

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	17 May 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Access from the North Proposals ("Third Don Crossing") – Naming of the new bridge.
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/058
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report asks Councillors to approve the name for the newly constructed bridge crossing the River Don as chosen by the pupils of two local primary schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended this Committee:

- (i) acknowledges the contents of this report
- (ii) approves that the newly constructed bridge crossing the River Don be officially named Diamond Bridge

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Although the bridge name is not required for any statutory procedures, it should be noted that should the bridge be un-named following its opening, it may be undesirable in terms of media reporting. It is however not unusual for bridge naming ceremonies to take place after the bridge is opened to traffic.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

5.1.1 At its meeting on 19 June 2014 the Finance, Policy & Resources Committee considered a report by Officers relating to the results of the tender process for the construction of the “Third Don Crossing”. The Committee resolved to approve the recommendation to award the tender to the preferred bidder. Construction is progressing and the scheme has reached a point where naming of the bridge can be considered.

5.2 Naming of the Bridge

5.2.1 To encourage public participation and ownership of the bridge, pupils from the two local primary schools of Danestone and Riverbank were asked to vote for their preferred bridge name from a shortlist approved by the Admin Leaders.

5.2.2 The names on the shortlist were:

- **Diamond Bridge** – to reflect the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012, which marked the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952. The Royal Family has extensive connections with Aberdeen and the surrounding area including Balmoral Castle. There is also a connection through HMS Diamond, a Royal Navy Type 45 destroyer which is twinned with Aberdeen. The 8,500-tonne warship docked into the city in November to host community events and for Remembrance Sunday.
- **Gordon’s Mills Bridge** – The Gordon’s Paper Mill was on the South of the River. The new bridge takes access from Gordon’s Mill Road on the South side.
- **New Grandholm Bridge** - Grandholm Bridge is an existing structure to the west of the new bridge. It is under private ownership. There is also Grandholm Footbridge.
- **Gordon Bridge** - In reference to the Gordon Highlanders, Gordon Constituency on the north side of the River Don and Gordon’s Mills historically on the south side.
- **St Machar’s Bridge** – After the Celtic Saint whose name is associated with the local area.
- **Marischal Bridge** – After Marischal College, the current headquarters of Aberdeen City Council. Marischal College was named after the the Earl Marischal, a title created in the peerage of Scotland for William Keith (c.1458) and has been

held heritably by the Keith family. The role of Marischal was to serve as custodian of the Royal Regalia of Scotland and to protect the Kings person when attending parliament.

- **Third Don** - Historically referred to as the Third Don Crossing as a project and in the media. The Bridge will however be the eighth bridge over the River Don within the City bounds. The reason for the name has been lost over time but it may be in reference to the bridge being the third crossing from the mouth of the Don, after the Bridge of Don and the Brig O’Balgownie
- **Elphinstone Bridge** – After William Elphinstone (1431 – 1514) Bishop of Aberdeen and founder of Aberdeen University.
- **The Cruives Bridge** - the area is known as “The Cruives”; these are deep pools where the salmon rest.

5.2.3 A total of 441 pupils participated in the ballot; 247 from Danestone Primary School and 194 from Riverbank Primary School. The voting papers were counted and the results are as follows:

Name	Number of votes	Percentage of number of votes
Diamond Bridge	205	46.5%
Gordon’s Mills Bridge	16	3.6%
New Grandholm Bridge	41	9.3%
Gordon Bridge	14	3.2%
St Machar’s Bridge	65	14.7%
Marischal Bridge	23	5.2%
Third Don	25	5.7%
Elphinstone Bridge	25	5.7%
The Cruives Bridge	27	6.1%

5.2.4 As Diamond Bridge received the highest number of votes, Councillors are recommended by Officers to approve this as the official name of the new bridge crossing the River Don.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience – The project encourages community involvement in the ‘Access from the North – Third Don Crossing’ scheme as well as ownership of the bridge and the local area.

Improving Staff Experience – This project has contributed to staff development and knowledge in regard to partnership working and community engagement at local level. It has increased collaborative working with other council services.

Improving our use of Resources – Not Applicable

Corporate – Contributes to the following sections of Aberdeen: The Smarter City –

- We will encourage and support citizens to participate in the development, design and decision making of services to promote civic pride, active citizenship and resilience.
- We will help every citizen to improve their knowledge and skills, together contributing to our success as a learning city.

Public – These proposals have no negative outcomes with respect to the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Having assessed the risks identified within all of the proposals, and the potential to impact negatively or positively on the decision required of the Committee, it has been assumed that the risk is low. However public relations within the communities affected by the scheme could be compromised thereby resulting in on-going public concern, negative media reporting, and reputational damage.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report presented to the Enterprise, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee 4 September 2014 titled 'Third Don Crossing – Traffic Management Proposals':

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/s40187/EPI.14.225-%20-%20Third%20Don%20Crossing%20-%20Traffic%20Management%20Proposals.pdf>

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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