the lifts it appears that it will be necessary for them to request the Council to provide a supplementary estimate at its next meeting on 15 January 2002 unless Officers can identify other sources of funding. It is proposed to report back further on the matter to the Executive on 17 December next when the views of the Millennium Commission and the Access Group are to hand and when further advice can be given as to whether a supplementary estimate will be required.

## 2. CONSULTATION

Consultation is taking place with English Heritage, the Millennium

Commission and Carlisle Access Group.

### **3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS**

Not applicable.

### **4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS**

In the absence of officers being able to identify the scope for virement, a supplementary estimate of £35,000 will require approval by the City Council at its meeting on 15 January, before the works can be undertaken. Funding for a supplementary estimate could be met from the Capital Projects Fund. This will be addressed in the further report to be considered on 17 December.

### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1 Included in this report.

### **6. CORPORATE COMMENTS**

Not applicable.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 It is recommended that the works are proceeded with to ensure that the public interest in having access to the lifts is protected but the matter of funding and relevant approvals are currently being investigated.

### **8. EQUALITY ISSUES**

8.1 Proceeding to repair the lifts will ensure that full access across the bridge is available to all users and the Director of Environment and Development is in the process of consulting the Carlisle Access Group in respect of the proposals.

### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

### **10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The expectation is that improving the strength of the doors and installing shutters will be instrumental in reducing the level of vandalism suffered by the lifts in the past.

## **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 It is recommended that the Executive note the current position and that a further report will be presented to the next meeting on 17 December when recommendations in respect of funding will be made.

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

21.1 To enable the views of interested parties to be obtained and sources of funding to enable the lifts to be brought back into use to be investigated.

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CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY

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