

## CITY COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2011

### Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee Minute 71

#### REVENUE ESTIMATES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Joint Treasurer (Cornwall) presented the written report setting out the proposed revenue budget and capital programme for the years 2011/12 - 2014/15 inclusive, from which he highlighted the following:-

- i) the budgets now covered a four year period
- ii) the revenue budget for 2011/12 assumed a continuing 2% reduction in bridge cash toll income as was forecast for the current year.
- iii) the revenue budget included provision for revisions to ferry chain maintenance following recent problems with some of the chains.
- iv) following advice from the Audit Commission, the major bridge re-painting programme had been transferred from the revenue budget to the capital programme.
- v) the capital programme included a new scheme for the re-instatement of Footpath 24, Saltash. Consequently, recommendation b) should be revised accordingly.
- vi) possible re-development of the bridge offices had been included in the capital programme but no scheme had yet been approved and this would be subject to a satisfactory business case.
- vii) there had been a significant increase in capital expenditure funded from borrowing.
- viii) the budget for 2014/15 assumed a cash toll increase of 10p without which reserves were projected to fall significantly below the £1million level considered prudent. At some future stage, the Joint Committee would need to discuss and agree what it considered to be an acceptable level of reserves.

Questions and debate ensued, the main points of which were noted as follows:-

- i) the main bridge joint replacement was not designed to specifically address noise although it may help to reduce it.

- ii) Plaza canopy access improvements would enable future work in this area to be carried out safely and efficiently.
- iii) the assumption of a flat 2% reduction in bridge cash toll income was considered prudent in the current economic climate
- iv) inclusion of the Footpath 24, Saltash scheme in the 2011/2012 capital programme was welcome as this would dovetail with the Elwell Woods project.
- v) it should be emphasised that the Joint Committee was mindful that a 10p cash toll increase in 2014/15 would generate approximately £600,000 additional income, without which reserves were projected to fall to approximately £500,000 in that year.
- vi) concern was expressed at the proposed provisional approval for bridge office re-development in the absence of a business case and it was agreed that this recommendation be revised accordingly.

It was moved by Councillor Holley, seconded by Councillor Wheeler and

**RECOMMENDED TO CORNWALL COUNCIL AND PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL:**

- 1. That the proposed revenue budget for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved.**
- 2. That the proposed capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 to the officer report be approved, including provision for a possible bridge office development subject to a satisfactory business case, and subject to approval of expenditure in relation to Footpath 24, Saltash as set out in the report of the General Manager (Agenda Item No. 5).**
- 3. That the longer term revenue forecast to 2014/15 be noted, including the impact of approximately £600,000 income from a toll increase at the beginning of 2014/15.**

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*Note:*

*The full report in connection with this minute is available on the website  
[www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy)  
or by contacting Democratic Support on 01752 304867*