

GATESHEAD NEWCASTLE JOINT BRIDGES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 10.30 am in the This Meeting will be Held Virtually:
Link to view meeting to follow.**

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. Appointment of Chair

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Membership of the Committee

Membership of the Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year is as follows:

Gateshead Council

Councillor John McElroy
Councillor John Eagle
Councillor Ian Patterson
Vacancy

Newcastle City Council

Councillor P Allen
Councillor A Ainslie
Councillor S Fairlie
Councillor J P Stephenson

5. Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

The Committee are asked to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 December 2019 (attached).

6. Joint Tyne Bridges Capital Budget

Report of Assistant Director, Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Health Communities, Gateshead

7. Joint Tyne Bridges Revenue Budget

Report of the Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities, Gateshead

8. Tyne Bridge Major Maintenance

Report of the Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director,
Communities and Environment, Gateshead



Joint Tyne Bridges Committee

19 December 2019

(2.30 - 3.15pm)

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Present:

Councillor: A Ainsley (Chair)

Councillors: S Fairlie, P Allen, J McElroy and J McClurey

In attendance:

Alastair Swan	- Engineer, Newcastle City Council
Nigel Burn	- Engineer, Gateshead Council
Brenda Joyce	- Democratic Services Officer, Newcastle City Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Allison, Eagle and Ferninand.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Ainsley was moved and seconded as Chair.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Arlene Ainsley be appointed Chair of the Joint Bridges Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor McElroy was moved and seconded as Vice Chair.

RESOLVED – That Councillor John McElroy be appointed Vice Chair of the Joint Bridges Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

4 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The membership of the Joint Committee for the 2019-20 Council Year was noted as follows:

Representing Newcastle City Council:

- Councillor Arlene Ainsley

- Councillor George Allison
- Councillor Stephen Fairlie
- Councillor Pauline Allen
- Councillor Gareth Kane – Substitute member

Representing Gateshead Council:

- Councillor John McElroy
- Councillor Katherine Ferdinand
- Councillor John McClurey
- Councillor John Eagle

5 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6 **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES REVENUE BUDGET**

Submitted: Report of Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director, Communities & Environment, Gateshead detailing the expenditure for 2018/2019, reviewing the expenditure for 2019/2020, and recommending a budget for expenditure on the Joint Tyne bridges for 2020/2021 (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The year-end expenditure in 2018/2019 was £27,810 compared with a budget provision of £50,410 (Tyne £10,000, Swing £10,000, Redheugh £14,885, Scotswood £10,525, Newburn £5,000).

At the meeting on 5 December 2018, the budget provision for 2019/2020 was set at £39,900. The current estimated outturn was £29,070.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- With regard to the lights on the Tyne Bridge, the lights were within the superstructure of the bridge itself so would require lane closures and a large 'cherry picker' would need access to do the repairs. Works would be done separately through SEC and there were no concerns about that company doing the repairs again.

The lights were included in the light replacement programme and the capital works for the Tyne Bridge.

- The underspend shown in the outturn would go back into the budget for the joint Tyne bridges.
- A concern was expressed about the experience for pedestrians using the High Level Bridge. As an important gateway and a major thoroughfare, it was unfortunate that it was in such a poor state with graffiti and lighting. It would be a shame for it to deteriorate further and it could be a lot nicer.

The local authorities had responsibility for lighting and surfacing on the bridge. SEC would be asked to advise what was required from a maintenance perspective on the lighting to see if a scheme could be developed to improve it.

It was considered that bridge use had increased with the introduction of new cycle lanes and the opening-up of the new bridges quarter in Gateshead.

When Network Rail carried out major maintenance works the Councils had entered into a new agreement with them. Although it was Network Rail's responsibility to carry out certain duties such as graffiti cleansing, as the bridge was a listed building this was not as simply as it first appeared. There was also two different types of lighting on the bridge – the architectural and the footway lighting and this came under the highway budget. Members asked for this to be looked at as further pedestrian and cycle traffic linked into the air quality and wellbeing agendas as well as trying to increase 'active travel'. The footway lighting would be looked at and a report would be brought back to Committee.

The condition of the architectural lighting on the High Level Bridge would be investigated.

- There was a claim in with NWL to get the money back that was spent on Newburn Bridge repairs. A lot of work had been undertaken on the back of the burst watermain and a recent issue on the south side of the bridge was being picked up by NWL.

RESOLVED – That Joint Bridges Committee agreed to:

- i Note the expected expenditure for 2019/2020 is £29,070 compared with a budget provision of £39,900.
- ii Recommend the programme of maintenance and repair works to be carried out in 2020/2021, as detailed in paragraph 6, to the appropriate committee of each authority.
- iii Recommend a budget provision of £39,900 for 2020/2021, as detailed in paragraph 6 and Appendix A of this report, to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2020/2021.

7 **JOINT TYNE BRIDGES CAPITAL BUDGET**

Submitted: Report of Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director, Communities & Environment, Gateshead outlining the progress made on the planned 2019/20 capital works programme for the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges, unplanned works which were required during the year and recommending a capital budget to be expended on the Joint Bridges in 2020/21 (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

Capital works undertaken on the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges was funded from the LTP Maintenance Block allocation. The maintenance costs were shared on a population basis. In 2019/20 a sum of £375,000 was allocated to the planned works as set in the report, together with a programme of proposed capital works to be carried out in 2019/20.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The budget provision of £375,000 for work to the Redheugh Bridge expansion joints programme to commence in February 2020 was raised. The original estimate had been prepared based on DfT recommendations although safety inspections had subsequently revealed further deterioration. There were also some traffic management cost included in the budget provision.

The increase illustrated that extensive work was needed, and this would have an impact on traffic. The work had last been undertaken in 2004 and the joints were now nearing the end of their serviceable life. It was anticipated the work would be carried out over two weekends and the bridge would need to be closed in both directions. Issues which could impact on traffic flow such as Chinese New Year, fixture lists, ECML replacement buses, weather and potential Metro disruptions etc. would all be factored into to the work programme.

- It was confirmed that the Tyne Bridge, Swing Bridge, High Level Bridge and Newburn Bridge were listed buildings. The Swing Bridge was a 'scheduled ancient monuments' and therefore had a higher level of listing.

A member asked if there was any possibility of Heritage Lottery Funding. Officers advised that they tried to tap into any additional funding possible but specific criteria had to be met for the bidding process.

- The A167 Tyne Bridge was the only bridge categorised as a major road; the A695 Redheugh Bridge was not.

RESOLVED – That Committee agreed to: -

- Note the progress made on the planned capital works programme funded by the Department for Transport's Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2019/20.
- Recommend the programme of planned capital works to be carried out in 2020/21, as detailed in paragraphs 5 to 9, to the appropriate committee of each authority.
- Recommend a budget provision of £200,000 for 2020/21, as detailed in paragraphs 5 to and 9 of this report, to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2020/21.

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

Submitted: Report of Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle and Strategic Director, Communities & Environment, Gateshead providing (previously circulated and copy attached to the official minutes).

The report updated Members on the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge and identified the works to be undertaken, the budget costs and the anticipated programme for delivery. It also identified the proposed method of funding the works and the governance involved with the delivery of the project.

A combined bid had been successful in the first stage and the DfT had granted the authorities £100,000 to develop the projects to Outline Business Case for a combined £40 million project for the Tyne Bridge and Central Motorway. It was anticipated that the bid submission would go to DfT early in the new year and if successful it was hoped that there would be an announcement by the end of this financial year with a view to having the funding in place from 2021.

There would be at least one year's preparatory work before the project would be on site and the intention would be to carry out the programme of works over a three-year period to minimise disruption.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The condition of the Tyne Bridge towers was raised along with the possibility of making better use of the space. Currently work to the towers was to secure and reinforce the doors and deal with water and bird ingress issues.

The Property Section had been in talks with various organisations with regards to utilizing the space and some proposals had been brought forward but not in any great detail. Pop up events had been suggested but there was possibly some reticence due to proposed major maintenance works.

The towers were originally built as warehouses. However, although the inside was in skeleton form only, the towers did offer opportunities.

Members considered that it would be a positive move if the use of the towers could be maximized.

- Before the DfT allocated any funding, it had to be satisfied that any works were appropriate, provided value for money and met their various criteria. The business case had been developed over a couple of years and because of the scale of the works there had not been a suitable fund to bid against up until the last budget announcement.
- Part of the overall package being looked at was improving accessibility and the possibility of reintroducing lifts from the Quayside to the road deck level. A challenge would be that additional lift shafts would need to be installed compared to the existing one. Again, this would be looked at subject to funding being made available. There was a slight concern around the security on the bridge if lifts were in use and this would need to be considered.

The consideration of bringing the lifts back into use was welcomed. It was hoped that the Tyne Bridge would be in prime condition for the centenary in 2028.

RESOLVED – That Committee: -

- i Noted the contents of the report.
- ii Recommended the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge, as detailed in paragraph 4 of this report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.



Newcastle & Gateshead Joint Bridges Committee

10 December 2020

Joint Tyne Bridges Capital Budget

Report by: Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle /
Strategic Director, Housing, Environment & Healthy
Communities, Gateshead

Ward Implications: Monument/ Benwell & Scotswood/ Callerton & Throckley/ Ryton,
Crawcrook & Stella/Blaydon/Dunston & Teams/Bridges

For information		
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1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report outlines the progress made on the planned 2020/21 capital works programme for the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges, unplanned works which were required during the year and recommends a capital budget to be expended on the Joint Bridges in 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Committee is recommended to: -

- i Note the progress made on the planned capital works programme funded by the Department for Transport's Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2020/21.
- ii Recommend the programme of planned capital works to be carried out in 2021/22, as detailed in paragraphs 5 to 9, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision processes of each authority.
- iii Recommend a budget provision of £200,000 for 2021/22, as detailed in paragraphs 5 to and 9 of this report, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision processes of each authority for inclusion in budgets for 2021/22.

3. Introduction and background

3.1 Capital works undertaken on the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges is funded from the LTP Maintenance Block allocation. The maintenance costs are shared on a population basis. In 2020/21 a sum of £375,000 was allocated to the planned works as set out below, together with a programme of proposed capital works to be carried out in 2021/22.

4. Tyne Bridge

4.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

4.2 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2021/22.

4.3 Design work on the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge has continued. As reported to Members at the last Committee meeting it was proposed that a funding bid for the major maintenance of the bridge be submitted to the Department for Transport. A bid has now been submitted and there is a separate report to Committee on this.

5 Swing Bridge

5.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

5.2 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2021/22.

6. High Level Bridge

6.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

6.2 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2021/22.

7. Redheugh Bridge

7.1 A budget provision of £375,000 was identified in 2019/20 for urgent replacement of the expansion joints. These works were completed in February 2020. The outturn works cost was £394,000 and included routine and reactive maintenance.

7.2 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

7.3 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2021/22.

8. Scotswood Bridge

8.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

8.2 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2021/22.

9. Newburn Bridge

9.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2020/21.

9.2 There are no proposals to carry out capital works in 2021/22.

10. Reasons for the decision

- 10.1 The programme of works and budget recommended in paragraphs 4 to 9 are the level of works required to address known deterioration on these bridges and to allow these bridges to be maintained in a safe and fit for purpose condition.

11. Alternative Options

- 11.1 The programme of works and budget presented in paragraphs 4 to 9 are provided as the allowance to ensure safe public use of these assets. Not undertaking these works would pose a risk to public safety and an associated liability to the Authorities.

12. What happens next

- 12.1 The recommended programme of works and budget presented in paragraphs 4 to 9 shall be presented to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2021/22.

13. Background papers

Background papers held by: -

Newcastle City Council, Place Directorate, Transport, Contact Officer: Alastair Swan, Tel. 0191 211 5931;

Gateshead Council, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities; Highways & Waste; Contact Officer: Nigel Burn, Tel. 0191 433 3079

114. Contact officers

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Newcastle & Gateshead Joint Bridges Committee

10 December 2020

Joint Tyne Bridges Revenue Budget

Report by: Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle /
Strategic Director, Housing, Environment & Healthy
Communities, Gateshead

Ward Implications: Monument/ Benwell & Scotswood/ Callerton & Throckley/ Ryton,
Crawcrook & Stella/Blaydon/Dunston & Teams/Bridges

For decision		
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1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report details the expenditure for 2019/2020, reviews the expenditure for 2020/2021, and recommends a budget for expenditure on the Joint Tyne bridges for 2021/2022.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Committee is recommended to:

- i Note the expected expenditure for 2020/2021 is £30,350 compared with a budget provision of £39,900.
- ii Recommend the programme of maintenance and repair works to be carried out in 2021/2022, as detailed in paragraph 6, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision making of each authority.
- iii Recommend a budget provision of £45,500 for 2021/2022, as detailed in paragraph 6 and Appendix A of this report, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision making of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2021/2022.

3. Introduction and background

- 3.1 The Tyne, Swing, Redheugh, Scotswood and Newburn Bridges are jointly owned and maintained by Newcastle and Gateshead Councils. The High Level Bridge is owned and maintained by Network Rail except for the surfacing and lighting. The maintenance responsibility for these bridges is split as follows with costs shared on a population basis.

Newcastle City Council – Lead Authority

- Tyne Bridge
- Swing Bridge
- Newburn Bridge
- High Level Bridge – surfacing and lighting only

Gateshead Council – Lead Authority

- Redheugh Bridge
- Scotswood Bridge

This report presents details of the revenue maintenance of these bridges.

4. Year End Expenditure in 2019/2020

- 4.1 The year-end expenditure in 2019/2020 was £37,828 compared with a budget provision of £39,900 (Tyne £10,000, Swing £10,000, Redheugh £15,200, Scotswood £3,700, Newburn £1,000).

5. Review of Expenditure in 2020/2021

- 5.1 At the meeting of 19 December 2019, the budget provision for 2020/2021 was set at £39,650. The current estimated outturn is £30,350. A review of the expenditure is given below and details are shown in Appendix A.

Tyne Bridge

- 5.2 The estimated outturn for the Tyne Bridge is £9,700 compared with a budget figure of £10,000. Works to the Tyne Bridge include minor drainage repairs, bird control measures and graffiti removal.

Swing Bridge

- 5.3 The estimated outturn for the Swing Bridge is £9,000 compared to a budget figure of £10,000. Works to the Swing Bridge were restricted to minor safety repairs to the surfacing and bridge deck.

Redheugh Bridge

- 5.4 The estimated outturn for the Redheugh Bridge is £7,150 compared to a budget allocation of £14,950. Works to the Redheugh Bridge include regular maintenance of the bridge drainage system, programmed maintenance to replace internal lighting and replace a security door, reactive maintenance to repair the pedestrian guardrail from vehicle impact and parapet mesh repair. Other regular and reactive maintenance were undertaken as part of the

capital bridge maintenance works in February 2020.

Scotswood Bridge

- 5.5 The estimated outturn for the Scotswood Bridge is £4,500 compared to a budget allocation of £3,700. Works to the Scotswood Bridge include regular maintenance to the bridge drainage system and river outfalls programmed maintenance of bridge drainage system and expansion joints and reactive maintenance to impact damage to the steel parapets.

Newburn Bridge

- 5.6 The estimated outturn for the Newburn Bridge is nil compared to a budget allocation of £1,000. No works are anticipated this year.

6. Proposed Budget Provision for 2021/2020

Tyne Bridge

- 6.1 An allowance of £10,000 has been identified for minor structural repairs, routine maintenance and utility payments on the bridge.

Swing Bridge

- 6.2 An allowance of £10,000 has been identified for minor maintenance repairs and routine maintenance on the bridge.

High Level Bridge

- 6.3 There is no planned maintenance on the bridge.

Redheugh Bridge

- 6.4 An allowance of £14,800 has been identified for regular maintenance of the bridge drainage system, reactive repairs, utility payments and provision of the security system.

Scotswood Bridge

- 6.5 An allowance of £9,700 has been identified for regular maintenance of the bridge drainage system and river outfalls, programmed maintenance to the parapets and reactive repairs.

Newburn Bridge

- 6.6 An allowance of £1,000 has been identified for minor repair works on the bridge.

7. Reasons for the decision

- 7.1 The programme of works and budget recommended in paragraph 6 are the minimum level of works anticipated to allow these bridges to be maintained in a safe and fit for purpose condition.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1 The programme of works and budget presented in paragraph 6 are provided as the minimum allowance to ensure safe public use of these assets.

9. What happens next

- 9.1 The recommended programme of works and budget presented in paragraph 6 shall be presented to the appropriate committee of each authority for inclusion in that committee's budget for 2021/22.

10. Background papers

Background papers held by: -

Newcastle City Council, Place Directorate, Transport, Contact Officer:
Alastair Swan, Tel. 0191 211 5931;

Gateshead Council, Housing, Environment & Healthy Communities;
Highways & Waste; Contact Officer: Nigel Burn, Tel. 0191 433 3079

11. Contact officers

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APPENDIX A

Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges Committee Bridge Maintenance Revenue Budget

	Actual Expenditure 2019/2020	Budget Provision 2020/2021	Estimated Outturn 2020/2021	Proposed Budget 2021/2022
	£	£	£	£
Tyne-Bridge				
Regular maintenance	0	0	0	0
Programmed maintenance	8,561	0	0	0
Reactive maintenance	15,050	9,800	9,500	9,800
Electricity Charges		200	200	200
Sub Total	23,611	10,000	9,700	10,000
Swing Bridge				
Regular maintenance	0	0	0	0
Programmed maintenance	0	0	0	0
Reactive maintenance	7,549	10,000	9,000	10,000
Sub Total	7,549	10,000	9,000	10,000
Redheugh Bridge				
Regular maintenance	283	8,100	1,200	8,100
Programmed maintenance	0	2,000	1,500	2,000
Reactive maintenance	0	1,000	750	1,000
Utility Payments	334	2,000	1,800	1,800
Security System	1,806	1,850	1,900	1,900
Sub Total	2,423	14,950	7,150	14,800
Scotswood Bridge				
Regular maintenance	0	2,500	1,200	2,500
Programmed maintenance	0	0	800	6,000
Reactive maintenance	4,245	1,200	2,500	1,200
Sub Total	4,245	3,700	4,500	9,700
Newburn Bridge				
Regular maintenance	0	0	0	0
Programmed maintenance	0	0	0	0
Reactive maintenance	0	1,000	0	1,000
Sub Total	0	1,000	0	1,000
TOTAL	37,828	39,650	30,350	45,500

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Newcastle & Gateshead Joint Bridges Committee

10 December 2020

TYNE BRIDGE MAJOR MAINTENANCE

**Report by: Assistant Director Transport, Newcastle /
Strategic Director, Communities & Environment, Gateshead**

**Ward Implications: Monument/ Benwell & Scotswood/ Callerton & Throckley/
Ryton, Crawcrook & Stella/Blaydon/Dunston &
Teams/Bridges**

For information		
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1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report updates Members on the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge. It identifies the works to be undertaken, the budget costs and the anticipated programme for delivery.

The report also identifies the proposed method of funding the works and the governance involved with the delivery of the project.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Committee is requested to: -

- i Note the contents of the report.
- ii Recommend the proposals for the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge, as detailed in paragraph 4 of this report, to the appropriate committee of each authority.

3. Introduction and background

3.1 The Tyne Bridge, which was constructed between 1925 and 1928, was given Grade II* listed status by English Heritage in 2018 as part of the Great Exhibition of the North celebrations.

When it was opened on the 10 October 1928 it was the largest single span steel arch bridge in Britain. The bridge is a landmark feature in the North East and is recognised around the world.

The Tyne Bridge is jointly owned and maintained by Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council with maintenance costs being share on a population basis of 58:42. Newcastle City Council are the lead authority for the bridge with respect to maintenance.

- 3.2 The Tyne Bridge forms a key part of the area's main highway network crossing the River Tyne and carrying around 70,000 vehicles per day based on pre-Covid19 traffic levels.
- 3.3 The ongoing maintenance of the bridge is essential to ensure public safety and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. Major maintenance of the bridge was last undertaken between 1999 and 2001 when the bridge deck was repaired, re-waterproofed and re-surfaced. Additionally, the steel structure was fully repainted with localised 'blasting' being undertaken to deal with deep lying corrosion together with steelwork repairs. The cost of the works at the time were in the order of £4.0M and were funded by the Department for Transport, reflecting the national significance of the bridge.
- 3.4 The works undertaken were expected to last 18-20 years and the bridge is now showing noticeable signs of deterioration, particularly with the appearance of corrosion of the steelwork and breakdown of the paint system.

4. Current position and proposals

- 4.1 A programme of specialist inspections and investigation of the condition of the bridge has been carried out over recent years to identify the scope and extent of the maintenance works that are now required.

The maintenance works will include the following:

- a. Full grit blasting and repainting of the bridge steelwork;
- b. Steelwork and cast-iron repairs/replacement as required;
- c. Lighting repairs/replacement as required;
- d. Concrete and drainage repairs within the towers;
- e. Resurfacing;
- f. Road drainage and joint repairs/replacement;
- g. Security improvements; and
- h. Door and window repair / replacement.

In addition, consideration will be given to:

- i. Bird access/nesting prevention measures;
- j. Access improvement; and
- k. Vehicle containment measures.

- 4.2 The intention is to carry out the programme of works over a three-year period.
- 4.3 The works will be undertaken in a manner that will seek to minimize the impact on any users. However, it is envisaged that a limited number of bridge closures will be required over the duration of the works to maintain public safety. Where possible these closures will take place over night and will be publicised in advance with clearly signed diversion routes put in place.

4.4 The programme costs have been prepared following work estimates provided by consultants / specialist contractors following the development of outline designs for the proposed works. HM Treasury - Supplementary Green Book Guidance has been used in the development of the 'Optimism Bias' allowances for the works. The current budget estimate for the works is in the order of £20M.

4.5 A bid has been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for Major Road Network (MRN) funding. The bid for the Tyne Bridge was combined with a programme of maintenance works on the Central Motorway in Newcastle.

This combined bid was successful in the first stage of the assessment and the DfT granted the authorities £100,000 to develop the projects to Outline Business Case. Works have been progressed in 2020-21 to develop the Outline Business Case. However, at the time of writing, a date for final DfT approval has not been identified.

4.6 It is anticipated that, if successful, the funding will be subject to a local contribution, estimated to be in the region of £3M and it is proposed that this would be met from the existing Local Transport Plan Maintenance Block allocations spread over 3-5 years. This would be funded by Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council on a 58% : 42% basis.

4.7 Additionally, alternative sources of funding are being investigated.

5. Reasons for the decision

5.1 The programme of works recommended in paragraphs 4 are major works that require a significant level of funding to allow their delivery. The level of funding required is beyond the scope of the funding currently available for bridge maintenance. Member approval of the proposals and funding are required and will support the next iteration of the business case submitted to government.

5.2 The works are essential to secure the long-term availability of the Tyne Bridge to the travelling public and to maintain the safe and fit for purpose use of the bridge without the need to impose weight or width restrictions.

6. Alternative options

6.1 The programme of works identified addresses the deterioration of the structure which needs to be undertaken to maintain its safe use. The extent of the works requires significant investment.

6.2 The current level of Bridge Maintenance funding is insufficient to allow these works to be carried out and failure to secure additional capital funding would lead to a further deterioration in the bridge condition and would ultimately result in restrictions being placed on the use of the bridge.

6.3 If funding from the Department of Transport cannot be secured the Authorities would have to look at alternative funding options.

7. What happens next

7.1 Officers shall prepare the Department of Transport Funding Bids which will be submitted for consideration and approval.

7.2 The recommended programme of works and budget presented in paragraphs 4 shall be presented to the appropriate committee of each authority.

7.3 Subject to funding approval the programme of works and budget shall be

developed and submitted to the appropriate committee of each authority.

7.4 Subject to funding and Committee approval, the works will be procured in accordance with Newcastle City Council's Financial Regulations.

7.5 The development of the programme will be reported to the Joint Tyne Bridges Committee and to the appropriate committee of each authority. The Newcastle City Council Project Management Framework shall be used for the monitoring and reporting of the project.

8. Background papers

Background papers held by: -

Newcastle City Council, Place Directorate, Transport, Contact Officer:
Alastair Swan,

9. Contact officers

Alastair Swan, Tel. 0191 211 5931; alastair.swan@newcastle.gov.uk