

Newcastle & Gateshead Joint Bridges Committee

19 December 2022

Joint Tyne Bridges Capital Budget

Report by: Assistant Director of 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 outlines the progress made on the planned 2022/23 capital works programme, details any unplanned capital works which were required during the year and recommends a capital budget for expenditure on the Joint Tyne Bridges in 2023/24.

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 Highway Maintenance Block (HMB) for 2022/23.
- ii Recommend the programme of planned capital works to be carried out in 2023/24, as detailed in paragraphs 4 to 9, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision processes of each authority.
- iii Recommend a budget provision of £697,000 for 2023/24, as detailed in paragraphs 4 to 9 of this report, to the appropriate committee or delegated decision processes of each authority for inclusion in budgets for 2023/24.

3. Introduction and background

3.1 Capital works undertaken on the Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Bridges is funded from the Department for Transport's Highway Maintenance Block (HMB) allocation. The maintenance costs are shared on a population basis. In 2022/23 there was £125,000 capital budget allocation. The planned works to be carried out in 2023/24 are set out below, together with the recommended budget allocations.

4. Tyne Bridge

4.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2022/23.

4.2 Development work on the major maintenance of the Tyne Bridge has continued. As reported to Members at the last Committee meeting a funding bid from the Major Road Network programme was submitted to the Department for Transport. HMB funding would be required as part of the local contribution to this project. There is a separate report to Committee on this project.

4.3 As part of the development work a detailed inspection and investigation was carried out in 2022/23. The expected outturn cost is £1,427,000 funded by HMB as part of the local contribution to this project.

4.4 It is proposed to provide a local contribution from HMB funding in 2023/24 for the major maintenance of £497,000.

5 Swing Bridge

5.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2022/23. However due to problems identified with the end of the swing span deck it is proposed to carry out some temporary repairs to prevent further deterioration of the bridge. A budget provision of £15,000 is required in 2022/23 for the proposed works.

5.2 It is proposed to undertake permanent repairs to the end of the swing span deck. A budget provision of £50,000 is required in 2023/24 for the proposed works.

6. High Level Bridge

6.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2022/23.

6.2 There are no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2023/24.

7. Redheugh Bridge

7.1 There were proposals to carry out a principal inspection of the Redheugh Bridge in 2022/23. These works have been postponed, and the funding re-allocated towards the cost of the principal inspection of the Tyne Bridge.

7.2 It is proposed to undertake a principal inspection of Redheugh Bridge. The last principal inspection took place in 2016. A budget provision of £75,000 is required in 2023/24 for the proposed works.

8. Scotswood Bridge

8.1 There were proposals to carry out a principal inspection of the Scotswood Bridge in 2022/23. These works have been postponed, and the funding re-allocated towards the cost of the principal inspection of the Tyne Bridge.

8.2 It is proposed to undertake a principal inspection of Scotswood Bridge. The last principal inspection took place in 2011. A budget provision of £50,000 is required in 2023/24 for the proposed works.

9. Newburn Bridge

9.1 There were no proposals to carry out any capital works in 2022/23.

9.2 It is proposed to undertake a principal inspection of Newburn Bridge. A budget provision of £25,000 is required in 2023/24 for the proposed works.

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 2023/24.

13. Background papers

Background papers held by: -

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

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