

6 HIRD BRIDGE, BALGAY PARK (AN226-2006)

Reference is made to Article VIII of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 20th February, 2006 wherein the City Engineer was appointed to develop the design of the restoration work for this bridge and seek tenders.

The original budget for the restoration work was £250,000 funded by a grant from Historic Scotland (£150,000), support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£50,000) and a contribution from Leisure and Communities Quality of Life Fund (£50,000). Due to the historic importance and complexity of the structure and the conditions placed on the grant award from Historic Scotland, the original programme for implementation of these works has been reviewed. The grant requires that the work is carried out in stages with Historic Scotland's approval required at each stage. A structural assessment is the first such stage and will allow a programme of design and restoration work to be developed and agreed with Historic Scotland. This programme requires to be overseen by a Professional Advisor as a condition of the grant application.

The City Engineer invited tenders from three specialist consultants on a cost/quality basis for the role of Professional Advisor and to carry out the first stage assessment. Gifford and Partners Limited submitted a very high quality bid. They have considerable experience in the analysis and refurbishment of this type of structure and are CARE (Conservation Accreditation Register for Engineers) registered. The appointment of a CARE registered specialist is a requirement laid down by Historic Scotland for the project to be considered for a grant.

The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of Gifford for the first phase of the project, the structural analysis and associated report at an estimated cost of £45,000. The Depute Chief Executive (Finance) has confirmed that funding for this element of the project is available.

Due to the requirement for staged approvals by Historic Scotland, it is anticipated that the works will now commence on site in April 2007 and be completed by September 2007. Tenders for the works will be reported to a future Committee.