

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Councillor: Nick Tiley
Portfolio:	Finance & Resources
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	

Title of Decision: Nicky Line Bridge Refurbishment / Replacement

Part I

Decision made and reasons:

Following an options appraisal on the refurbishment of the Nicky Line Bridge. Option 3 is recommended for acceptance.

The original capital budget approved for the project was £220,000. The balance of the money not currently estimated will be required (£110,000). This will held and not removed from the Capital Programme until it is clear that the reduced budget will be sufficient to complete the project.

Reports considered: (here reference can be made to specific documents)

1. Officers report attached.
2. Report to Cabinet 29th June 2010

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Corporate Asset Group
 Corporate Director Finance and Governance
 Commercial Assets and Property Development Department

Monitoring Officer comments:

No further comments to add to this report.

Deputy S151 Officer comments:

The cost of the recommended Option 3 can be contained within the approved capital programme estimate of £220,000 which was approved by Council on 7 July 2010 within the amended programme.

Implications:

1. The proposed works align to the aspirations of the Asset Management Plan of optimising assets and their efficiency.

Risk:

- Failure to carry out the works would introduce the following risks:
1. The continued closure of the road will prolong the travel disruption and have an impact on the Maylands Business Park and the Woodhall Farm Area.
 2. Failure to refurbish structure components will reduce the life expectancy of the structure.
 3. Potential Health & Safety risks for Council employees and visitors.

Value for Money:

The project is a result of a report recommendation, presented to Cabinet on 29th June 2010.

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Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Undertake one of the other options. Rejected as the other options would either require additional time to undertake the work or reduce the life expectancy of the structure.

Not to award the contract. Rejected as this would have serious consequences for the local infrastructure within Woodhall Farm area and Maylands.

Portfolio Holders Signature:**Date:****Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:****For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 22 September 2010

Date Decision Published: 22 September 2010 Decision No: PH/050/10

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 6 October 2010

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

BACKGROUND

Due to concerns over the stability of the structure, officers arranged for an inspection of the bridge by Hertfordshire Highways' Bridge Team. Following the inspection of the bridge structure, Hertfordshire Highways closed Three Cherry Trees Lane for the safety of the public and the bridge structure. The bridge had been struck on numerous occasions by high sided traffic and another strike could cause the bridge deck to leave the abutments.

Following discussions with Hertfordshire Highways it was agreed that Dacorum Borough could use an existing Hertfordshire Highways' procured works contract to undertake the works and that these works would be managed by Hertfordshire Highways due to the specialists skills required. Dacorum Borough Council's Legal Department and Procurement Team are comfortable with this method of procurement

From original estimates presented by Hertfordshire Highways a report was presented to Cabinet requesting a budget of £220,000, this was approved and funds allocated.

Options Report

Budget estimates were produced by Hertfordshire Highways on a number of options, these are as follows:

Option 1

To remove the bridge and abutments and provide a level crossing, the estimated cost of these works is £110,000.

Option 2

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To lift the bridge deck back into its original position, refurbish the bridge, strengthen the abutments, and to include an additional width restriction. The estimated cost of these works is £85,000.

Option 3

This is similar to Option 2 but the bridge deck is lifted off site to an adjacent depot for it to be refurbished and the abutments are strengthened. The bridge deck will then be lifted back into its original position and an additional width restriction is constructed. The estimated cost for these works is £100,000.

Option 4

To remove the existing bridge and provide a new light weight bridge structure in its place. The new bridge would need to be approximately 1.5m higher than the existing bridge, therefore the height of the embankments would also need to be increased. The estimated cost for these works is £200,000.

Option 1 was discounted due to concerns about pedestrian safety.

Option 4 was discounted as the planning process would further lengthen the period when Three Cherry Trees Lane is closed.

It was agreed to proceed with Option 3 over Option 2 as this would give an improved paint finish and therefore extend the life of the bridge structure.

Hertfordshire Highways confirmed that works on site will be undertaken in three stages. Between stages 1 and 2, Three Cherry Trees Lane can be reopened for vehicle traffic.

Stage 1 includes the examination of the bridge abutments, the lifting of the bridge to an adjacent depot and the diversion of the cycle way. The estimated sum for these works provided by Hertfordshire Highways and for which an initial order would be placed on approval of the project is currently £20,000

Stage 2 includes the strengthening works to the bridge abutments, the offsite repair and painting of the bridge and the provision of additional road narrowing on the Redbourn Road side of the bridge (after Cherry Tree Lodge so as to maintain access to that property). Our estimated sum for these works is currently £80,000 – which will be finalised once a full examination of the bridge is possible.

Stage 3 proposes additional works to those which have already been estimated by Hertfordshire Highways. These works will be the relocation of the existing road restriction on the Maylands side of the bridge, which by moving this closer to the roundabout will prevent high sided vehicles from reaching the bridge. In addition clearer and more visible signage will be installed on either side of the bridge. Our estimate for these works is £7,500.

Phase 1 of the works will take about 6 weeks for set up and implementation of the works. Phases 2 and 3 will take about 13 weeks. Although for the first 8 weeks, Three Cherry Trees Lane can be reopened to vehicle traffic.

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The closure of the cycle path over the bridge can take place without a formal consent from third parties. A minimum of 7 days prior notice in the local newspaper and on site is required which would incorporate a suggested alternative route.

Recommendation

To place an order with Hertfordshire Highways to proceed with the works as set out in this report will be most advantageous to the Council in terms of value and improvement to the infrastructure to the local area. Therefore it is recommended an order is placed.