

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF CABINET HELD
13 DECEMBER 2007**

COLWALL RAILWAY BRIDGE

Cabinet was asked to approve expenditure to provide a temporary bridge over the sub-standard bridge in Colwall carrying the B4218 should an assessment prove it to be the appropriate means for opening the bridge to normal highway traffic. The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) stated that information on the assessment of the bridge had only been received 48 hours prior to the Cabinet meeting and had shown the bridge could be used by vehicles up to three tonnes in weight. Cabinet was informed that Network Rail owned the bridge with the road across it belonging to the Council. Network Rail has stated that it has no plans to replace the bridge until 2011/12. Cabinet was advised that the recommendation was for the purchase of a Bailey bridge in partnership with Network Rail should it be found necessary after further tests had been carried out.

Cabinet was informed that Network Rail had indicated they would be agreeable to a 50/50 share on the cost of the Bailey bridge. However, Cabinet would need to approve the whole cost as it would need to be purchased through just the one provider. It was added that the basis of the charge between Network Rail and the Council was complicated and it would need to be checked by the legal department to ensure it was favourable to the Council. A Member of the Executive raised concern over the quality of the Bailey bridge and whether it was reusable. Cabinet was advised that each bridge was made to meet the specific needs.

A Member in attendance at Cabinet felt that the cost of the bridge should have been reflected in the report to Cabinet along with an indication of what Network Rail would pay towards the bridge prior to Cabinet making any decision.

Cabinet was reminded of the impact the loss of the bridge had so far been on the people of Colwall and the business community and it was felt that to wait until 2011/12 before replacing the bridge would be too long.

RESOLVED That approval be given for the purchase and installation of a temporary Bailey bridge if it is considered the most appropriate means to carry the B4218 over the existing sub-standard bridge in Colwall.