

REPORT TO THE GLASGOW 2014 PROGRAMME BOARD

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Item No.:

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Project: TRANSPORT & PUBLIC REALM -
GAMES VENUE ACCESS CORRIDOR AND
INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Subject: MP4 – KELVIN WALKWAY / ELDON STREET UNDERPASS:
REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDING TO PROGRESS
THE DETAILED DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

1 Background

- 1.1 A paper titled “Transport & Public Realm – Games Venue Access Corridor and Infrastructure Enhancements: Request for Approval for the Release of Programme Development Funding – 2010/11 Tranche” was presented to the Glasgow 2014 Programme Board meeting of 10 May 2010 by the Executive Director of LES.
- 1.2 In addition to requesting the release of programme development funding, the report advised that individual project funding papers would subsequently be submitted to the Board requesting the release of funding to enable the completion of detailed design development and the subsequent procurement and implementation for individual projects.
- 1.3 This report will set out the justification for the inclusion of **MP4 – Kelvin Walkway / Eldon Street Underpass** in the Games Venue Access Corridor and Infrastructure Enhancement Programme, advise on the works proposed, associated costs and timescales, and request the formal release of funding to enable the project to be progressed to implementation.

2 Location

- 2.1 Kelvin Walkway / Eldon Street Underpass is located on the east bank of the River Kelvin and forms an off road step-free pedestrian and cycle short-cut connecting the Kelvin Walkway at Kelvinbridge Subway Station with the continuation of the Walkway within the main body of Kelvingrove Park.
- 2.2 The lower section of the proposed enhancement area follows a former railway solum and is bounded by residences and the River Kelvin before passing below Eldon Street Bridge. At this point the route ascends a ramp before extending into Kelvingrove Park itself. Refer to Fig 1 for Location Plan.

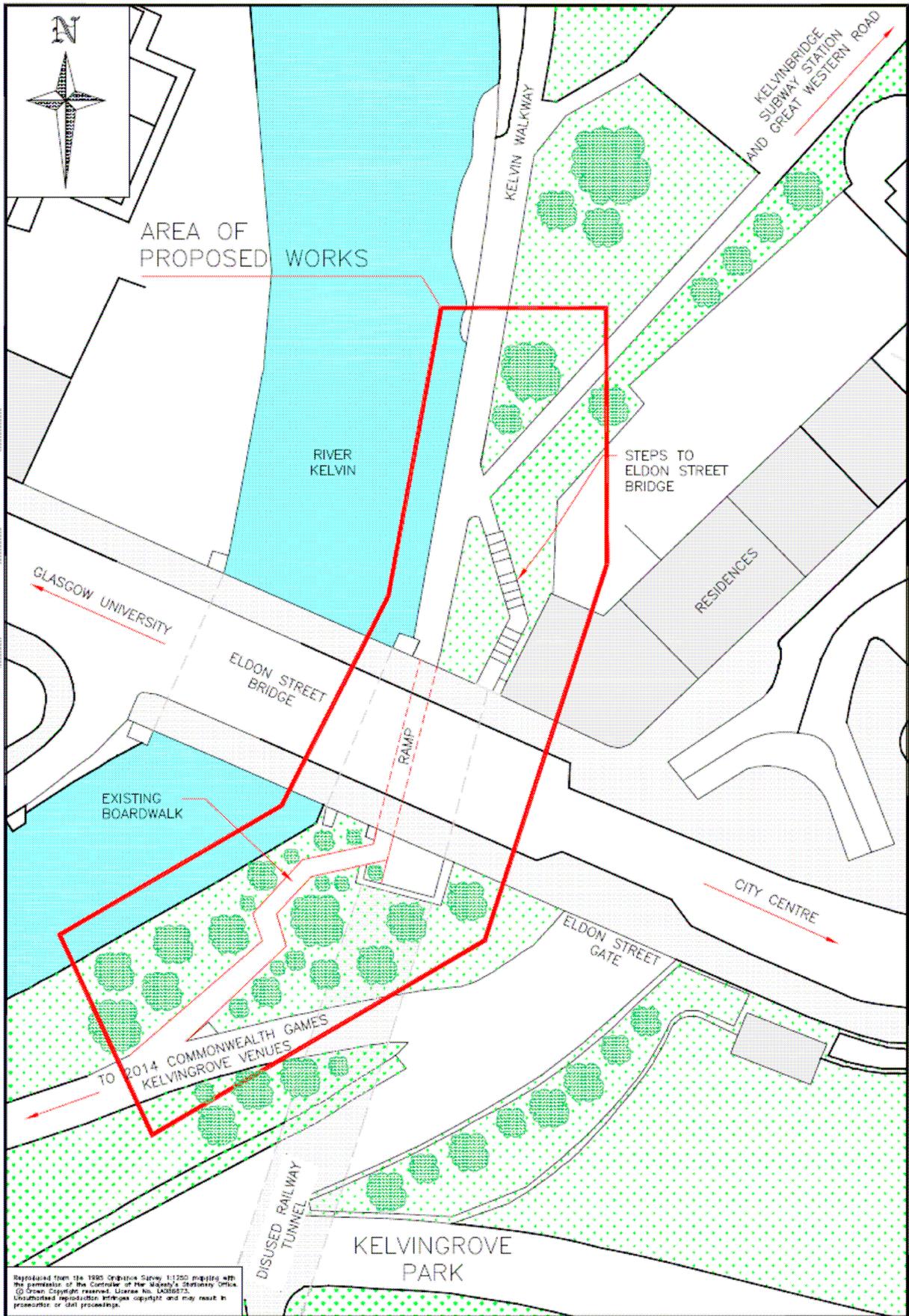


Fig 1: Location Plan – Kelvin Walkway / Eldon Street Underpass

3 2014 Games / Other Issues / Legacy

- 3.1 During Glasgow 2014 this section of the Kelvin Walkway will play a key role in providing pedestrian and cycle access from the Kelvinbridge area of the West End and Kelvinbridge Subway Station to the Kelvingrove and Kelvin Hall Games Venues to the south. The route will also provide onward pedestrian and cycle access to the SECC complex and Riverside Museum beyond. The enhancement of this sub-standard section of the Walkway will play a critical role in creating a positive impression of the city for a wide range of Glasgow 2014 visitors.
- 3.2 The Kelvin Walkway was constructed in the 1980's. It was at the forefront of walking and cycling routes in the city and is a valuable asset in the city's walking and cycling network. However, the Eldon Street section in particular is now past its best, its condition is deteriorating and it does not present the most positive of images for the 21st century.



Fig 2: Kelvin Walkway Approaching Eldon St Underpass. Kelvingrove Park Beyond.

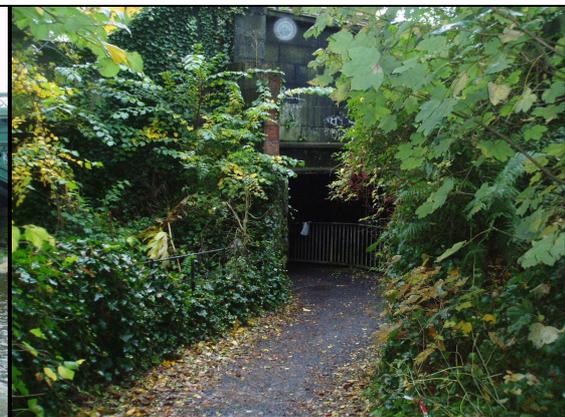


Fig 3: Narrow, Overgrown Path with Poor Sightlines from Kelvingrove to Railway.

- 3.3 In its current condition the Eldon Street section of the Kelvin Walkway is best described as “functional”. Whilst the standard of surface is good, the sightlines are very poor due to the unusual physical constraints whilst transferring between the former railway solum and Kelvingrove Park, approximately 2m above. Passing under the Eldon Street Bridge the route is in a natural dark spot and the supported timber “boardwalk” leading into Kelvingrove Park is deteriorating and requires regular maintenance interventions. In addition, the width of the path is on the narrow side for the volume of traffic and over the years the soft landscaping has become overgrown and intrusive.
- 3.4 The River Kelvin is prone to flooding in this area and a number of years ago flooding extended along the disused railway tunnel. To combat this threat an anti-flood bund was placed below the bridge beside the Walkway ramp. Together with the deteriorating underside of the bridge, this presents a “worn” image to passers by.
- 3.5 These factors contribute to making this section of the Kelvin Walkway less than attractive to locals and visitors alike.



Fig 4: Dilapidated Street Boardwalk with Repairs – Poor Sightlines



Fig 5: Dark Spot Below Eldon Street Bridge with the Anti-Flood Bund to the Left

- 3.6 The Kelvin Walkway fulfils an important role as a key cycle link through the west end of the city connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal (National Cycle Network Route 774) with NCN Route 7 along the River Clyde and the city centre Connect2 “Bridge to Nowhere” route which is currently under construction. In addition to providing commuter cyclists with vital traffic free access from the west directly into the heart of the city, the Kelvin Walkway also provides access to many of the leisure attractions in the west end of the city as well as being a busy leisure route in its own right.
- 3.7 Over recent years the area adjacent to the Kelvin Walkway has also been subject to a number of housing, business and educational developments all contributing to the regeneration of the city. With ready access to the city centre, one of the key selling points is the availability of high quality sustainable transport infrastructure. The provision of this significantly enhanced pedestrian and cycle facility in a public realm environment will reinforce the development potential of the area.
- 3.8 Close to the social opportunities in the West End and providing access to Kelvingrove Park from Great Western Road and Kelvinbridge Subway Station the Eldon Street section of the Kelvin Walkway has the potential to give visitors a positive impression of the city before, during and after Glasgow 2014. However it will not do so in its current condition and requires a level of enhancement.

4 Design Proposal

4.1 The primary objective of the proposed enhancement works at Kelvin Walkway / Eldon Street Underpass is to provide a local improvement to a sustainable transport corridor and public space by the riverside which is attractive to locals and visitors alike and which is “fit for purpose” for Glasgow 2014 and for many years beyond.

4.2 Following consultation within Land & Environmental Services seven key issues were identified to be addressed when developing a design solution:

- Overgrown trees and shrubbery within Kelvingrove Park and the approach to Kelvinbridge Subway Station
- The narrow width of the footway / cycleway
- The deteriorating condition of the “boardwalk”
- Poor sightlines and blind corners
- The “dark space” below Eldon Street bridge
- Rubbish dumping at the access to the discussed railway tunnel
- General image along the former railway solum



Fig 6 & 7: Deteriorating Condition, Tree Overgrowth, Poor Sightlines, Rubbish and Graffiti

4.3 A preliminary design has been developed to address the issues raised above and is highlighted on the Layout Plan in Fig 8.

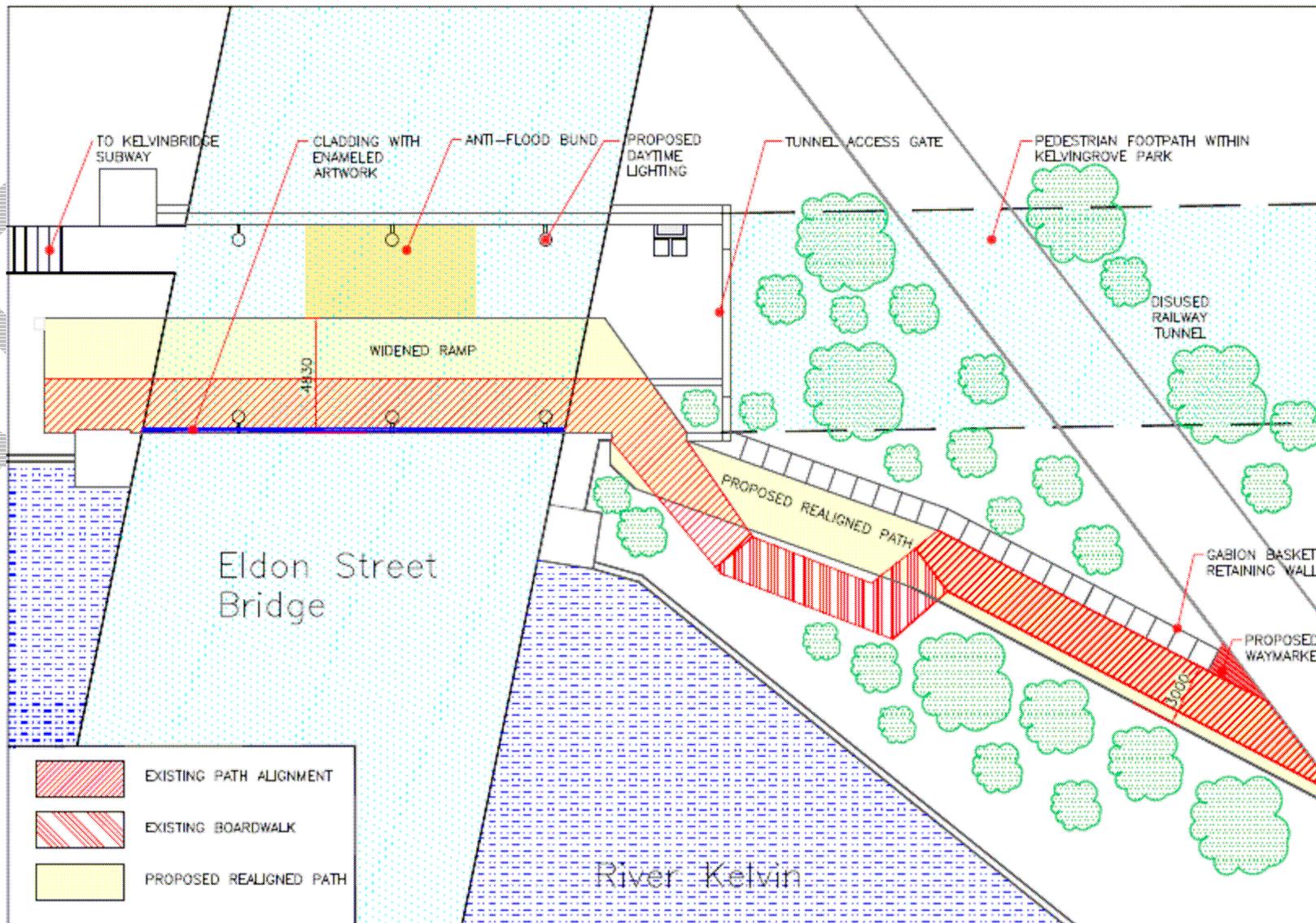


Fig 8: Layout of the Proposed Enhancement Works

4.5 The proposed works will concentrate resources on the following objectives:

Within Kelvingrove Park

- Widening the path to 3m, replacing the existing railway sleeper retaining structure with a more robust stone filled gabion baskets
- Crown lift and thin trees and cut back shrubs to improve personal security
- Straighten the path alignment to improve sightlines and safety
- Replace the timber “boardwalk” with a more robust construction form to reduce maintenance
- Resurface the path

Eldon Street Underpass

- Widen the access ramp and “hole in the wall” to improve visibility and passage between the railway section and the park section
- Provide daytime lighting below Eldon Street Bridge to improve personal security. (The lighting will not be operational at night, which is consistent with the Kelvingrove Park policy of “no lights”)
- Improve the landscape below Eldon Street Bridge to enhance the image and reduce the opportunity for littering whilst maintaining the flood prevention role of the earth bund.
- Carry out aesthetic repairs on Eldon Street bridge including painting the bridge soffit.
- Consider the possibilities for Community Artwork below the bridge including vitreous enamel cladding panels.
- Improve the soft landscaping on the approach from Kelvinbridge Subway Station
- Provide new wayfinding signs between the park and subway station



Fig 9: Narrow Path, Overgrown Bushes and Graffiti in Kelvingrove Park



Fig 10: Entering the “Dark Spot” Below Eldon Street Bridge



Fig 11: Deteriorating Paintwork and Plant Growth on Eldon Street Bridge



Fig 12: Narrow Ramp and Overgrown Bushes Below Eldon Street Bridge

- 4.9 Whilst Glasgow 2014 is the main focus of the enhancement proposals, it is equally important to recognise the continuing use of the Kelvin Walkway and adjoining Kelvingrove Park as major pedestrian and cycle corridors from the West End of the city to the city centre and to major attractions such as Kelvingrove Park itself, Kelvingrove Museum & Art Galleries, Kelvin Hall, SECC complex, Pacific Quay, and the Riverside Museum. These proposals are designed to deliver a “fit for purpose” sustainable transport route that will provide local, commuters and visitors with a long lasting legacy.

5 Cost Estimate

- 5.1 Cost estimates have been prepared for the recommended design proposals during the development of preliminary designs and can be broken down as follows:

• Public Realm Works	£250,000
• Contingencies	£25,000
• Fees and Other costs	£25,000
• Project Total	£300,000

6 Project Programme

- 6.1 Preliminary designs were drawn up by LES Consultancy Services officers between February and May 2011 and following consultation with other Services within the Council a recommended design proposal has been agreed.
- 6.2 On the basis that this funding request is successful, the development of the detailed design will commence in November 2011. At this stage, it is anticipated that a contractor could be procured in spring 2012 with the implementation of the works through the summer / autumn of 2012.

7 Resource Allocation

- 7.1 It is proposed that LES will provide Project Management, Design and Site Supervision resources.
- 7.2 The implementation works will be procured by competitive tender through the Construction & Trades Framework Agreement.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 The Board is asked to:
 - (i) Recognise the essential need to carry out enhancement works at Kelvin Walkway / Eldon Street Underpass prior to Glasgow 2014.
 - (ii) Approve the development of the detailed design.
 - (iii) Release a funding package of **£300,000** to enable the enhancement works to progress.