

TAMAR BRIDGE AND TORPOINT FERRY JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee held at Main Hall, Council Offices, 4 York Road, Torpoint PL11 2LG on Friday 6 December 2019 Commencing at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cornwall Council Members

Sam Tamlin (Co-Chair)

John Crago and Gary Davis

Plymouth City Council Members

George Wheeler (Co-Chair)

Pam Buchan, Mark Coker and Jonathan Drear

Apologies for Geoff Brown CC, Derek Holley CC and Michael Leaves PCC absence:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 2)

TBTF/21 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2019

(Agenda No. 3)

TBTF/22 It was moved by the Joint Chairman (Plymouth), seconded by the Joint Chairman (Cornwall), and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

- (i) Present: -Plymouth City Council Members: to read: "... and Michael Leaves".

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(Agenda No. 4)

TBTF/23 There were no questions from the Public.

GENERAL MANAGER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

(Agenda No. 5)

TBTF/24 Consideration was given to the previously circulated General Manager's Quarterly Report and to a document circulated at the meeting 'Tamar Crossings All Web Site Data', presented by the General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, and Business Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, in which the following was highlighted:

- (i) In respect of Torpoint Ferry:-
 - With regard to Operations, paragraph 2.2:
The peak period figures had been included in response to a Member's request;
 - With regard to Ferry Refits, paragraph 2.6:
Much had been learned from the previous problematic refit. The same team was being used, and refit planning was going well.
 - With regard to Traffic Management and Road Safety Project:
Following an increase in the scope of the project, it was anticipated that the awaited final budget estimates would be available to put to the Joint Committee at its meeting on 6 March 2020;
- (ii) In respect of Tamar Bridge:-
 - With regard to Bridge Kerb Unit and Deck Waterproofing Enhancements, paragraph 2.23:
Due to a technical issue which had caused some delays, completion was now expected to be in July 2020;
 - With regard to Parapet Review, paragraph 2.27:
Data from the Police on antisocial behaviour was currently awaited. A workshop to explore this information when received was proposed for the latter half of January 2020, and a selection of dates for this would shortly be circulated to Joint Committee members;
- (iii) In respect of General:-
 - With regard to Toll Revision:
The implementation of the toll increase went smoothly, and few complaints had been received.
The external Inspector's report was very complimentary.

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- With regard to Staff, paragraph 2.44:
Staff sickness levels were lower than were usually reported, however it was acknowledged that the reporting period was only 2 months on this occasion. Notwithstanding this, however, the trend appeared to be better;
- With regard to Peer Challenge Action Plan:
A presentation was due to be made to Cornwall Council's Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2020, and monitoring of the Plan would take place on a regular basis;
- With regard to Toll Concessions, paragraph 2.53:
As this was a detailed issue, it was proposed that the matter be considered at the aforementioned workshop in January 2020.
- With regard to Communications and Engagement:
Communications had been going well, and were no longer reactive. The recently introduced newsletters had been very well received. The Tamar Crossings All Web Site Data document circulated at the meeting gave a snapshot of hits to the website. The entries in the document would be expanded for future reports, including specific information in respect of the Webcams entry.

In response to comments and questions from Joint Committee members, the General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, the Business Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, and the Ferry Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, confirmed:

- (i) With regard to Bridge Operations, paragraph 2.16:
The reason for the lower performance target for Bridge lane availability was due to the hardware upgrade currently being undertaken. It was anticipated that this could potentially worsen before improving again;
- (ii) With regard to the Learning Centre:
A visit for Joint Committee members would be arranged on the day of the workshop in January 2020.
- (iii) With regard to Journey Time Monitoring:
The September 19 and October 19 data was correct. It was anticipated that when the works to the main deck and the kerbs was undertaken, the figures would increase;
- (iv) With regard to Staff Sickness:
A Member's comment that it would be a useful comparator to include median measures as well as the mean measures was acknowledged, and it was confirmed that discussions would be held with the HR department to effect this;

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- (v) With regard to Bridge Kerb Unit and Deck Waterproofing Enhancements:
A Member's request that data to be included to allow peak time traffic movements to be tracked alongside normal time traffic was acknowledged and it was confirmed that this information would be included for the future;
- (vi) With regard to Traffic Management and Road Safety Project:
A Member's request for the plans to be shared was acknowledged, and it was confirmed that schematic drawings would be brought to the workshop in January prior to providing the information to Torpoint Town Council;
- (vii) With regard to Communications and Engagement:
A Member's comment that he had received positive feedback regarding the newsletters and little negative comment regarding the toll revision was acknowledged;
- (viii) With regard to Toll Revenue:-
It had been assumed that the underlying trend would be flat. Whilst the expected spike in applications for a TamarTag had occurred when the toll revision had taken place, the overall effect of this was marginal;
- (ix) With regard to Toll Revision:
It was confirmed that RPI had not been included, as it was excluded from the legislation. However, it had been captured within the Peer Challenge Action Plan at Appendix 4 to the report;
- (x) With regard to the Learning Centre:
"The family self-led activities" referred to families visiting the centre engaging with staff to learn more about the enterprise and touring around as a family.
Tours of the anchorage were fully booked for several months, until the Easter holidays 2020;
- (xi) With regard to Communications and Engagement:
The proposed changes to the plaza would be included in the newsletter. Several communications had already been prepared for inclusion and would appear when dates had been confirmed.
An applicant at a recent interview had raised that Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry appeared on Trip Adviser and had noted that comments had not been replied to, and it was proposed to address this;
- (xii) With regard to Key Performance Indicators, Table 3 Efficient Services:
No waste was being diverted to landfill.
Discussions would be held with relevant managers to refine the information provided in the report regarding waste disposal;
- (xiii) With regard to a recent gas leak incident in Plymouth:
This had had no impact on services;

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(xiv) With regard to Torpoint Ferry Operations:

It was not possible to predict any failure of the electrics. Planned maintenance was being carried out on time, and the ferries were inspected by Lloyds of London, which had been complimentary about the maintenance regime. However, it was acknowledged that closer attention would need to be given as the ferries aged;

(xv) With regard to the recommendation in the report:

A Member's suggestion that as the focus at the Bridge was now on antisocial behaviour, the recommendation should be changed to reflect this was acknowledged;

Councillor Davis proposed an amendment to recommendation 2. as set out in the report, to include:- That "A combined workshop addressing Bridge antisocial behaviour and effect on nearby residents and the concession toll issue is arranged for January 2020;", which was seconded by Councillor Crago, and upon voting the motion was unanimously agreed.

Following consideration of the report and information provided, in respect of the recommendations as set out in the report and amended recommendation 2. as agreed, it was moved by Councillor Davis, seconded by Councillor Crago, and

RESOLVED that

1. The report be noted;
2. A combined workshop addressing Bridge antisocial behaviour and effect on nearby residents and the concession toll issue be arranged for January 2020; and
3. An updated report be brought to the next meeting.

2019/20 BUDGET MONITORING

(Agenda No. 6.1)

TBTF/25 Consideration was given to the previously circulated 2019/20 Budget Monitoring report, presented by the Service Accountant, Cornwall Council, and to a document circulated at the meeting '2019/20 Revised and Forward Estimates (2018/19 Comparison)'.

The General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, and the Business Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, drew attention to the graph 2019/20 Revised and Forward Estimates (2018/19 Comparison), circulated at the meeting, highlighting that:

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- (i) This was a shorter term model than usual due to the tolls increase being recently confirmed;
- (ii) Regarding the years 2022/23 and 2023/24 costs were rising slightly and income was flat. The effect on the Reserve balance following the delay in the toll increase was compensated by the capitalisation of the 2019/20 refit;
- (iii) Should the Joint Committee wish to capitalise the 2023/24 refit, a further toll increase could potentially be delayed;
- (iv) It was anticipated that the decision on a further toll increase would need to be made in 2021-2022;
- (v) The delay in the kerb works would bring the current estimated reserve to above £2m in 2023/24.

Following consideration of the report and information provided, it was moved by the Joint Chairman (Cornwall), seconded by Councillor Drean, and

RESOLVED that

- 1. The revised revenue forecast and capital programme for 2019-20 be noted.

2020/21 REVENUE ESTIMATES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 6.2)

TBTF/26 Consideration was given to the previously circulated 2020/21 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme report, presented by the Service Accountant, Cornwall Council.

The General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, highlighted:

- (i) In respect of paragraph 2.7 Capital Programme (as shown in Appendix 2, Future Programme):-
With regard to the reduction for parapet works, this was a pro rata reduction.

Following consideration of the report and information provided, it was moved by the Joint Chairman (Cornwall), seconded by the Joint Chairman (Plymouth), and

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RESOLVED that

1. It be **RECOMMENDED TO THE CABINETS OF THE JOINT AUTHORITIES TO RECOMMEND TO THEIR FULL COUNCILS** that the 2020/21 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme be approved; and
2. The longer term forecast to 2023/24 be noted.

TORPOINT FERRY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS 2019

(Agenda No. 7)

TBTF/27 Consideration was given to the previously circulated Torpoint Ferry Byelaws and Regulations 2019, presented by the General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, who highlighted that:

- (i) The Byelaws and Regulations were significantly out of date;
- (ii) They were referred to very rarely, however potentially they could support staff with encouraging customers to act appropriately, for example with littering issues;
- (iii) It was necessary for the Byelaws and Regulations to go through a statutory process as set out in the report in order to be confirmed by the Department for Transport (DfT).

In response to comments and questions from Joint Committee members, the General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, confirmed:

- (i) Once approved by the DfT, the Byelaws and Regulations would be widely advertised;
- (ii) The date referred to on agenda page 58 would be checked with the Corporate and Information Governance Manager, Cornwall Council;
- (iii) With regard to the inclusion of Rendel Park, this would be checked with the Corporate and Information Governance Manager due to the covenants that were in place.

Following consideration of the report and information provided, it was moved by the Joint Chairman (Cornwall), seconded by Councillor Drean, and

RESOLVED that

1. The Torpoint Ferry Regulations 2019 and the Torpoint Ferry Byelaws 2019, as appended to the report, be made; and

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2. Following a 28-day consultation period, the Regulations and the Byelaws be forwarded to the Department for Transport for confirmation.

ANY BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

(Agenda No. 8)

TBTF/28 The Chairman accepted the following item as urgent due to the need for a decision to be made before the meeting scheduled for 6 March 2020.

(i) Climate Emergency

Consideration was given to the question put by a Joint Committee Member regarding any potential action to be taken by the Joint Committee in the light of the declaration made by each of the Joint Authorities on the climate emergency.

Following discussion, the suggestion made by the General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, that the statements made by each of the Joint Authorities be brought to the previously agreed workshop to be held in January 2020 for consideration was agreed.

Following consideration of the information provided, it was moved by the Joint Chairman (Cornwall), seconded by the Joint Chairman (Plymouth) , and

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

The meeting ended at 10.55 am