

North Somerset Council Decision

Decision Of: Councillor Steve Bridger Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery



With Advice From: Director of Place and Director of Corporate Services (s151 Officer)

Note: this decision is listed on the forward plan as a Director key decision. Increased values now make this a decision for the Executive Member.

Decision No: 21/22 DP 185

Subject: Acceptance of Ministry of Defence funding and increase to the capital programme for the Winterstoke Road Bridge Replacement Scheme.

Key Decision: Yes

Reason: The value of the decision is over £500,000.

Background:

Winterstoke Road bridge was built in 1943 to service an aeroplane factory during the Second World War and is currently the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The bridge is life expired and it is no longer economic to repair the bridge with replacement being the necessary course of action if the route is to be maintained. The bridge is in an industrial area where many heavy goods vehicles benefit from the use of the carriageway. As a result, it was necessary to impose a 7.5T weight restriction in December 2018 for the safety of highway and rail users.

It has been estimated that a replacement bridge will cost in the region of £15.6m (inclusive of a £2.5m commuted sum). The project will be funded by the MoD but The Council will lead on the delivery of the replacement bridge. Following completion, The Council will adopt the new bridge and be responsible for the maintenance. As the commuted sum from the MoD will likely be received ahead of The Council adopting the new bridge, this revenue contribution will need to be ringfenced to cover the future maintenance costs for the 120-year life span of the bridge. The MOD and NSC have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, which states that the MOD are liable for the cost of the bridge replacement scheme (save £450k NSC contribution), as well as future maintenance for 120 years.

The breakdown of funding for this project is as follows:

Source	Amount
NSC – Grant Funding (Pothole and Challenge Fund)	£450,000
MoD – Initial Funding	£10,833,333
MoD – Additional Funding	£1,803,611
Capital Total:	£13,086,944

MoD – Commuted Sum for future maintenance	£2,500,000
Revenue Total:	£2,500,000
Project Total:	£15,586,944

Contractors were appointed to the project in February 2021. Following Risk Workshops and further reviews of construction and other project costs, it was established that the cost to deliver the scheme remained in line with the proposed £15.6m budget. MoD have agreed to supply an additional £1.804m as part of their construction costs contribution to bring total funding in line with this estimated project total. Therefore, there is also a requirement to increase the capital programme for the project by £1.804m to cover this additional contribution.

Payment from the MOD to be made in advance of the completion of the project.

Decision:

To authorise receipt of the following funding from MoD:

- Capital funding of £1,804,000 (excluding VAT) for replacement of Winterstoke Road bridge;
- Revenue funding of £2,500,000 via commuted sum for future maintenance of the replacement bridge;
- Increase the capital programme for the Winterstoke Road Bridge Replacement Scheme by £1.804m.

Reasons:

This funding is required to cover the total cost of replacement and future maintenance of Winterstoke Road bridge, currently owned by MoD. This is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between MoD and The Council.

Options Considered:

As the bridge is currently owned by MoD, it is the responsibility of MoD to fund the replacement project. This has been discussed with The Council to formulate an overall approach and is outlined in the MoU.

Financial Implications:

Costs:

The overall scheme costs are shown below:

Category	Cost
NSC costs + support costs	£3,483,434
Preliminary design	£583,584
Detailed design	£220,836
Construction	£6,149,090
Risk Pot	£2,650,000
Commuted Sum for future maintenance	£2,500,000
Total	£15,586,944

Funding:

Funding for this project will be provided by MoD and North Somerset, as outlined below.

Source	Existing Funding	Revised Funding	Funding Change
NSC – Grant Funding	£450,000	£450,000	£0
MoD – Initial Funding	£10,833,000	£10,833,333	£333
MoD – Additional Funding		£1,803,611	£1,803,611
Capital Total:	£11,283,000	£13,086,944	£1,803,944
MoD – Commuted Sum		£2,500,000	£2,500,000
Revenue Total:	£0	£2,500,000	£2,500,000
Project Total:	£11,283,000	£15,586,944	£4,303,944

Legal Powers and Implications:

An MoU has been agreed between The Council and MoD which details the responsibilities of each in delivery of this project and maintenance of the asset both before, during and post-construction.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

There are no climate change or environmental implications directly impact by this decision, however wider project goals are to deliver as close to net zero carbon as possible, working in line with the PAS2080: Carbon Management in Infrastructure guidelines and ensuring an environmental net gain for the region.

Consultation:

Consultation has been undertaken with MoD and the Major Projects Programme Manager to agree the requirement for this capital programme increase.

Risk Management:

Acceptance of this funding and increase to the capital programme will ensure that sufficient funds are available for the replacement and maintenance of the bridge.

A project-specific SRO and Project Manager are managing the scheme development and implementation and are working in liaison with MoD as a key stakeholder.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

Protected characteristic groups will not be impacted by this decision. As part of the project more generally, assessment has been undertaken as part of scheme development. At present, the scheme proposes enhanced pedestrian and cycle facilities and linkages across and adjacent to the new bridge.

Corporate Implications:

There are no corporate implications as a result of this decision.

At project level, the provision of key enabling infrastructure and the improvement of the transport network widely support the Corporate Plan objectives in creating a thriving and sustainable place to live and empowering people.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

- DE395 WRB Memorandum of Understanding
- 19.10.16 WRB Full 121119 Council Report
- [20/21-DE-199 Pothole and Challenge Fund Tranche – approval for release of funds from the Department of Transport](#)

Signatories:**Decision Maker****Executive Member(s):**

Signed:

Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery

Date: 13 October 2021

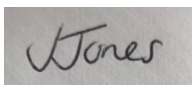
With Advice From

Signed:

Director of Place

Date: 7 October 2021

Signed:



Signed:

Finance Business Partner Place (deputy s151 Officer)

Date: 07 October 2021

