

HUMBER BRIDGE BOARD

Special Meeting

28th October, 2009

PRESENT:-

Councillor D.W. Gemmell (in the Chair), Councillors M. Bristow, S. Chaytor, P. Davison, P.M. Ellis, J.L. Fareham, I.G. Fleetwood, N. Fudge (deputising for M. Glew), L.K. Foster (deputising for A.K. Gosling), A.C. Gurevitch, A. Healand, C. Inglis (deputising for K. Branson), C. O'Sullivan (deputising for D. Barkworth), C.E. Randall (deputising for A. Williams), A. Smith, M. Taylor (deputising for N. Burton), and D. Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Mr. K. Ryley (Clerk to the Board), Mr. P. Hill (General Manager and Bridgemaster), (Mr. M. Fox, Mr. P. Bucknall, Mrs S. Belfield and Miss L. Ellis (Corporate Finance, Legal and Democratic Services, Hull City Council).

APOLOGIES:-

Councillors D. Barkworth, K. Branson, N. Burton, M. Glew, A.K. Gosling, R. Hudson, A.K. Ibson, K. Vickers, J. Wilkinson, A. Williams, M. Uzzell, and Mr M. Hudson (Treasurer to the Board).

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3972		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items that follow below.

3973		EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Agreed – That the public (including the Press) be not excluded for the following items of business, minute 3874.
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3874		BRIDGE TOLLS: UPDATE – The Clerk referred to minute 3970 of the Board on 14 October 2009, and provided a oral report on the outcome of the Board's funding application, following the meeting of Board representatives with the Minister of Transport on 13 October, and confirmed that a one-off grant had been agreed to meet the ongoing costs of maintaining the Bridge.
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M. Fox explained how payment of the funds will take place.

Members considered what further action (if any) was needed by the Board at this time, in the light of this outcome, to ensure that the Board is able to fulfil its legal obligations.

Agreed – That

- (a) the Board notes and welcomes the grant of £6 million made available by the Minister of Transport for essential maintenance on the Humber Bridge which will allow the Board to continue with its maintenance programme whilst still fulfilling its legal duties in terms of debt repayment;
- (b) the Board also notes that this grant is dependant on the dehumidification maintenance being carried out within the time limits already specified to the Department for Transport, and the General Manager and Bridgemaster be instructed to continue to adhere to these time limits as otherwise the receipt of the grant may be jeopardised;
- (c) in light of the Minister of Transport making this grant available, the Board does not consider that any judicial review of the Minister's decision not to increase tolls is necessary and resolves to discontinue this action;
- (d) additionally, the Board notes that, due to the grant, it will not now have a deficiency in its budget in the financial year 2010-2011 and therefore resolves that it will not be necessary to precept the relevant local authorities in 2010-2011;
- (e) finally, the Board resolves that it will not need to submit an application at the present time for any toll increase to take effect during 2010. However, the Board notes that the toll increase process can take up to 12 months and therefore any necessary toll increase taking effect in 2011 will require an application to the Minister of Transport during the summer of 2010, and

Deleted: Option 2 (a) also be progressed immediately by ;

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		(f) further, the Board would wish to explore the options regarding future toll levels, at the earliest opportunity in the run up to the review of the debt agreement in April 2011.

28.10.09

UNCONFIRMED