TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL

29th October 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mill (in the Chair)
Councillors Augusta, Bright, Crofts, Lindley, Pettigrew, K Swinburn (substitute for Hasthorpe), and Wilson.

Officers in attendance:

- Carolina Borgstrom (Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure)
- Paul Evans (Assistant Director of Infrastructure)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Jackson (Leader of the Council)
- Councillor Harness (Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets)
- Councillor S Swinburn (Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport)
- Councillor Shepherd (Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities)
- Councillor Dawkins (Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, and the Visitor Economy)
- Councillor Hudson (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero)
- Councillor Shreeve (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
- Councillor Humphrey (Ward Councillor for Scartho Ward)
- Councillor Shutt (Ward Councillor for Heneage Ward)

There were five members of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

SPTISH.33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillor Hasthorpe.

SPTISH.34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

SPTISH.35 CORPORATION BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT TENDER AWARD

The panel considered a report on the process taken to procure a contractor to continue with the refurbishment works for Corporation Bridge, and setting out the options for completion.
The panel received a presentation providing an overview of the project from initial surveys, procurement of the original contract, the discovery of wider issues through to the termination of the original contract and procurement of a new contractor. Two options had been proposed by the new contractor for completion of the project and these were presented to the panel along with anticipated timelines.

The panel gave detailed questioning on the options for completion of the projection, including:

- confidence levels regarding any additional over-runs on the project

Mr Evans noted that workshops had been held to consider all issues and he was confident that the project would be kept to the fixed price. He added that a council project team was in place to provide challenge and feedback in order to mitigate any risk.

- completion of traffic assessments to inform the options

Mr Evans noted that there had been assessments and he highlighted potential issues with option 2 in terms of queuing traffic.

- the risk to grant funding that had previously been obtained

It was noted that there was a risk of clawback on this funding.

- the impact of non-completion of the lifting element of the bridge

Mr Evans noted the importance of maintaining the legacy of the bridge for future generations and the potential regeneration impact. He added that the works for this element would be carried out in parallel to the main refurbishment and there was no financial saving in bolting the bridge down. It was noted that the construction redesign had taken months but was now complete; to permanently bolt down the span would require

further redesign work to ensure an alternative solution had the required structural strength, prolonging the scheme further.

- consultation with local businesses on the options presented

Mr Evans noted that this would be part of the communications from the council moving forward, noting previous sensitivities. There had been no consultation on the options presented to scrutiny due to the fast moving pace of the procurement.

- potential additional Department for Transport funding

Mr Evans reported that the Department for Transport had recently announced a Highways Structure Fund. Further details on this were awaited but it was possible that this could be accessed to support funding for this project. If not, it was proposed that the Local Transport Grant would be utilised to support the project.

- the potential option of introducing one way traffic as an interim measure to allow the bridge to open sooner

Mr Evans responded that this had been considered but there were concerns around enforcement and there were safety considerations as people would be working on the bridge at all times.

- the level of repair work required

Mr Evans confirmed that there was a considerable amount of repair work required and further detail on this would be provided in closed session.

- the impact of further exploratory work on options

Mr Evans noted that considerable work had been undertaken to get to this stage and a number of different options had been worked through and fully investigated. Any further exploratory work would delay the procurement and cause further delay to the project timelines presented.

- the difference in cost between the two options presented.

Mr Evans confirmed that option two would cost £800k more than option one.

The panel expressed disappointment at the information presented in advance of the meeting, although it was acknowledged that this had been a rapidly developing situation. It was noted that a communications plan had been developed and the panel requested sight of monthly updates on specific aspects of the project such as overall progress, the current budget status, any variation events, any new risks and changes to the target completion date.

In terms of the options presented, the panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that option 1 as set out in the report now submitted be the preferred option for completion of the project.

The panel moved into closed session to consider matters relating to the condition of the bridge post-termination of the original contract and financial matters.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET – That option 1, as set out in the report now submitted, be the preferred option for completion of the Corporation Road Bridge refurbishment project

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.