

## Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report

Project Title	Stourbridge Common River Bank Restoration
Target Start Date	August 2013
Target Completion Date	March 2014
Project Manager / Lead Officer	Alistair Wilson / Guy Belcher
Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio	Environment Committee Executive Councillor for Public Places
Scrutiny Committee Date	<i>Proposed out of cycle decision – July 2013</i>

### 1 Recommendation/s

- To approve the tendering and letting of a contract for a design and build of a river bank restoration programme at Stourbridge Common.
- To approve the spending of £100k in year 2013/14 for Phase 1 of the works
- To approve the preparation of future capital bids for future works along the Stourbridge Common river bank

### 2 What is the project? Provide a description of the proposed project, justify the reason for the project, and note what alternative options were considered.

Cambridge City Council is the riparian owner of 860m of riverbank on Stourbridge Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR), situated on the southern bank of the main River Cam in north east Cambridge. The site is Common land (subject to the Commons Act 2006), a designated LNR and a non-statutory County Wildlife Site. In addition, the entire length of the River Cam is designated as a County Wildlife Site as it passes through the City.

The existing river bank wall is a king post pile retaining wall construction over most of its length. Precast concrete piles driven into the river bed retain precast concrete wall panels, which themselves retain the bank material to the rear of the wall. An insitu reinforced concrete capping beam finishes the top of the wall, providing a finish to the piles and wall panels.

The existing concrete riverbank is reaching the end of its lifespan along several sections of the common bank and a structural survey was undertaken in January 2013 to assess the extent of degradation and prioritise areas for renewal.

The survey confirmed that the piled wall is beginning to fail and lean into the river

The integrity of the riverbank being broken down into four categories:

Significantly leaning into the river = 138m

Leaning into the river = 148m

Slightly leaning into the river = 70m

No Lean into the river = 504m

Other issues identified were voids forming at the back of the wall that could be a trip hazard (this is prevalent along 250m of bank) and the capping beam is also in poor condition in a significant number of areas.

There is also significant tree root ingress into the river in places that is undermining sections of wall that are not yet leaning.

The Environment Agency, in line with the European Water Framework Directive no longer advocates the use of hard engineering of riverbanks in locations where soft engineering and habitat diversification can be championed. As this site has recently been designated a Local Nature Reserve, officers are proposing the use of natural techniques of bank stabilisation using aquatic vegetation and natural materials.

The current capital budget has been allocated to produce a phased bank restoration programme and prioritise stretches for future resource allocation. Phase one being to design the scheme in its entirety and to replace the river bank along one or more priority sections, identified as most at risk of failing, in 2013/14.

**3 Outline the aims and objectives of the project and highlight how it contributes to achieving the Council's Medium Term Objectives.**

To restore and maintain a safe riverbank along the entire length of Stourbridge Common.

To design and implement phase 1 of a riverbank restoration project on Stourbridge Common. The proposed soft engineering approach to the riverbank will help to increase the riparian habitats and biodiversity of this stretch of the River Cam. Rivers and their floodplains provide key opportunities for wildlife to disperse through the countryside and City, enhanced habitats will therefore aid organisms in their ability to adapt and move in relation to a changing climate. These habitats will both diversify the Local Nature Reserve and provide interest to recreational users and commuters on the adjacent cycle path, potentially increasing the number of local people using the Common for recreation.

The proposed approach is ultimately more sustainable than a replacement concrete option as there is less embodied CO2 within the initial construction and the natural vegetation establishes to prevent further erosion by navigation.

The proposed projects seek to achieve the objectives of the Council's Medium Term Strategy by protecting & enhancing the environment and tackling the causes and consequences of climate change.

**4 Identify and summarise the impact on and major issues for stakeholders & other departments. Summarise the key results of initial consultation (including members where appropriate).**

The proposed design will be subject to stakeholder consultation including the Friends of Stourbridge Common, prior to seeking necessary permission or consents from the Environment Agency, Cam Conservators and the Planning Inspectorate. Notification of the consultation will be sent to Ward Councillors, the Cam Conservators, Cam Boaters, Cambridge Past present and Future, The BCN Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency, as well as site users through the use of onsite notices.

The area is used extensively by local people as a commuter route between Fen Ditton and the City centre, via a surfaced footpath and cycle way (several metres from the existing river bank line), it is a popular dog walking and picnicking route and several house boats have temporary mooring licences. Fishing occurs and the water way is popular with rowing clubs and visiting motor boats. It is envisaged that the phased programme will impact little on the existing access and enjoyment of the common by site users during the construction phase. The tender specification requires the successful contractor to consider opportunities for maintaining and enhancing access for all to the riverbank during and post construction.

**5 Procurement. What resources for this project will be procured from outside the Council? What method of procurement are you to use? What is the estimated total value for each procurement element?**

- The initial phase of the Capital scheme SC551 (Cost Centre 38182) was approved as part of the 2013 Medium Term Strategy presented to Council on 25 October 2012. £100,000 has been allocated for 2013/14 to complete and approve the design for the entire 860m stretch and implement phase 1 along an agreed priority stretch. Additional works will be required in subsequent phases, subject to officers prioritising further sections and preparing budget bids in 2014/15 and beyond.
- An open tender procurement exercise is proposed, seeking interest from market leaders in this 'soft engineering sector'. The specification has been drafted to include both the design and build by the successful contractor; including options for future works beyond 2014 should budgets be secured.

**6 Summarise key risks associated with the project. Include the key risks the project aims to mitigate, risks involved in delivery of the project and risks that might occur if the project does not take place.**

- If allowed to continue the deteriorating condition of the existing river bank has the potential to cause injury to members of the public, their animals or livestock grazing the site.
- In addition, the potential collapse of sections of the existing riverbank into the river poses risks to boaters and potential to cause serious damage to craft navigating the river.
- At present the structural condition allows a phased approach to the replacement of the riverbank. If delayed then a greater percentage of bank may require replacement at any given time, requiring much greater capital bids for works.

**7 Financial implications. Comment on any special financial considerations associated with the project such as grant or funding conditions. Ensure that any additional insurance costs/implications are considered.**

**Appraisal prepared on the following price base**

**Fixed budget allocation**

The project has secured funding for phase 1 only. Future works to complete the designed solution will require further budget bids and / or external grant applications if eligible.

<b>8A Capital costs &amp; funding</b>		
	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Capital Costs</b>		
Design / Consents	15,000	Estimated
Phase 1 Construction	85,000	Estimated
Other capital expenditure	0	
<b>Total Capital cost</b>	<b>100,000</b>	
<b>Capital Income / Funding</b>		
	100,000	SC 551
Revenue contributions		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>100,000</b>	
<b>Net Capital Bid</b>		

<b>Expenditure profiling:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Year 1: 20013 / 2014	100,000	(
<b>Net Capital Bid</b>	<b>100,000</b>	(

*Appendix A, Capital Project Appraisal profiling, should also be completed.*

<b>8B Revenue costs</b>			
	<b>In 2013/ per (year) £</b>	<b>Ongoing £</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Revenue Costs</b>			
Repair & renewal contributions			
<b>Total revenue cost</b>			
<b>Revenue Income</b>			
Existing revenue budget/s			
<b>Total income</b>			
<b>Net revenue bid</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**9 VAT implications. Comment on any VAT implications identified in consultation with the Finance Department.**

- There are no adverse VAT implications to this project

**10 Other implications. Comment on any other relevant implications including property, accommodation, environmental, health & safety, community safety, procurement, human resource, equal opportunities and diversity.**

- The proposed location for the site is in City Council Freehold ownership.

**11 Estimate of staffing resource required to deliver the project. Comment on the availability of internal project team resources. Ensure that the costs of external resources required have been included in the financial table/s above.**

- The proposed design and build contract, including the securing of necessary consents, will limit the need for internal officer time. However, the client role will still require input from Streets & Open Spaces Officers, including tender specification preparation, tender award, contract management and sign off upon satisfactory completion.

Skills required / internal	Estimated number of hours	Proposed Timescale	
		Start date	Finish date
Tender Specification and Award	35	July 2013	September 2013
Contract Management	60	September 2013	March 2014



<p><b>12 Identify any dependencies upon other work or projects. Identify any other projects which cannot progress until this particular piece of work is complete</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full management plan for Stourbridge Common Local Nature Reserve is due to be drafted in 2013/14 following botanical surveys, being undertaken by the local Wildlife Trust between May – August 2013. The plan will need to incorporate appropriate vegetation management of the new river bank features and reference future phases of restoration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13 Background Papers. List any background papers used in the preparation of this project appraisal.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Cam Wall Survey, MLM Consulting, 1st February 2013</li> <li>Cambridge City Council Medium Term Strategy 2013/14</li> </ul>

<b>14 Inspection of papers</b>			
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**Finance Department use only:**

<b>Project Approval Dates</b>	<b>Date</b>
Approved by DoF	
Reviewed by AMG / ICT	
Executive Councillor Approval	
Scrutiny Committee Approval (if applicable)	
Council Funding Approval	
Added to Hold List	
Removed from Hold List	
Added to Capital Plan	

