



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Capital Programme: Clement Wilson Bridge Replacement
<b>Date:</b>	23 November 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Donal Rogan – Head of Contracts, ExtL: 2460 Gerard Kennedy – Assistant Project Manager, Ext: 3498

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that a proposal for the replacement of the Clement Wilson Bridge is included as a committed project in the capital programme at an estimated gross cost of £200,000.
1.2	The current bridge structure has been identified in recent condition surveys as beyond its useful life expectancy and poses a potential health and safety risk. Some repairs have been carried out on the bridge but full replacement is being progressed as a priority.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	A condition report undertaken by structural engineers in October highlighted several issues with the bridge. The report indicates that further deterioration has taken place since it was previously surveyed (April 2012) resulting in a number of latent trip hazards presenting themselves where timbers have rotted and the mesh covering has been left to span the gaps. The bridge presented a potential safety risk to users and some remedial work has been undertaken to mitigate the risk as a short term fix.
2.2	A planning application has been submitted with a view to the commencement of works to replace the bridge in March/April 2013 and a procurement process has been commenced so as to have a contractor in place once planning permission is received.
2.3	The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that there is capacity in the capital expenditure budget to progress this project.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>A gross amount of £200,000 has been included for this proposal in the capital programme as a committed project. It had been anticipated that some of the funding might have been in the form of a contribution from NI Water as there is potential for them to have some responsibility towards maintenance of any new bridge. Discussions are currently ongoing with NI Water regarding this matter but it is proposed to proceed on the basis that full costs may be incurred by the Council.</p>
3.2	<p>The cost to the Council is therefore expected to be the full gross (estimated) cost of £200,000 which will possibly be reduced if the outcome of discussions with NI Water are favourable.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional HR implications in respect of this report.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The provision of the new bridge will allow the council to continue to provide safe access for users to Clement Wilson Park from New Forge Lane and to ensure that the proposed replacement of the bridge can contribute positively to a number of key strategies targeting the improving of the well being of citizens, encouraging tourism growth and creating shared spaces.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	<p>There are no equality implications.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to approve;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The advancement of the Clement Wilson Bridge replacement proposal with a full commitment to invest the full amount of £200,000.</li> <li>• Invitation of tenders and implementation, with delegated authority for the Director of Property and Parks to award of contracts being made to the firms submitting the most economically advantageous tenders on the basis of cost and quality.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Donal Rogan – Head of Contracts, Ext: 2460 Gerard Kennedy – Assistant Project Manager, Ext: 3498</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
<p>None.</p>	