

<b>CABINET</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>24 SEPTEMBER 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Simon Machen - Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	
Cabinet Member responsible:	Councillor Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Lewis Banks - Principal Sustainable Transport Planning Officer	Tel. 317465

## TO RETAIN THE FOOTBRIDGES ON JUNCTION 18

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge structures at junction 18, rather than removing or replacing them as previously intended.</p>	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following consideration by the Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) Cross Party Working Group.

### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to review recommendations made by the Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) Cross Party Working Group. This group was established to consider a) whether it is technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and b) examine the long term solutions for a replacement bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and determine the preferred option to recommend to Cabinet. This was as a result of public objections received at the initial consultation stage.

The Working Group have now completed the first task and unanimously agree to recommend that Cabinet reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge, as detailed in the structural reports.

The Working Group agreed to postpone action on the second task until the initial repairs have been undertaken in order to establish the requirement for a replacement structure in the future.

- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1, 'To take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.'

### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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#### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Council was successful in its funding application to the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the National Productivity Investment Fund. The total funding is £5.5m with £3.85m coming from the DfT (via the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) and £1.65m match funding from the Council. In the original application, in addition to the highway improvements, it was proposed that the footbridges would be removed.

During public consultation a number of people expressed concerns about the removal of the bridge structures. A petition on the subject was received which triggered a debate at Full Council on 11 October 2017. A vote was taken (34 voted in favour, 22 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and it was RESOLVED that Council noted the petition and referred it for further consideration to the Cabinet with a recommendation that they set up a Cross Party Working Group to examine fully costed options and that would consider the comments made at the meeting by the petitioner and Members, the purpose of that would be to ensure that priority was given to pedestrians and cyclists in line with the transport user hierarchy in the Local Transport Plan.

Cabinet considered the recommendation from full Council at their meeting on 20 November 2017 and RESOLVED (unanimous) to:

1. Agree to form a Cross Party Working Group to consider:

- a) Whether it is technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge).
- b) Examine the long term solutions for a replacement bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) and determine the preferred option to recommend to Cabinet.

2. Approve the proposed Terms of Reference for the Cross Party Working Group for Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge), subject to the amendment of the date of the first meeting, which will be held in 2018.

- 4.2 The Cross Party Working Group Members are Cllr John Holdich (Chair), Cllr Nick Sandford, Cllr Dennis Jones and Cllr John Fox. The Working Group met on 30 July and 3 September 2018 to discuss task (a) above. Site visits were also undertaken to understand the problems with the bridge and the recommended repairs. The Working Group unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the footbridges should be retained and repairs undertaken as detailed in the technical reports.

The Working Group has also recommended that officers investigate the following:

- Installing additional barriers either side of the subway to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal activity
- Whether Highways England would allow a local artist to paint the subway
- Different coloured surfacing or lighting to make the bridge look more attractive
- Whether the middle section should be segregated
- Whether the landscaping can discourage anti-social behaviour

The above elements should all be low cost options and do not alter the main elements of the repairs as described in the report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The structural reports and a summary note detailing the proposed repairs have been published online and can be viewed here:  
<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/major-road-schemes>

In addition, a representative of the Peterborough Cycle forum and the lead petitioner were invited to attend and present at the Cross Party Working Group. Both have expressed their support for this recommendation.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will approve the Cross Party Working Group's recommendation to repair the bridge as detailed above.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The Cross Party Working Group has investigated the task set and have determined, on the basis of information considered, that it is technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge).

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Do not repair the bridges: The Council has funding to repair the bridge as part of the National Productivity Investment Fund. The Scheme and budget is included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. If the bridge is not repaired now then further funding will be needed in the near future in order to keep the bridge operational. In addition, if the Council does not spend the c.£1m on the repairs then it is likely there will be an underspend on the National Productivity Investment Fund which would have implications as the Council has a signed agreement with DfT to spend £5.5m on the entire scheme.

Demolish the footbridge: Following public consultation, the majority of people wanted to keep or replace the footbridge so repairing it is the preferred option because it is technically and financially feasible.

Replace it with a new bridge: This will be far more expensive and following the review it is more cost effective to repair the existing structure.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 There are no new legal implications as a result of this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 There are no equality implications as a result of this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Council meeting 11 October 2017:  
<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=3971&Ver=4>

Cabinet meeting 20 November 2017:  
<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=3979&Ver=4>

Technical reports:  
<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-streets/major-road-schemes/>

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