
Subject: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BRIDGE AT THE BUTTS, SANDWICH

Date: 12 September 2023

Decision to be taken by: Mike Davis, Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)

Report of: Keith Watson, Corporate Estate and Coastal Engineer

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property

Decision Type: Executive Non-Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Delegated Authority: Delegations B5 ('To authorise contracts with a value not exceeding £200,00') and C64 ('To authorise new projects up to £50,000 that can be funded within the overall resources of the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan') of Section 6 (Scheme of Officer Delegations) of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Constitution

Purpose of the report: To seek an additional £20,000 from the Corporate Assets Repair and Maintenance provision and to award the contract of works for a total of £50,000.

Recommendation:

- (a) To approve the expenditure of an additional £20,000, using the Corporate Assets Repair and Maintenance provision within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (Special Project Reserve).
- (b) To approve the award of a contract to Ovenden Allworks to construct a new bridge at The Butts, Sandwich.

1. Summary

1.1 A tender exercise has been conducted for the construction of a new bridge and enhancements to an existing culvert on the stream to The Butts, Sandwich. This has exceeded the initial approved budget of £30,000 from the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). After following a value-engineering exercise on the new bridge design and recently re-tendering the works, it has become necessary to request a further £20,000 from the approved Corporate Assets Repair and Maintenance provision to award the contract of works.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Parks and Open Spaces team works closely with the River Stour Internal Drainage Board in managing the local streams. Dover District Council actively dredges the stream by the cricket pavilion down to Moat Sole. Whilst this helps create capacity in the stream, the issues with stagnant water and fish fatalities still occur due to restricted flows. The dredged material cannot be transported off site due to its being categorised as hazardous waste which would require a licence from the Environment Agency. The

cost implications for disposal would be prohibitive but there are also access and logistical problems.

2.3 Consequently £30,000 has already been drawn down from the previous financial year to help improve the situation. A project to firstly increase the culvert size of the existing bridge and then to construct a new bridge that spans the Poulders Stream to provide access to the neighbouring paddock field is proposed.

2.4 The idea behind these works is to reduce the build-up of stagnant silt and mud around the existing bridge as well as reducing frequent dredging works. The new bridge will provide key access to a neighbouring Council field to allow future dredged material to be placed away from the Butts. This will mitigate the smell and visual impacts generated by the works in placing dredged material directly onto the grassed embankments where members of the public frequently walk and enjoy the Butts.

3 Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: Do nothing.

3.2 Option 2: (Recommended) To approve the additional £20,000 expenditure from the Corporate Assets Repair and Maintenance Provision.

4 Evaluation of Options

4.1 Option 2 is recommended to allow the contract award and construction of the new bridge and culvert enhancements. This will improve future maintenance of the stream and local area as explained in the report.

5 Resource Implications

5.1 £30,000 is currently approved and included in the current MTFP to fund the issues explained within the report.

5.2 It is proposed to fund the additional £20,000 requirement from the Corporate Assets Repairs and Maintenance provision included in the current MTFP (Special Project Reserve). With a total project cost of £50,000 inclusive of a small contingency sum.

6 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

6.1 This work will allow improvement, creation and management of wildlife habitats.

6.2 The works will support the de-silting of the watercourse as part of DDC's ongoing water management and flood prevention responsibilities.

7 Corporate Implications

7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): The S151 Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments (MD).

7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report regarding the construction of the new bridge at The Butts, Sandwich does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector

equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>.

8 Appendices

None.

9 Background Papers

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Dover.

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