



Isle of Wight Council Floating Bridge Update



1



Sept Committee Request

- To provide an update on the recent hydraulic issues and actions being undertaken to ensure that the vessel is operational as soon as possible.
- To enable discussions to take place on future options for the service involving Cllrs Love, Peacey-Wilcox , Jones-Evans, the Leader, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and the Chief Executive.
- To provide copies of risk registers. These will be provided via committee admin on request and are a suite of documents.

2

Identified Issues



- This presentation will cover:
- The plan in place to resolve the immediate issues with the hydraulics system, identified after routine maintenance operations.
- The significant operational issues since FB6 commenced service in May 2017.
- In particular, insufficient clearance over the chains, deviation from the vessel's track across the river, noise issues, failures of the loading ramps' lifting systems, and recent issues with the hydraulic systems.

3

Hydraulic Issues



- Motors, pumps, valves and the hydraulic rams have been removed, stripped down, inspected and are being repaired as required.
- Rebuild has commenced and refitting started, which was planned to be completed by 25th of September for a return to service by the 9th of October.
- The work on the main motors have been delayed as one of them had considerably more damage than anticipated, which was been the main source of delays against the original programme.
- Subject to progressing to plan, the floating bridge should now return to the water for testing, week commencing the 9th of October. Following water based testing **we now expect a return to full service on the 17th of October.**

4

Future Operation Options



To develop a range of options to achieve an increased level of clearance over the chains and resolve the issue of deviation of the vessel from its track.

A variety of options were initially considered which included chain tensioning and the independent control of the driveshafts as well as additional river piles and a traffic lights system.

The most feasible was to consider installing side thrusters.

Thruster Arrangements

- if installed thrusters would improve operability and reduce future foreseeable downtime and the need for the push boat.
- The capital cost to purchase and install thrusters ranges and depends on the type of thruster, power requirements and complexity of the installation.
- An industry expert Longitude has sought to review and verify all the data provided by the shipbuilder and where necessary additional data to enable a preferred option to be proposed.

5

Option Evaluation



Eight thruster options are being evaluated the advantages and disadvantages of each set out in order to propose a preferred option. This is based on factors which include:

- initial capital and design costs,
- installation (out of service) time and loss of income,
- ongoing fuel consumption and costs,
- maintenance/service levels and costs,
- any noise impacts.

6

Longitude Final Report



The marine experts report is due to be completed by the end of October 2020. The report will identify the preferred option and set out the project plan, to include but not limited to

- Design time
- Liaison/approval with Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Lead times for equipment
- Offsite manufacturing time
- On site installation time
- Staff training
- Commissioning

7

Legal Implications



- Legal discussions are ongoing between the council and the two companies contracted to design and build the floating bridge with a view to recovering the costs of any financial losses sustained to date, and the costs of implementing any solutions.
- The parties are cooperating, and the shipbuilder has provided assistance and contributed to the solutions currently being considered.
- As parties are actively co-operating with a view to resolving the issues, it would be inappropriate to comment on detailed performance issues or the legal processes any further at this stage.

8