

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 06 June 2023

TITLE	Kingsweston Lane Footbridge		
Ward(s)	Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston		
Author: Chris Dooley	Job title: Bridges and Highways Structures Manager		
Cabinet lead: Mayor Rees	Executive Director lead: John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To update Cabinet on the successful decision on the revised Planning and Listed Building applications for Kingsweston Lane footbridge and to seek approval to proceed with the Project.2. To seek approval to spend the required Capital Funding of £1.00m as set out in the budget, to enable commencement of this project at the earliest required programme date, in late 2023.			
Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kingsweston Lane footbridge is a “Grade 2” Listed cast iron structure constructed circa 1800. The footbridge carries a PROW (BCC/ 70/10) footpath linking Blaise Castle Estate to Kingsweston Fields. The bridge spans over Kingweston Road (B4057).2. The bridge is frequently impacted by HGV’s and ultimately sustained substantial impact bridge strike damage in late November 2015, whereupon it was closed to pedestrians with a temporary “at grade” crossing provided on Kingsweston Road. Since the initial bridge emergency closure, the remaining elements of this now unstable structure are being temporarily supported on a structural design supporting scaffolding arrangement. This arrangement is structurally visually inspected and monitored by the Bridges Team monthly.3. The annual estimated ongoing cost of this support mechanism and structural inspections (routine & reactive) is in the region of approximately £15K per annum as well as other ongoing Traffic Management inspections and reactive repair costs. The PROW has also been closed to pedestrians, currently via a temporary TRO extended (by the Secretary of State) to 2025.			
Key Background Information to date <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Initial Investigations are now complete, and reports issued to BCC Highways, giving recommended priced options. The only viable recommended option is to raise the footbridge by 1.075m. The estimated cost for these works is estimated to be in the region of just under £1m, including utility diversions and construction of new facilitation steps, which have now been given Listed Approval to proceed.5. Continuing routine inspection and maintenance of supporting scaffolding and temporary pedestrian crossing			

is annually costing the Council approximately around **£15K**.

6. BCC Highways worked further with the BCC urban design team to address all the planning concerns to allow for a successful planning application resubmission, facilitating the bridge being dismantled and reinstated at the new raised elevated level, with new landscaped aligned approach steps in keeping with the urban surroundings Parks estate.
7. A Highways budget was allocated for the necessary works required to facilitate the successful resubmission of any revised planning/listed building application. This required further working landscape modelling and visualisations and graphics completed by BCC Urban Design Teams in collaboration with BCC Highways.
8. The estimated timescales for commencement on site of this Project is currently planned to be late 2023 with an estimated completion date of December 2024, subject to successful procurement and award of Contract.
9. Whilst from a strategic Highway priority need perspective, this Bridge would be generally considered to be of low priority, the Authority recognises that this footbridge is very important asset to the local community and walkers and thus has decided that this Project should proceed on this basis and thus has sought to provide the Capital funding required to refurbish the footbridge, reinstate and re-open the Public Right of Way.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations

That cabinet:

1. Approve the commencement of the refurbishment works on Kingweston Lane Footbridge in accordance with the Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent and as outlined in this report noting the project will be initiated in late 2023 with an estimated completion date of December 2024 subject to contractor availability.
2. Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the mayor to take all steps required to procure and award the contract(s) necessary for the implementation of this project in-line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.
3. Authorises the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the mayor, to invoke any subsequent extensions/variatioins or amendments specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

Kingsweston Lane Footbridge Reinstallation Raising and Overall Bridge Refurbishments

The corporate strategy objectives of this specific project would be fulfilment of some of the corporate strategic themes with regard to, Theme, Transport and Connectivity, and business as usual functions. The project will specifically meet the physical infrastructure strategy to:

Plan, prioritise and begin a refreshed and long-term (25-year+) programme of maintenance, repair, and renewal of the city's infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. This will help make sure that the city is safer, more climate-resilient, nature-friendly, and able to grow its economy in an inclusive and sustainable way.

The scheme will also fulfil the Council's main overall statutory duties, as Local Highway Authority and will benefit the local community.

City Benefits:

Refurbishment works will allow the bridge to continue to operate in an effective manner, meeting the Council's statutory duty, obligations to this Listed Structure. It would also address the concerns of Corporate Council Insurers, in regard to providing related corporate insurance cover for the operational performance aspect of the bridge. It will reduce the risk of future Bridge strike impacts by HGV's when this footbridge is raised to a higher elevation and refurbished, which is currently affecting the operation of the surrounding pedestrian PROW highway network. It will reduce risk of increased repair costs and operational costs due to attendance and additional mitigation measures, should there be significant delay in undertaking refurbishment work. Significant investment in updating the operational aspects of the bridge will produce overall future savings and performance reliability, as well as a reduction in staff resources currently needed to ensure bridge lift. It also re-established the old route re-establishing the PROW.

Consultation Details:

Both original and revised planning applications went out to usual statutory planning consultees prior to gaining required revised Approvals required in the full Planning process, including all stakeholders, Historic England. Over the full history of this closure the Authority have kept in contact and have consulted with all the Local Community interest groups, Ward Councillors, Member for Parliament and other interested pressure groups.

Background Documents:

Planning application and decision see:

[22/02249/FB | Removal and reinstatement of Kingsweston Road Footbridge. Footway Bridge Over Kings Weston Road Bristol](#)

[Listed Building consent application and decision: 22/01149/LA | Proposed works include the removal and reinstatement of Kingsweston Footbridge. | Footway Bridge Over Kings Weston Road Bristol](#)

Revenue Cost		Source of Revenue Funding	
Capital Cost	£1,000,000	Source of Capital Funding	Capital Receipts / Prudential Borrowing
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**1. Finance Advice:**

The report is seeking approval to spend up to £1m of Capital funding on the Grade 2 listed Kingsweston Lane Footbridge for reinstallation, raising and overall bridge refurbishments.

The capital funding was part of the Mayoral amendments proposals to the capital programme in the 2022-23 budget setting process, and sits under the capital programme, Highways Infrastructure Bridge Investments (PL09 – P15680-1000). Table 1 show a breakdown of the spending plan for the project:

Table 1

Capital Project	Design Costs	Project Management Costs	Construction Costs & Contingency	Total Cost	Level of Risk
Kingsweston Lane Footbridge	£100,000	£50,000	£850,000	£1,000,000	Low

Due to the nature of the bridge being Grade 2 listed – planning permission has caused delays to the refurbishment project, resulting in the funding being carried forward to 2023-24.

The £15k annual structure support and inspection costs are currently being funded from the Highways revenue budget. It is worth noting that bridges are selected after going through a weighting of various selection criteria ranging from risk ratings, preventative measures, conditions surveys, complaints and defects etc.

Further investigation needs to be undertaken to firm up the estimates. As the service develops plans and firms up the design costings for each of the Capital project works, they need to ensure the Executive Director meeting is briefed on the outcomes to ensure that the projects can still progress as assumed and that contingencies remain adequate. This is in addition to the financial reviews and discussions that are scheduled with Finance, including at all the grant claim stages of the project.

Like all major capital projects, there is the risk that the initial work identifies issues that result in higher costs than estimated, which will reduce the funds available for other maintenance and general transport works needed. Comprehensive project planning is required to ensure procurement, cost and time management of the capital programme remains on schedule and within the budget envelope. Any potential increases would need to be found from funding within the Highways capital programme.

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration,
Date: 11 May 2023

2. Legal Advice:

The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Planning permission and Listed Building Consent, granted on 3 January 2023, allow for the proposed elevation works to take place. The Planning Permission is subject to three pre-commencement conditions that must be discharged before the works can commence. Failure to discharge these conditions will mean the development will not be lawful.

Both the planning permission and listed building consent are subject to a 3 year limit. Failure to implement the consents within those time periods will mean the consents expire.

The related PROW is also currently subject to a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) prohibiting public access. The TTRO has been extended by authority of the Secretary of State. The extension has been granted until 2025. Although a further extension can be sought from the Secretary of State, there is no guarantee it will be granted. If refused, no further TTRO can be made for a period of 3 months (unless the SoS allows otherwise). Other statutory powers will therefore need to be considered to stop public access until the works are carried out. These could be more onerous (i.e. permanent TRO) and/or may not be suitable (the applicable qualifying 'tests' to use these powers may not apply).

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor, 16 May 2023

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson Senior Solution Architect 22 May 2023

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, 9 May 2023

EDM Sign-off	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	29 March 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Donald Alexander, Cabinet Member for Transport	6 April 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	5 May 2023

Appendix A – Site Location Plan	YES
Appendix B – Revised Approved Planning Applications Documents	YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO

Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO