

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4143
Author:	Andrew Mitchell
Department:	Commercial and Operations
Contact:	Andrew Mitchell (Job Title: Highways Procurment Manager, Email: andrew.mitchell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158 761130)
Subject:	Corrosion protection to bridges over the Nottingham Canal
Total Value:	£300,000 (Type: Capital)
Decision Being Taken:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval to seek tenders for re-painting work to 7 bridges over the Nottingham Canal.2. To delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to award the contract to the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the of the budget and conclusion of negotiations with the Canal and River Trust.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The purpose of carrying out maintenance work to the surface coating of these bridges is to prevent corrosion and thus ensure their ongoing structural integrity. None of these bridges have been repainted since 2008, and there is evidence of corrosion to some of the main structural elements. If this corrosion is allowed to continue unchecked there is the risk that the load carrying capacity of the bridge would be reduced, and ultimately put road users and pedestrians at risk should structural collapse occur.

Six of the bridges that require repainting, are highway structures. Nottingham City Council, as highway authority, has a duty to maintain the highway, and this duty includes maintaining these six bridges. The capital programme for the maintenance of highway bridges in financial year 2021/22 has yet to be approved. No contract for this work will be awarded until this budget is approved. However this decision does enable the Council to seek tenders, and, if the budget is approved, commence work early in the financial year. Exterior painting of structures is best carried out in the late spring / summer, hence the need to seek tenders before the budget is approved.

In addition Nottingham City Council is responsible for a footbridge, that also carries district heating apparatus over the canal. This bridge will be included within the tender, but this work is to be funded by the Council's property section. Internal discussions regarding the budget required for this work will be carried out by officers, and if the funding cannot be confirmed for this bridge, then it will be excluded from the contract.

Upon completion of the repainting work the anti-pigeon measures will be re-newed at all of the bridges, with enhanced measures at Wilford Street Canal bridge where there is an ongoing problem of pigeon fouling of the tow-path.

In early 2021, quotations were sought from contractors on the joint Nottingham City, Derby City highway maintenance framework contract, but it is considered that the quotations returned do not represent good value for money. Hence the proposal is to seek open tenders.

There are also proposals for enhancements along the tow-path between Wilford Street and Great Northern Close. Due to the different nature of this work it will not be included within this tender, but the repainting work and pest control measures proposed will support the objectives of this wider scheme.

Other Options Considered:

1. Do nothing. Rejected as this could result in premature failure of the bridges or structural elements of bridges.
2. Postpone the works to subsequent financial years. Rejected as the consequence of postponement would be to increase the corrosion present, leading to much more costly repairs being required in the future.
3. Carry out the work in house. Rejected as the work involves the use of specialist high performance paints, and the skills for applying these coatings are not currently held within Nottingham City Council workforce.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

None

Affected Wards:

Castle, Lenton and Wollaton East, Meadows

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required as the decision does not relate to a new or changing ploicy, service or function.

Social Value Considerations:

The value of the work is below EU procurement thresholds

Relates to Council Property Assets:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

10/03/2021

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Property

Legal Advice:

This delegated decision raises no significant legal concerns. At least 3 tenders in writing must be obtained in order to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and procurement rules.
Advice provided by Mrs O'Bradaigh, Senior Solicitor 02/03/21

Finance Advice:

The works contained within this decision could be considered capital or revenue depending on the detail of the works being carried out. The project manager should liaise with Technical Finance as required to ensure expenditure is classed as required by CIPFA and the relevant accounting standards.

CIPFA defines preventative treatments as an area of judgement as works to the keep asset components operational is classed as revenue compared to works that extend the useful life the asset which are classed as capital.

Where such works are classed as capital the Council needs to be able to evidence to external audit that the assets life (i.e. the bridges life) has been extended beyond its current useful life.

The £300k budget within this decision is to be funded by Highway's Capital Grant and is included in the capital programme as approved at Executive Board Feb 21. If the costs are required to be charged to revenue, capital resources will be reallocated to release appropriate funding into revenue to ensure the corrosion protection works do not generate a revenue pressure. As this decision is entirely funded by external ringfenced grant it is exempt from the current scheme of delegation and as such does not require prior approval from the S151 Officer or the Chief Executive.

Advice provided by Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 24/02/2021.

Procurement Advice:

There are no procurement issues with the decision being sought. The Procurement Team will work with the client to ensure that tenders are obtained in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules. Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 06/01/2021.

Property Advice:

whilst Property does not have a specific budget set aside for these works it is nevertheless important to understand what the cost to the service might be, and it is therefore agreed with the recommendation of the decision author to include the footbridge that carries the District Heating pipes over the canal in with the tender exercise.

Whilst no guarantees can be made at this stage whether a budget can be found, we will be guided by the advice of the Bridges and Structures team as to the best course of action. Advice provided by John West (Estates Surveyor) on 20/01/2021.

Signatures

Rebecca Langton (PH Communities, Highways, Strategic Transport)

SIGNED and Dated: 03/03/2021

Dave Halstead (Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services)

SIGNED and Dated: 03/03/2021