

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



## REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER


Executive Decision Reference Number – SPT03 25/26

Decision	
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> Approval for award of contract re-procurement of Tamar Bridge/Torpoint Ferry (TBTF) Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support Services Contract
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> Councillor John Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Adrian Trim (Lead Officer for Tamar Crossings) 01752 307729 <a href="mailto:adrian.trim@plymouth.gov.uk">adrian.trim@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
4	<b>Decision to be taken:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the award of contract following the successful procurement tender process administered and led by Cornwall Council of the TBTF Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support Services Contract;</li> <li>2. A re-contract for the service for Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support, circa £7.3m, (PCC and CC are equally liable 50% each of the associated financial risk) over a 10 year contract life, a 4 year contract with a 4 year and then 2 year extension option.</li> </ol>
5	<b>Reasons for decision:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The current Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support Contract remains in line with the requirements of Tamar Crossings, and it provides the essential technical support that enables Tamar Crossings to deliver its organisational goals to safely operate, maintain and improve the crossings;</li> <li>2. Tamar Bridge operates on a 'User pays' basis, procuring this support contract will enable the continued safe operation of the Tamar Bridge for the next 4 + 4 + 2 years, funding the maintenance and operation of the undertaking;</li> <li>3. There are a wide range of essential and routine Paint and Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support requirements across both operations and these services have been provided by a local contractor under contract since 2020. That contract expires in 2025;</li> <li>4. The Tamar Bridge Act 1957 and subsequent revised Acts require the Joint Authorities to operate, maintain and improve the crossings.</li> </ol>
6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do Nothing – let the current contract lapse</li> </ol> <p>This option is not considered realistic or viable. The organisation requires the services set out above to deliver its responsibilities.</p>

	<p>2. Develop an in-house paint and paint inspection maintenance team to cover both sites</p> <p>This option has been considered on several occasions. However, it is currently not considered desirable or practical. As this is a 'call off' contract, the resources are only engaged when required. An in-house team would be more costly to maintain and not be financially viable.</p>		
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Financial implications and risks:</b></p> <p>The value of the contract is £0 - £7.3m over a 10-year period based on a spend of up to £800k per annum as detailed in the TBTF annual plan and approved by the City Council. This is a call off contract with no guarantee of spend.</p> <p>Tamar Bridge is funded on a 'user pays' basis, where the tolls are used for both operational, support and maintenance requirements. There are limited impacts on the Council MTFP regarding funding, other than the risk associated with insufficient income to cover operating costs.</p>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Legal Implications:</b> The procurement process has been led by Cornwall Council who will have undertaken the appropriate checks and procurement procedures to ensure the process up to the award of the contract is lawful.</p>		
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (please contact <a href="#">Democratic Support</a> for further advice)</p> <p>Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p>	<b>Yes</b>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p><b>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</b></p> <p>in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total</p> <p>in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1 million</b> annually</p> <p>is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.</p>
	<p><b>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <a href="#">Forward Plan of Key Decisions</a></b></p>	N/A	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</b></p>	<p>Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry are key links joining local communities and are part of the national Strategic Road Network (SRN). As such both crossings play a key role in asserting Plymouth's role as a regional centre. The crossings also support the City's growth strategy and ability to create new jobs through these vital links.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b></p>	<p>There are no anticipated environmental implications or impacts associated with the award or delivery of this contract.</p>	
<b>Urgent decisions</b>			
<b>12a</b>	<p><b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (<a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a>) for advice)</p>
		<b>No</b>	<p><b>X</b> (If no, go to section 13a)</p>

	Please type an X into the relevant box			
<b>I2b</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>			
<b>I2c</b>	<b>Scrutiny Chair Signature:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
	<b>Scrutiny Committee name:</b>			
	<b>Print Name:</b>			
<b>Consultation</b>				
<b>I3 a</b>	<b>Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		
		<b>No</b>	X	<b>(If no go to section I4)</b>
<b>I3 b</b>	<b>Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?</b>			
<b>I3 c</b>	<b>Date Cabinet member consulted</b>			
<b>I4</b>	<b>Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		<b>No</b>	X	
<b>I5</b>	<b>Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?</b>	<b>Name</b>	Glenn Caplin-Gray	
		<b>Job title</b>	Strategic Director for Growth	
		<b>Date consulted</b>	04 June 2025	
<b>Sign-off</b>				
<b>I6</b>	<b>Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:</b>	<b>Democratic Support (mandatory)</b>	JS05 25/26	
		<b>Finance (mandatory)</b>	ITG.25.26.014	
		<b>Legal (mandatory)</b>	LS/2960(56)/JP/270525	
		<b>Procurement (if applicable)</b>	N/A	
		<b>Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)</b>	N/A	

		<b>Human Resources (if applicable)</b>	N/A						
<b>Appendices</b>									
<b>17</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Title of appendix</b>							
	A	Briefing report for publication							
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
	C	Cornwall Council Procurement Contract Award Report (Part I I)							
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>									
<b>18 a</b>	<b>Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box		<b>Yes</b>	X	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in <b>18b</b> below.  (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		<b>No</b>							
			<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>18 b</b>	<b>Confidential/exempt briefing report title:</b>  C - Cornwall Council Procurement Contract Award Report (Part I I)				X				
<b>Background Papers</b>									
<b>19</b>	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.  Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
<b>Title of background paper(s)</b>			<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Signature</b>									
<b>20</b>	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.								

<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date of decision</b>	09 June 2025
<b>Print Name</b>	Councillor John Stephens		

## **Appendix A - Briefing Report**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Tamar Bridge crossing forms part of a 'joint undertaking' provided by Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council, operating under statute since 1953.
- 1.2 The bridge was opened in 1961 and is owned by the joint Authorities of Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council and is operated and maintained by the Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee (TBTF) formed by the two Authorities. The TBTF mission is to provide safe, reliable and efficient crossings of the Tamar, now and into the future.
- 1.3 The bridge carries approximately fifty thousand vehicles per day and has seen significant capital investment over the last 20 years. Ongoing investment is required to ensure that the bridge continues to be inspected, maintained and improved in line with contemporary standards in order that it can continue to meet the key strategic objectives of the organisations.
- 1.4 The crossings are operated on a 'user pays' basis, with the tolls covering operational and maintenance costs, (hence no cost to the Council for this procurement) delivering public crossings at the Bridge 24/7.
- 1.5 The procurement of the Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support services are a regular occurrence, as would be expected, as the bridge and ferries are bespoke structures, requiring specific professional attention. This ensures that the key road links on the Devon / Cornwall border, crossing the river Tamar, (with the A38 forming part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) nationally) remain operationally viable and safe.
- 1.6 Significant investment in maintenance to the bridge, ferry infrastructure and operations have continued over recent years to ensure that the organisation can meet its key strategic aims and objectives. As well as the larger capital projects there are many routine and ad-hoc maintenance requirements. These routine maintenance and support tasks are equally as important on a day to day or week to week basis, as the larger, long-term projects.
- 1.7 Compromising some of the routine maintenance activities or lack of availability of operatives may have a more immediate impact on users of the crossings, particularly where inspection can reduce costs and identify emerging issues
- 1.8 This procurement is for the re-tender of the Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support Contract to run from June 2025 – December 2035, subject to meeting extension criteria.
- 1.9 In recent years there has been significant investment in the bridge, infrastructure and operations to ensure that the organisation can meet its key strategic aims and objectives. Continual investment is necessary to ensure that the bridge is operated, maintained and improved according to contemporary standards and to meet future service demands.
- 1.10 The current Painting, Paint Inspection and Maintenance Support Contract remains in line with the requirements of Tamar Crossings, and it provides the essential support that enables Tamar Crossings to deliver its organisational goals to safely operate, maintain and improve the crossings.

- 1.11 This contract will also assist the joint authorities in fulfilling their Statutory obligations under The Tamar Bridge Act 1957 and subsequent revised Acts to maintain and improve the crossing.

## **2.0 Procurement and Contract Award**

2.1 Currently the process to procure and award a contract is the responsibility of both Councils.

2.2 To improve efficiency it has been agreed that Cornwall Council take the lead for the procurement process and inform PCC when the process is near completion and requires PCC approval for the award of the successful tenderer.

2.3 PCC has been informed that a successful tender process has now concluded requiring sign off by an appropriate PCC Cabinet Member before the Award can be formally announced by CC.