

CITY COUNCIL: 24 NOVEMBER 2014

Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee: Bridge Office Development



Cabinet minute 57: 21 October 2014

Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place) submitted a written report asking Cabinet to endorse the proposal for the Tamar Bridge office development and to recommend that the project was added to the capital programme with a budget of £3.33 million. The proposal had been referred from the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee (TBTFJC) on 12 September 2014, following consideration of a report and the business case.

The report indicated that -

- (a) the project was designed to meet operational and customer service requirements, enable an effective response to incidents and emergencies, and provide suitable facilities for the management of the bridge and associated infrastructure;
- (b) the terms of reference for the TBTFJC required each Cabinet (Plymouth City and Cornwall Councils) to approve major items of capital expenditure as part the capital programme and recommend a budget provision to Council.

Minute 20 of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee of 12 September 2014 was also submitted.

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Transport) introduced the proposals and advised that –

- (c) the bridge and ferry service was operated and maintained jointly by the City and Cornwall Councils, was self-financing with funding from toll income, with powers from the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Act;
- (d) the bridge was a key part of the regional and national road network infrastructure;
- (e) the proposals would replace the existing portcabins, address health and safety matters, improve toilet facilities, provide disabled access, provide renewable energy production and address access problems for heavy goods vehicles and coaches.

David List (General Manager, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry) and Richard Cole (Engineering Manager) also attended the meeting for this item.

Cabinet Members were also advised that –

- (f) the proposals would be submitted to Cornwall's Cabinet and Council in due course;

- (g) the bridge and ferries were operated as a single business and without toll income to fund the operation, approximately £10million revenue funding would be required annually (based on 2013/14 figures) which could require at least a ten per cent increase in Council tax.
- (h) a bid was being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an education / interpretation centre and Network Rail would be encouraged to participate in the project.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed that the proposal is endorsed and the City Council is Recommended to add the Tamar Bridge Office Development to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee's capital programme with a budget of £3.33million.