



Item 3

11th August 2015

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Southside Central Area Partnership

Report by Executive Director of Land and Environmental Services

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POLMADIE FOOTBRIDGE CLOSURE

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of the project.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee notes the content of the report.

1. Background

Polmadie footbridge is a five span concrete bridge which was constructed in 1954. It spans the Clyde connecting Glasgow Green to the Oatlands Development and Richmond Park on the south bank.



A structural strength assessment found that Polmadie Footbridge is understrength and that continued loading on the structure may lead to collapse.

In the interests of public safety the bridge has been closed to pedestrians. After the bridge was closed further discussions highlighted that there was an increased risk of concrete on the underside of the deck falling into the river. As a consequence of this the bridge has also been restricted from use by river users.

2. Current Situation

A permanent palisade fence has been installed around both ends of the bridge to stop members of the public crossing over or under the structure. Large warning signs have been installed on the bridge piers warning river users they should not travel under the spans. Diversion routes have been put in place for pedestrians and cyclists.

Rowers are restricted to using the river to the west of the bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists are utilizing the diversion routes.

Due to the condition and unsafe nature of the bridge, strengthening works to allow the bridge to reopen have been discounted. From a structural and cost perspective the most effective solution is to demolish the deck then explore funding possibilities to construct a new bridge deck.

A contract has been issued to demolition contractors to price for carrying out the works to remove the bridge deck. Tenders have been returned and are being evaluated at present.

3. Way Forward

In the short term the bridge deck will be removed by a demolition contractor, this will allow the restrictions on river users to be lifted and relieve congestion due to the restricted length open to rowers.

After demolition the concrete bridge piers will remain in place as these have adequate strength to support any future works to replace the deck.

It is forecast demolition works will begin in August for completion December 2015. When the contractor is appointed discussions will begin to consider the feasibility of opening the river up for use prior to completion on site in December.

Funding options to replace the bridge deck are at present being considered.

4. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Demolition Costs circa £450K
<i>Legal:</i>	No new legal issues.
<i>Personnel:</i>	No direct personnel implications.
<i>Procurement:</i>	No relevant procurement issues.

Council Strategic Plan: A sustainable city. Maintaining the existing connected transport infrastructure is essential in ensuring the sustainability of Glasgow City in the longer term.

Equality Impacts:

<i>EQIA carried out:</i>	Not applicable to this type of work.
<i>Outcome:</i>	None

Sustainability Impacts:

<i>Environmental:</i>	The bridge is constructed from prestressed and reinforced concrete which is considered an inert material. Material can be recycled.
<i>Social:</i>	The works will allow the restrictions on river use by rowers to be lifted opening the river up for full use.
<i>Economic:</i>	Removing the bridge deck will open up 6km of the river for use by river users and rowing clubs and allow rowing Regattas to begin again enhancing the area for tourism. Replacing the deck will enhance the regeneration of the Oatlands area.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended, therefore, that Committee notes the content of the report.