

GRANTS LANE BRIDGE

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE TANDRIDGE LOCAL COMMITTEE

The report from the Tandridge Local Committee regarding Grants Lane bridge is noted.

The strengthening of weak highway bridges owned by Network Rail is a complex matter governed by statutory instruments and a national agreement between the railway authority and the local authority association. The outcome is that the strengthening of most of these bridges requires a financial contribution from both Network Rail and the local authority. Further analysis work is currently underway to determine the exact proportion of funding to be contributed by each organisation.

Network Rail is the owner of this bridge and is ultimately responsible for determining the appropriate strengthening solution. Network Rail will also be responsible for the procurement of a strengthening works contract.

The Network Rail investment programme is based on a five year control period. The current programme ends in 2014. Officers have been advised that the first year programme of the new control period is fully committed. The most likely start date at the present time is 2015/16. The County Council bridge strengthening programme will include an appropriate contribution to the project in the year that the works go ahead.

It should be noted that the reconstruction of the bridge will require a closure of the railway for a period. The requirements of the Office of the Rail Regulator are that approximately three years notice are required, depending on the circumstances, before a closure can take place.

Officers have already had a preliminary meeting to discuss Grants Lane bridge and other railway bridges with Network Rail. Further meetings are planned which will determine a programme for feasibility, detailed design and reconstruction.

The Chief Executive will be asked to write to Network Rail expressing the concerns set out by the Tandridge Local Committee with a view to securing an early programme date for the reconstruction of this bridge.

In the event that reconstruction is not programmed for the earliest practicable date then officers will be asked to review the potential for future legal action.

Ian Lake
Cabinet Member for Transport
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