Bath & North East Somerset Council

Decision Register Entry

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2335

Victoria Bridge Emergency Repairs – Rule 16 – Special Urgency

Decision maker/s	Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council
The Issue	Following structural inspections carried out in 2010 Victoria Bridge was closed to pedestrians and cyclists in the interests of public safety. Recent (September 2011) structural monitoring of the bridge recorded cracking within critical structural members necessitating the commissioning and undertaking of emergency works to stabilise and protect the bridge from the risk of collapse. These works included attaching straps to the bridge and the provision of a truss which also enables the bridge to be brought back into use. ***This Decision ratified the work undertaken and approved the sources of funding associated with the emergency works and was taken under 'Rule 16 - Special Urgency' provisions in the Council's Constitution on the basis that the decision could not reasonably be deferred due to the serious risk that the Bridge could fail unless emergency action was taken. This course of action was agreed by the Deputy Chair of the Planning Transport & Environment PDS Panel, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer.***
Decision Date	29th December 2011
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that: The decision to undertake the emergency works be ratified; The remaining emergency works as set out in the report be completed; The following sources of funding are used for this purpose: (1) The extra 2011/12 Structural Maintenance capital grant totalling £191,000, and (2) The Corporate Capital Contingency totalling £357,600
Rationale for decision	As the Bridge has an historic value, provides an important route for pedestrians (including a route to school) and is a key gateway to the Western Riverside development the Council needs to take emergency action to protect public safety and ensure the bridge does not suffer a catastrophic failure.
Financial and budget implications	The total estimated capital cost of the emergency works in 2011/12, based upon the truss being purchased and the ramps hired, is £846,810 as set out in the attached report (at paragraph 3.1) Reprioritising the current Structural Maintenance Capital Programme for 2011/12 provided a £200,000 contribution to the cost of the emergency works. The Peer Review costs were funded from Growth Points grant and the Monitoring and Phase 1 works are funded from the revenue budget. This decision funds the balance of the costs from an additional grant of £191,000 from the DfT for structural maintenance work and

	£357,600 from the Council's Capital Contingency (which stands at £2.4 million). This represents an appropriate use of the capital contingency which is reviewed each year as part of the budget approval process.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Cabinet colleagues; Other B&NES Services; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer.
How consultation was carried out	The officers listed above have been consulted on the report and their comments have been included in the body of the report. Informal consultation with Cabinet members has taken place prior to a decision being made and local residents have been kept informed of proposed works in order to minimise inconvenience.
Other options considered	Deferring emergency works was ruled out in view of the additional risk of a bridge collapse due to either very strong winds, heavy snowfall or freezing temperatures during the winter period

Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	29th December 2011

This decision was taken under Special Urgency (Rule 16) and is not subject to Call-in. It will be implemented immediately