

Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

Meeting	ICMD	Date	26 th Aug 2020		
Title	Approval to use a portion of the renewals reserve to remove and replace two bridges over Burrow Beck				
Report of	Director for Communities and Environment				
Purpose of the Report – To allocate up to £50,000 from the Council’s renewal reserve to fund the removal of two Council owned bridges over Burrow Beck. To be replaced with bridges of a design that will improve water flow under the bridges.					
Key Decision (Y/N)	N	Date of Notice	NA	Exempt (Y/N)	N

Report Summary

The bid from reserves has been pre-approved. The attached appendix outlines the reasons why this request has been made and seeks approval from the Portfolio with responsibility for climate change.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member agrees to allocation of the amount required from the renewals reserve

Relationship to Policy Framework

Tackling Climate Change

Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s), where applicable

Climate- increased flooding events are a direct consequence of climate change. This action in itself will not prevent future flooding but it will help mitigate through the location of new bridges which are designed to help water flow.

Wellbeing & Social Value- residents in this area have been flooded on at least 3 occasions in the last three years. This has a consequential mental and emotional impact on our residents

Digital

Health & Safety- as set out in the report.

Equality

Community Safety

Details of Consultation

For the reasons outlined in this report the bridges do need to be replaced. To ensure that residents are aware of this and also to ensure we take into account local issues that residents will be aware of we are sending written information to surrounding residents and asking for views. These views where appropriate will be built into planning of the project.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications stemming from this report. Legal Services’ advice and assistance should be sought in respect of contract for services and construction of the replacement bridges.

Financial Implications

Given the health and safety aspect at stake here, it would seem logical to support this request from utilising the renewals reserve. The budget closing balance of the reserve as at 31st March 2021 is estimated at £278K and can be accommodated within this amount.

Other Resource or Risk Implications

This request is made on the grounds of contribution to reducing flooding risk and the consequent impact on public safety and surrounding property.

Section 151 Officer's Comments

In accordance with the Council's Reserve Policy 2020/21, as part of the approval process the bid should be approved and signed off by the Section 151 Officer. Section 151 Officer approval is therefore given in this instance.

Deputy Monitoring Officer's Comments

In accordance with the Council's Reserve Policy 2020/21 the bid needs to be pre-approved by Cabinet. The Leader, pursuant to Part 2, Section 4, para 5.1 (c) of the constitution may, being authorised to exercise of any executive functions, give the pre-approval needed. It is understood that the Leader has given the necessary pre-approval.

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Links to Background Papers

NA

1.0 Report

- 1.1 The two existing bridges at Lentworth Drive (Barton Rd end) and Cranwell Avenue belong to and are the responsibility of the City Council.
- 1.2 Replacement of these two bridges is proposed on the grounds of safety and in order to contribute to the protection of surrounding properties. The replacement bridges will be elevated to allow for improved water flow during rainfall events.
- 1.3 A request to use the renewals reserve has been made for this projects, In accord with the Council's reserves policy pre- approval has been sought and granted.
- 1.4 The details of the pre- approval are set out in appendix 1

2.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

2.1 The officer preferred option is approve the use of reserves for this project for the reasons outlined in this report and appendix.

APPENDIX 1 - pre- approval request

Date:	24.08.2020
From:	Will Griffith (Head of Public Realm)
To:	Cllr Lewis (Leader)

Request:	To ask for consideration to pre- approve a request for use of the renewal reserves for the purpose of replacing two pedestrian bridges on the grounds of safety and protection of adjacent property.
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Recommendation:	<p>Residents on Lentworth Drive in Hala were subject to flooding in 2017. Unfortunately, the same residents also suffered flooding on both the 5th and 11th August 2020. Following the most recent flooding episodes, councillors and officers have been working on a multi agency response to press for action to be taken to improve flood mitigation. The Environment Agency (EA) suggest that a significant contribution to flooding on 5th August was a blockage of washed down branches and a pedestrian barrier against a city council owned bridge at Lentworth Drive, Lancaster (Barton Rd end).</p> <p>As part of the partnership discussions with the EA, following these incidents, there is agreement that the bridges at Lentworth Drive, and Cranwell Avenue need to be replaced and the elevation of the structures increased to improve water flow during peak times.</p> <p>Both bridges are on the responsibility of Lancaster City Council and are sited on land owned by the authority. Following initial consultation with the community, it is clear these bridges are heavily used and in some cases will save the resident up to 1,000m walk round to the major road and bus network. Therefore simply removing the bridges is not an option.</p> <p>Whilst this will not form part of the formal EA flood defence mitigation, it will stop any further blockages from occurring, and future proof the structures from increases in river levels.</p> <p>EA were approached for an external contribution but they are not in a position to support.</p> <p>Working with the Council's engineer and EA, it is requested that a project budget is set up from the renewals reserve to allow for project expenditure of up to £50,000. This will include safe removal of the current structures, landscape changes in ground levels and footpaths, adjustments to the abutments and fitting of new structures. An estimated outline of the costs are as follows:</p> <p>Lentworth Drive</p> <p>Procurement of new bridge structure - £7,500 Removal of old bridge and all associated costs- £5,000 Adjustments to abutments and reshaping of the approaches - £7,500</p>
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	<p>Contingency - £5,000</p> <p>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST – £25,000</p> <p>Cranwell Avenue</p> <p>Procurement of new bridge structure - £7,500 Removal of old bridge and all associated costs- £5,000 Adjustments to abutments and reshaping of the approaches - £7,500 Contingency - £5,000</p> <p>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST – £25,000</p> <p>OVERALL PROJECT COST - £50,000</p> <p>As we enter the autumn/winter period, it will be important to have these works undertaken as quickly as possible to protect residents properties against the threat of further possible episodes of flooding. We would endeavour, on approval, to have the project delivered within a 12 week timescale.</p>
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<p>S151 Comments:</p>	<p>Given the health and safety aspect at stake here, it would seem logical to support this request from utilising the renewals reserve. The budget closing balance of the reserve as at 31st March 2021 is estimated at £278K and can be accommodated within this amount.</p>
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<p>Director Comments:</p>	<p>This area has over the last few years flooded on at least three occasions. It is a significant cause of concern to residents. The City Council is not the flood authority and is not responsible for the water course. However, it does have a responsibility as owner of the bridges and as a community leader. Already the City Council allocated huge amounts of resource to emergency response, clean up operations and proactive work. Recent events show how easily a bridge became obstructed and the subsequent damage that is caused. The Council's renewal reserve is held specifically for this purpose. I recommend that an allocation of £50K for this project is made from it.</p>
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