

Report – Planning and Transportation Committee

Gateway 4b: Blackfriars Bridge Parapet Refurbishment and Bridge Re-Painting

To be presented on Thursday, 6th December 2018

To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled.

SUMMARY

Gateway 3/4 approval has been provided for a full refurbishment of Blackfriars Bridge with repair and replacement of the cast iron features as required; working around the current access restrictions. The project will significantly improve the aesthetics of the structure and protect its fabric. It will also repair the parapets to prevent future water ingress and protect the structure.

Since Project Proposal (Gateway 2), estimated costs have increased by £3,570,000 owing to better understanding of the full implications of the access restrictions, particularly because of the Tideway Tunnel works site. The increase in cost now means that the estimated total cost of the project is £8,570,000 and the Court's approval to proceed at Gateway 4b is therefore now sought.

If the project is not progressed, the appearance of the bridge will further deteriorate and ultimately, the lifespan of the structure will be significantly reduced. The City would also be seen to be failing to meet its obligations under the Blackfriars Bridge Act 1863 and the Corporation of London (Bridges) Act 1911 to maintain and repair the bridge.

The next step will be to progress the project to Gateway 5 (expected October 2019).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Court of Common Council's approval be given to the progression of the programme of works from Gateway 4b to Gateway 5.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. Following approval for the project at Gateway 2, AECOM produced a study to identify the options around refurbishing the bridge. The options appraisal included a number of considerations. It was generally felt that the repainting and repair/replacement option would minimise ongoing revenue implications on maintenance and also serve to preserve the original cast iron parapet. The parapet has been shown to be of sufficient strength and therefore appropriate repair will also minimise any issues with the adjacent structure.

2. The study was presented to Members and the option approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee includes the replacement of some of the baluster columns as required, repair of other cast iron elements as required, a repainting of the whole bridge (subject to access restrictions) and continuous work to refurbish the whole bridge (subject to the approval of working methodology from all relevant stakeholders).
3. The recommended option is over the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) tender limit and so a full OJEU tender process will need to take place for the works contract. The design work shall be carried out by AECOM.

Proposal

4. It is recommended that a full refurbishment of Blackfriars Bridge, with repair and refurbishment of the cast iron features as required, be undertaken.

Financial Implications

5. The estimated total cost of the project is £8,570,000.

Conclusion

6. The Court is asked to approve this Gateway 4b report to enable the programme of works to proceed.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 30th October 2018.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Christopher Hayward
Chairman, Planning and Transportation Committee