

Joint Tyne Bridges Committee

15 December 2017

(11.35 am - 12.20 pm)

Meeting held First Floor Model Room 2 Newcastle Civic Centre

Present:

Councillor: Arlene Ainsley (Chair) (Newcastle City Council)

Councillors: David Down (Substitute) (Newcastle City Council), John McElroy (Gateshead Council), John McClurey (Gateshead Council) and John Eagle (Gateshead Council)

In attendance:

Alastair Swan - Engineer (Newcastle City Council)
 Nigel Burn - Engineer (Gateshead Council)
 Christine Patterson - Democratic Services Officer (Newcastle City Council)

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor Arlene Ainsley be appointed as Chair for the committee for 2017-18 municipal year.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Allison, Stephen Fairlie and Ian Graham (Newcastle City Council) and Councillor Kathryn Ferdinand (Gateshead Council)

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – That Councillor John McElroy be appointed as Vice Chair for the committee for 2017-18 municipal year.

4 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the membership of the committee for 2017-18 municipal year be noted.

5 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

- Progress was requested on the outcome of discussions with the Kittiwake Partnership about alternative potential roosting sites for the birds nesting on the Tyne Bridge. It was reported that discussions were ongoing with alternative sites still being explored. An update would be provided at the next meeting.
- Clarification was provided about the ownership of the structure of the Swing Bridge, which sits with Newcastle and Gateshead Council's and the mechanical workings of the Swing Bridge which is the responsibility of the Port of Tyne.

(Councillor John Eagle arrived to the meeting 11.40am).

6 **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES REVENUE BUDGET 2017-18**

Submitted: Report by Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle/Strategic Director, Communities & Environment Gateshead (previously circulated and a copy attached to official minutes), which detailed the expenditure for 2016-17 reviews the expenditure for 2017-18 and recommended a budget for expenditure on the Joint Tyne Bridges for 2018-19.

In response to a query, it was explained that the utility, electricity and security system payments included in the Budget for the Tyne Bridge and Redheugh Bridge were to cover the costs for the pedestrian walkways e.g. lighting and additional safety measures.

RESOLVED – That the committee:

- i Noted the expected expenditure for 2017/2018 is £50,667 compared with a budget provision of £45,300.
- ii Recommended the programme of maintenance and repair works to be carried out in 2018/2019, as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.
- iii Recommended a budget provision of £50,410 for 2018/2019, as detailed in paragraph 5 and Appendix A of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2018/19.

7 **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES CAPITAL BUDGET 2017-18**

Submitted: Report by Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle/Strategic Director, Communities & Environment, Gateshead (previously circulated and a copy attached to official minutes), which outlined the progress made on the planned 2017-18 capital works programme for the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges and recommended a capital budget to be expended on the Joint Bridges in 2018/19.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- Clarification was provided on the works to replace the mechanical comb expansion joints on the Scotswood Bridge, which were not being carried out in 2017/18. Funds had been spent on other transport plan schemes so a £300,000 budget provision needed to be identified for 2018/19.
- Reference was made to the High Level Bridge being a historical asset and of pedestrian importance with comments being made that some consideration should be given to ensuring it was properly maintained in the future. The committee was informed that through a consolidation agreement, the authorities had powers of entry to ensure the footway was cleaned. The support structure was owned by Network Rail.
- Reference was made to what progress had been made on securing revenue funding from the erection of commercial signs for large events on the Tyne Bridge. The committee agreed that the matter should be raised in their respective authorities and a progress report presented at the next meeting.
- A query was raised about what advertising had been secured for 'Magic Weekend'. It was agreed to direct this query to the Assistant Director Regulation and Development's team.
- A brief discussion took place about proposals for the Great Exhibition of the North. The committee was advised that there was a proposal that had been submitted to Gateshead Planning Committee for the installation of a 'shipping containers garden' around the base of the Gateshead tower.

RESOLVED – That the committee:

- i. Noted the progress made on the planned capital works programme funded by the Department for Transport's Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2017/18.
- ii. Recommended the programme of planned capital works to be carried out in 2018/2019, as detailed in paragraph 5.1 and 8.1 of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.
- iii. Recommended a budget provision of £375,000 for 2018/2019, as detailed in paragraph 5.1 and 8.1 of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2018/19.
- iv. Receive an update at the next meeting about progress being made around securing revenue from the commercial advertising signage installed on the Tyne Bridge.
- v. The Assistant Director Regulation and Development's Team provide a response to Councillor David Down on the advertising proposals for 'Magic Weekend'.

8 **JOINT BRIDGES - TYNE BRIDGE MAJOR MAINTENANCE**

Submitted: Report by Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle/Strategic Director, Communities and Environment, Gateshead (previously circulated and a copy attached to official minutes), which outlined the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge. It identified the works to be undertaken, the budget costs and the

anticipated programme for delivery. The report also identified the proposed method of funding the works and the governance involved with the delivery of the project.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- Clarification was provided about how the works on the A1 west of Newcastle and on the A19 would be coordinated as far as possible, with disruption being minimised. Signage to alternative routes would be displayed as normal.
- Reference was made to the regional transport bid with the committee being reassured that officers were reasonably comfortable about securing the funding. Political support from both sides was still important, particularly if alternative funding sources were required if funding was not secured.
- Confirmation was provided that costs were based on a population basis of 58:42. The population figures were reviewed regularly, the last check being two years ago.
- Reference was made to the potential interface issues between the planned Capital works to the Tyne Bridge and the proposed 'shipping containers garden' installation. The committee was advised that this interface would be managed with all parties being made aware of the proposed works.
- Clarification was provided that reasonable measures had been put in place to prevent unauthorised entry onto the Tyne Bridge by person(s) and that officers gave consideration to such measures when works were being carried out.

RESOLVED – That the committee:

- i. Recommended the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.
- ii. Recommended the submission of a funding bid as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.