



October 11, 2011

TEME BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT MOVES FORWARD

The County Council has now moved to the tender stage for the main elements of the refurbishment which is due to start on the 9th January 2012.

The tender documents have been issued this week.

The County Council is determined to deliver a contract that will result in the bridge being closed for the shortest time possible to reduce the impact on the community and maintain the viability of businesses during the construction phase.

It will be incentivising contractors through the procurement process by awarding higher points to the contractor who can deliver in the shortest time.

The County Council is committed to providing additional services to keep the town open for business as usual during the works.

County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock – Local member for Tenbury said: "We are aware of the community concerns and have a number of support initiatives in for delivery alongside the engineering works."

These include:

- Information leaflets for residents, businesses and suppliers that will be delivered around the end of this month. These will detail the diversion routes to be used and enable suppliers and shoppers temporarily to change their itineraries and direction of approach to the town where necessary
- Enhanced winter maintenance on routes which will experience displaced traffic
- A shuttle bus service will run throughout the week, Monday to Saturday, which will link the severed 758 service from the bridge to the Bromyard Road

business park. This will run more or less continuously, to help shoppers and visitors travel through the town, linking with the bus services and the temporary car park, north of the bridge.

- The proposed diversion routes will receive enhanced signing to address community safety concerns such as horse riding on the highway, and children walking to school.
- The emergency services have been part of extensive discussions and additional provision has been made to ensure that community needs continue to be addressed as required.

Richard Attwood – Worcestershire's Engineering Project Manager said: "We have changed the evaluation criteria for the tenders for Teme Bridge to allow greater emphasis to be placed on the contractor's programme for delivery. The contractor will be looking at working double shifts within extended working days and weekends too.

"In order to protect the environment and the River Teme, which enjoys Site of Special Scientific Interest classification, the working areas will be encapsulated. The encapsulation will also give added protection to the workforce and constructional processes during the winter weather.

"The contractor will be allowed access to commence preparation of the temporary car parking areas and site compound during December to give a head start on the main works in the New Year."

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