

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2003

DAMAGE TO PILE PROTECTION WORKS AT MURE PLACE FOOTBRIDGE, NEWMILNS

Report By The Director of Development Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the outcome of the tendering process for the Mure Place footbridge protection works, and to seek the Committee's approval to proceed with the project.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting on 15th January 2003 the Committee was informed of the collapse of the sheet pile wall which protected the footbridge abutment from river scour. The Committee authorised a scheme to retain the footbridge by removal of the collapsed piles and protecting the abutment and river bank with armoured stone.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1** Following the Committee's approval, detailed design work was carried out, contract documents drawn up and 6 contractors were invited to tender for the works.
- 3.2** However, as further investigation was carried out into the extent of the works required, the difficulty of carrying out such works in and adjacent to the river and SEPA requirements, it became clear that the original cost estimate of £25-£30,000 (based on best advice from industry sources) was too low. Tenders have now been returned. Three firms declined to tender, and the lowest submitted tender is considerably higher than the original estimate. Allowing for contingencies, the final cost of the scheme is likely to be around £80,000.
- 3.3** In January the Committee also considered the alternative of removing the footbridge altogether. Although, again, costs are impossible to assess accurately for this type of one-off project, it was considered that complete removal would not be a cheaper option. The removal of the superstructure and abutments would be costly, and extensive riverbank protection works on a similar scale would still be necessary. In addition, a 200mm gas main is carried by the footbridge. A legal search has been unable to find any requirements for Transco to make alternative provision in the event of the Council removing the bridge. Transco also advise that this is a strategic gas main that cannot be shut down. The cost to the Council of making the

necessary provision for the continued operation of this main would be in the order of £90,000.

- 3.4** The project has also been delayed over the summer by negotiations with Scottish Water to temporarily remove two 250mm dia. water mains spanning the river adjacent to the bridge, which would be affected by the construction works. Scottish Water have now removed the mains to allow the works to proceed. However, if the scheme were to be significantly delayed Scottish Water advise that they would be obliged to reinstate the mains to secure the supply. This would have a bearing on the cost of any future scheme.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The maintenance of the footbridge sheet pile protection works and adjacent riverbank are the responsibility of the Council.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Council's capital budget for 2003/2004 includes a £40,000 provision for the scheme.

- 5.2** Initially, it was considered that the Council may be able reclaim part of the cost from another riparian owner whose actions were considered to have at least contributed to the failure of the street piles. However an independent report from a specialist consultant was inconclusive in this respect and did not provide the Council with sufficient grounds to pursue this option.

- 5.3** The additional £40,000 required could be funded by adjustments to the Roads Revenue Budget for the current year without displacement of other projects..

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The Committee is recommended to authorise the Director of Development Services to proceed with the project.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services
6 October 2003
SG/YK

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734

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