



**Report to: Cabinet, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**

**Report of: Councillor Andy Roberts, Cabinet Member for a Clean, Green and Safe City**

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**Subject: PERDISWELL CULVERT REPAIRS - AWARD OF CONTRACT – KEY DECISION**

**1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 That Cabinet delegate authority to finalise the specification and award a contract for repairs to the Perdiswell Culvert to the Service Manager, Cleaner and Greener City in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources; and**
- 1.2 That Cabinet allocate additional funding of up to £295k to provide a capital project budget of £800k for these works. The additional funding to be met from internal earmarked reserves and external funding.**

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Barbourne Brook passes through Worcester from Hindlip to the north, discharging into the River Severn at Gheluvelt Park.
- 2.2 The section that runs through Perdiswell Park passes within a concrete culvert under the golf course.
- 2.3 The culvert lies at a depth of up to 9m and surveys carried out in 2014 showed that the lower sections are in a poor condition and require remedial work to deal with the risk of collapse.
- 2.4 In December 2014 Cabinet gave approval for repairs to the culvert, to be funded from allocated capital budgets and external funding from the Environment Agency, and resolved to "authorise the Corporate Director, Service Delivery to proceed with procurement of the proposed works to repair the culvert within existing delegations and capital allocations".
- 2.5 The scheme was estimated to cost £505k, with the Council contributing £160k and £345k received from the Environment Agency. A budget to this effect is approved as part of the Council's capital programme.
- 2.6 A contractor was selected and preliminary work commenced on a scheme to install a liner within the culvert to effect the required repairs.
- 2.7 As the work progressed it became apparent that the deterioration to the culvert would require alternative repair work in the form of a new culvert laid parallel to and bypassing the existing. This work will involve significant excavation and reinstatement over a three to four month period commencing in Spring 2016.

- 2.8 This was reported to Cabinet in February 2016 when Cabinet agreed to a temporary change to golf provision to allow the repair works to be carried out.
- 2.9 Due to the complex nature of the works, officers and the appointed contractor have been working closely with the Environment Agency to agree a methodology that mitigates risk and provides appropriate contingencies.
- 2.10 The nature of the project means that the final specification is dependent on preliminary survey work and prevailing site conditions. This means that the final specification, and therefore costs, will be agreed shortly before the commencement of work on site in April 2016.
- 2.11 It has been established that the revised scheme will cost up to £800k, which will require additional funding of up to £295k.
- 2.12 It is anticipated that external funding of £95k will be confirmed by the Environment Agency during April 2016. Therefore the Council will be required to contribute up to an additional £200k.
- 2.13 There is potential for additional external funding to be secured during early 2016/17, reducing the Council's contribution, although there is a significant risk that this will not be available.

### **3. Preferred Option**

- 3.1 Subject to delegation of the required authority, officers will enter into a contract and works will commence in April 2016.
- 3.2 Given the implications of a collapse of the culvert (as covered at section 5 of this report), it is recommended that works to commence at the earliest opportunity in April 2016. Whilst a contractor has been procured, and a cost estimate prepared, the final specification will not be agreed until shortly before the commencement of the works. It is therefore recommended that the authority to award the contract is delegated to the Service Manager, Cleaner and Greener City in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources.

### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 Deferring repairs until additional funding has been received has been considered.
- 4.2 The culvert is in a poor condition, and will continue to deteriorate. Should a collapse occur then the flow of the Barbourne Brook will be obstructed and the risk of flooding upstream would be high.
- 4.3 Significant work would be required to both over pump the flow and to effect repairs. The cost of such remedial action would be dependent on the extent of collapse and the prevailing weather conditions, but could exceed the cost of planned repairs by several hundred thousand pounds or more.
- 4.4 Officers have worked closely with the Environment Agency with a shared objective of effecting the repairs and thereby reducing the risks arising from the condition of the culvert as soon as practicable. Should the work not proceed then the £345k already received from the Environment Agency, and the anticipated £95k would be at risk.

The Council could therefore be left to fund the whole cost of any future works, either planned or in response to a collapse.

4.5 Deferring the repair work is not recommended.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications**

The revised project cost is forecast at £800k an increase of £295k on the existing budget. It is anticipated that the Environment Agency will provide a further £95k, (bringing the EA contribution to £440k), with the remaining additional contribution of up to £200k financed by the Council's earmarked reserve for capital replacement.

### **5.2 Legal and Governance Implications**

As owner of the culvert the City Council is responsible for maintaining it in reasonable repair.

The Council will enter in to a standard form of works contract with the chosen contractor.

### **5.3 Risk Implications**

The completion of this work reduces the risk of collapse of the culvert. Such a collapse could result in flooding upstream of the culvert and require significant emergency works. In addition to the direct impacts of flooding this would lead to reputational damage to the Council and incur a significant unbudgeted cost. If the work is not carried out at this time the external grant funding may be lost.

Appropriate mitigations have been put in place to address the risk of the excavations encountering unexpected ground conditions.

### **5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications**

No implications arise from the content of this report.

### **5.5 Equality Implications**

No implications arise from the content of this report.

### **5.6 Human Resources Implications**

No implications arise from the content of this report.

### **5.7 Health and Safety Implications**

This is a major construction project, involving excavations in a closed landfill site, and therefore there are significant health and safety risks. These are addressed through the method statements and contingency plans developed and agreed by partners including the Environment Agency and emergency services.

**Ward(s):**

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**Background Papers:**

**REPAIRS TO PERDISWELL CULVERT, Report to Cabinet, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**TEMPORARY CHANGE TO GOLF PROVISION TO ALLOW FOR  
REPAIRS TO THE PERDISWELL CULVERT, Report to  
Cabinet, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016**