

CASTLEROCK RAILWAY STATION FOOTBRIDGE	6TH June 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR DECISION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environment and Assets
Outcome	Assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability
Lead Officer	Head of Estates
Cost: (If applicable)	£48,135 for Stage 1. Stage 2 unknown.

The purpose of this report is to update members on the status of the proposed repairs to Castlerock Footbridge further to the report item brought to committee in September 2017.

Background

In 1996 Coleraine Borough Council entered into a 10,000 year lease with NI Transport Holding Co. (NITHC) for the upkeep of the footbridge at Castlerock Railway Station. Terms of the lease put the onus on Council to restore the bridge and continue to maintain it throughout the period of the lease. The bridge was restored by Council in 1998 but since then has had minimal maintenance and is now showing signs of significant deterioration exacerbated by the repairs previously carried out. It is in a poor condition.

It was decided that the necessary restoration project would be broken down into two stages. Stage 1 would be the removal (with approval of NIEA) of the bridge to a workshop where it could be cleaned down. At this point a schedule of repair work could be established (should the bridge be deemed to be reparable). An estimate of cost to repair could then be brought to Council for consideration. Initial requests for quotations from specialist contractors resulted in only one response for Stage 1 of £55,260.

Detail

Further effort was made to attract quotations and 3 prices were received ranging from £18,135 to £57,360 for Stage 1 (remove to covered storage, clean down and apply mild protective coating).

Following approval of the lowest quotation a meeting was held with Translink to discuss and agree a weekend over which to carry out the proposed work. At this meeting (27 Oct 2016) Translink insisted that a temporary structure be put in place while the original bridge was undergoing assessment and repairs. Up until this point no consideration had been given to the installation of a temporary footbridge.

Council are expected to pay for the provision of the temporary bridge. Translink have also confirmed that they will not allow the original bridge to be removed unless a temporary structure is put in its place. Translink have a redundant footbridge but would expect Council to pay for its installation in Castlerock. Further work by officers have determined that it will cost approximately £30,000 for a temporary footbridge, which may need to stay in place for 9 - 12 months, while the original bridge is cleaned, assessed and repaired before returning to site. In the meantime NIEA have consented to allow the bridge to be removed for cleaning and assessment.

Key Issues

Cost to remove, clean and assess	£18,135
Cost for temporary structure (approx.)	<u>£30,000</u>
<i>Cost to Council</i>	<i>£48,135</i>

Should the footbridge be deemed reparable then Council will be required to pay the repair costs which are yet unknown (a specialist contractor was asked to give an estimate of repair costs but, following inspection, declined to do so as there are too many unknowns at this stage). Any proposed Schedule of Work will need NIEA approval. Once repaired and put back in place Council will be required to budget for annual on-going maintenance to ensure the future of the footbridge.

Options

Option 1: Do nothing. Bridge will continue to deteriorate to point that it needs to be removed for safety reasons. Council are not obliged under lease to replace bridge. (For information a new bridge cost is estimated at £350,000.)

Option 2: Spend approximately £48,135 to allow bridge to be removed and assessed. Further report to be brought to Council confirming a) can bridge be economically repaired and b) at what cost? Note NIEA will be actively involved in this decision process.

Recommendation

Council are asked to discuss and recommend which is their preferred option.