

DECISION RECORD

<p>Date document may be made public (date of decision unless there are reasons why the information is exempt from publication at the date of decision):</p>	<p>08 November 2022</p>
<p>Reason exempt from publication at the point of decision (if applicable)</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Decision Maker Director of Legal Services and Partnerships and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Ref:</p>
<p>Delegated Authority :</p>	
<p>Part B, Paragraph 18 of the Constitution</p>	
<p>Decision :</p> <p>By virtue of his Office Councillor Ieronimo was privy to the information that he misrepresented within a party political leaflet so as to give the impression that officers of the Council had advised that decisions proposed in relation to a footbridge had arisen in consequence upon inaction on the part of the preceding administration. Misrepresentation of the factual information in this manner was likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for or on behalf of the Council.</p>	
<p>Reasons for Decision:</p> <p>The member Code of Conduct provides in relation to members of Council provides that:</p> <p>3.2.4 [you must not] do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.</p> <p>The Member/Officer protocol provides:</p> <p>28. The conduct of members and officers should be such as to instil mutual confidence and trust.</p> <p>29. The key elements are a recognition of and a respect for each other's roles and responsibilities. These should be reflected in the behaviour and attitude of each to the other, both publicly and privately.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A party political leaflet was presented as a consultation process to those living in a ward within the city. 2. The leaflet included the following quotation from Councillor Ieronimo: "Before they lost power, Labour made plans to remove the footbridge from Boothferry Road. Labour failed to repair the bridge for so long that Council staff now say the best option is to remove it, and they have no plans to replace it." 3. The quotation correctly stated that removal of the bridge was the officers' preferred option, however, the suggestion in the quotation that officers were advising that the proposal for removal had resulted from a failure of the previous administration was incorrect. 4. The wording: "<i>officers now say the best option is to remove it</i>" incorrectly implied that officers had advised that the issue had arisen in consequence upon inaction on the part of the preceding administration. 5. The reasons for the recommendation were the age of the bridge (built in 1967), the fundamental problem with the bridge design which prevented effective monitoring of deterioration of an 	

underground tie, the cost of replacement against other priorities and the availability of alternate crossings in the locality.

Nature of Decision:

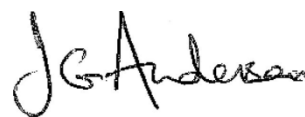
Key/Non-key

Facts:

1. A Special Inspection of Boothferry Road Footbridge was commissioned by officers in November 2020 which led to the production of a report in February 2021 identifying works to be undertaken at Boothferry Road Footbridge. That report identified High, Medium and Low priority works. The High priority works were limited to an estimated cost of £20k.
2. However, the report also identified that the footbridge is a bridge that dates from 1967 that relies upon a tension tie under ground to hold it in place. In the event the tension tie gives way, for example through corrosion, it would lead to a sudden collapse. The design means that it is impossible to ascertain whether the tie has corroded without invasive investigation.
3. As a consequence Council officers commissioned a feasibility report to identify the potential options that may be considered in relation to the bridge.
4. The Options Report was produced in July 2021 and identified that "Since the structure was constructed in 1967, there has been two significant changes to the highway beneath the bridge. The first is that Boothferry Road is less busy with more traffic now using the A63 /Clive Sullivan Way which did not exist when the structure was constructed. The second is that introduction of at grade crossings at the traffic light controlled junction beneath the structure has created a much quicker method of crossing Boothferry Road and one that the majority of the public appear to take."
5. The report recommended that prior to a decision being taken on pursuing an option to undertake maintenance works there be further investigation, including investigation of the tie.
6. A full inspection of the tie would be impossible without excavation of the full carriageway.
7. The cost of such inspection is estimated at £54k. The cost of demolition is estimated at £250k.
8. The July 2021 Consulting Engineer's report was not presented to the then Portfolio Holder.
9. The report informed development of a proposal intended to be presented to Corporate Strategy Meeting in August 2022 recommending that demolition be considered. The proposal in the draft report was shared with the Portfolio Holder by way of consultation prior to presentation to CST at a Portfolio Briefing meeting
10. The consulting engineer's report was not shared with the current Portfolio Holder at that time, however, it has subsequently been provided to him.
11. Following the officer briefing Hull Liberal Democrats issued a ward leaflet, said to be on behalf of Local Liberal Democrat Councillors Mark Ieronimo and Tracy Henry.
12. The content of the leaflet includes a quotation from Councillor Ieronimo as follows: "Before they lost power, Labour made plans to remove the footbridge from Boothferry Road. Labour failed to repair the bridge for so long that Council staff now say the best option is to remove it, and they have no plans to replace it."

Signature of Decision Maker:

Signed



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Date of decision	8 November 2022
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For completion by the Scrutiny Office:	
Date of publication to members	8 November 2022
Can the decision be called in? (If decision liable to call in, decision will not come into affect for 5 working days after publication)	Yes /No
Date decision comes into force	8 November 2022
Response of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group	
A request has been made that further guidance upon the role of Office Holders be provided.	

This form, together with supporting information, must be lodged immediately with the Scrutiny Office, by dispatch by email to decisionrecord@hullcc.gov.uk