

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Tamar Bridge Suspension System Remedial Work –
Proposed Budget Increase – Decision by the Chief Executive

Committee: City Council

Date: 17 September 2018

CMT Member: Tracey Lee, Chief Executive

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Ref:

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Purpose of the report:

Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee (TBTFJC) Terms of Reference require that any proposed increases to approved TBTFJC budgets must be recommended by the Cabinets of the Joint Authorities to their respective Full Councils

Cabinet received, at the July 2018 meeting, a report which detailed the unexpected discovery of asbestos containing material (ACM) during the ongoing suspension system remedial works at the Tamar Bridge, and its impact on the project.

In order for work to continue on the Bridge an emergency increase in the capital budget was required. Waiting for Council approval would have led to additional costs and as such Cabinet recommended that the Chief Executive approved an urgent non-executive decision under emergency provisions (Constitution Article 10.2 (D) / Finance Standing Orders Sec. 12). This decision was made following consultation with the Leader, Opposition Leader, Section 151 Officer and Acting Monitoring Officer in order to maintain the safe operation of the Bridge and avoid significant costs.

Corporate Plan

The Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry links are key gateways to the City and provide opportunities for investment, jobs and growth particularly in the wider context of Plymouth as the regional economic centre.

Providing a safe well-maintained road network contributes to the economic well-being of the City, supporting the Council's Growth priority.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Finance - BTfJC is borrowing over a 25-year period to fund this capital project. TBTFJC's borrowing requirements are provided through Cornwall Council. The proposed budget increase, if fully utilised, would result in additional expenditure of £128,700 in the first year, and subsequently reducing as capital is repaid. Funding this additional borrowing is incorporated in TBTFJC's financial model and forecasting and will not affect Plymouth City Council budgets.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

Risk Management – The works needed to be completed to eliminate an unacceptable risk to the bridge structure, and consequently service delivery

Health and Safety – The works needed to be completed in a safe manner recognizing the hazard presented by asbestos containing material.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Not applicable.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

That Council notes the decision made by the Chief Executive.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do nothing was not an option as the works were critical to the integrity of the structure and safe service delivery.

The continuation of the works using proven methods acceptable to the Health and Safety Executive is the only viable option.

Published work / information:

None

Background papers:

TBTFJC Report - Suspension System Remedial Works 15 June 2018

<https://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/documents/g8310/Public%20reports%20pack%2015th-Jun-2018%2010.00%20Tamar%20Bridge%20and%20Torpoint%20Ferry%20Joint%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													