

Committee	Date
Bridge House Estates Board	24 November 2021
Subject: BHE Budget Uplift Request - Staffing	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045</i> Strategy does this proposal aim to support?	2 and 3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	£14k
What is the source of Funding?	BHE Central Contingency Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
Report of: City Surveyor	For decision
Report Author: Jonathan Cooper (Assistant Director – Head of Surveying & Engineering Projects – City Surveyor's) & Christopher Earlie (Head of Tower Bridge)	

Summary

This report requests approval of a 2021/22 budget uplift of £14k to extend the funding (from December 2021) for the interim role of Tower Bridge Programme Co-ordinator until 31st March 2022.

The role provides oversight of the delivery of the 50-Year Maintenance Plan for Tower Bridge including planned upgrade projects and co-ordination of stakeholder activities to reduce costs and interruptions to bridge operations. The role has been in place for around 12 months and has been very successful. The role has already identified many synergies between projects that will result in both savings and reduced operational impact to the Bridge. Currently the role provides a part-time service working 2 days a week. The role description is being discussed with key stakeholders at Tower Bridge to ascertain the extent and permanency of this role beyond March 2022, with particular reference to the ongoing establishment of an officer structure within the charity.

Recommendation

- i) It is recommended that Members approve this additional funding of £14k from the BHE Central Contingency Fund, to enable this role to continue supporting the co-ordination of major construction activities, by various stakeholders to Tower Bridge.

Main Report

Background

1. This role was identified by the City Surveyor's department and Tower Bridge to provide strategic support of construction activities at Tower Bridge. The role has been covering 5 key areas:

- a) To oversee the delivery of the 50-year maintenance plan for Tower Bridge in consultation with the Head of Tower Bridge, Department of the Built Environment (DBE), City Surveyor's Department (stakeholders) and other parties as required. Coordination between CoL departments including asset management, Heritage, Minor works, Facilities Management, DBE, Highways, and the capital projects team.
 - b) To regularly liaise with the responsible officer for individual project progress and report on status to Head of Tower Bridge, Department of Built Environment and City Surveyor.
 - c) To closely liaise with Tower Bridge to agree the programmed delivery of works so as not to impact on operations and business.
 - d) To review business cases, assist with progress and committee reports as necessary for the relevant spending, projects committees (Gateway process), attend/ present at meetings as required.
 - e) To chair the Tower Bridge 50-year plan review meetings and to provide key input as a member of the Tower Bridge Strategic Coordination Group. To attend any other meetings associated with the programme of works or projects as required.
2. It sought to identify project conflicts and opportunities to minimise the operational impact presented by construction and infrastructure projects. The role has also sought to agree roles and responsibilities of cyclical maintenance activities between departments such as the City Surveyor's, Department of Built Environment and external parties such as TfL.
 3. A crucial element to this role has been to lead on the procurement of detailed condition surveys to ensure that the 50-year maintenance plan (used to plan works at the bridge) is correct. This is in progress and will soon provide essential information on the current condition status of all elements of the Bridge.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

4. Strategic implications: The post outlined in this paper support the aims and objectives of BHE's overarching strategy, *Bridging London 2020 – 2045*. This role supports the charity in becoming more effective and efficient in its operational delivery.
5. Resource implications: Funding of £14k is requested to support the 4-month extension to the post from December 2021 until March 2022.
6. Legal implications: nil.
7. Equalities implications: BHE is committed to equal opportunities in service provision and for all its employees and promotes equity, diversity and inclusion in its employment practices.

8. Financial implications: A budget uplift for 2021/22 of £14k for staffing to be approved, funded from the BHE Central Contingency fund. This budget will be held within City Surveyor's with any future funding built into the City Surveyor's 2022/23 budget.
9. Climate implications: nil
10. Security implications: nil

Conclusion

11. This has proven to be a successful role over the last 12 months. It is recommended that additional funding be agreed so that this role can continue to support the co-ordination of major construction activities to Tower Bridge.

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