



Tuesday, 10th February 2026

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver -
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

Grantham Canal Water Level Control and Safe Access Works

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To obtain authority to enter into a contract for water level control and safe access works at the Council owned part of Grantham Canal.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to approve the award of a contract to ECS Engineering Services Ltd for water level control and safe access works at Grantham Canal for a value of £205,763.98.

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Effective council

Which wards are impacted? Earlesfield

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The financing of these works will be from a combination of the 2025/26 approved budget works of £100,000 and use of the General fund Maintenance Reserve. The Council has worked with Welland Procurement to undertake an open competitive tendering procedure, and the successful bid can be financed accordingly.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Procurement

- 1.2 The works have been tendered using an open procedure, managed by Welland Procurement and was a compliant process.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin, (Procurement Lead)

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 A contract award of this value would need to be agreed by Cabinet as it is a Key Decision.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. A stretch of Grantham Canal is owned and maintained by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and consists of 1km section of Canal between Earlesfield Lane Grantham to the east and Swingbridge Road to the west. It passes under Trent Road before ending at the A1 southbound slip road. A map showing the Council ownership is outlined below.



- 2.2. Water is fed through culverts under the A1 linking the Grantham Canal to the rest of the canal that terminates in Nottingham. Culverts under Trent Road are present and a culvert under Earlesfield Lane flows into the Mowbeck.
- 2.3. Since taking responsibility for the management and maintenance of this section of the Canal, the Council has undertaken various schemes of works to ensure the safety of the canal itself, the local environment and surrounding community.
- 2.4. In 2024, reports were received of water seepage through the banks of the canal by a business based just off Trent Road. This was causing some damage to the access road which had a detrimental impact on their trading. Previous studies had been undertaken of the canal and work has been carried out in the past to repair the banks.
- 2.5. In response to the issue which arose in 2024 and a lack of updated survey information, a comprehensive condition survey was commissioned from external consultants to assess the current condition of the canal and its banks, the cause of the seepage, and options for a full improvement scheme. This condition survey report has now been received and forms the basis of the specification for these works which has been competitively tendered. The works have been tendered using an open procedure through Welland Procurement. Two valid tenders were received and were evaluated by Welland and Council Officers.

2.6 The following tables summarise the analysis of the qualitative questions and pricing from the tenders received:

Quality Score

Question	Weight (%)	Bidder 1	Bidder 2
1	3	2.4%	1.8%
2	14	11.2%	8.4%
3	20	16%	12%
4	3	3%	1.2%
Sub Total (out of 40%)		32.6%	23.4%

Pricing Evaluation

Bidder	Total cost	% Score out of 60%
ECS	£205,763.98	60
Bidder 2	£255,658.00	48.29

Total Summary

Bidder	Quality (40%)	Cost (60%)	Total
ECS	32.6%	60%	92.6%
Bidder 2	23.4%	48.29%	71.69%

2.7 ECS Engineering Services Ltd, Bidder 1, scored highest in their tender submission and therefore it is recommended the contract be awarded to ECS Engineering Services Ltd.

2.8 These works enable corrective measures to be taken with respect to the urgent issues regarding water management and bank deterioration. However further preventative works will be required, and a budget bid has been submitted as part of the General Fund Budget Proposals 2026/27 to enable further phases of works to continue.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. To award the contract for works to ECS Engineering Services Ltd at a cost of £205,763.98.
- 3.2. Should the contract not be awarded, the condition of the canal and banks will deteriorate with the likelihood of the bank failing which could result in damage to property and potentially risk to life.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 Taking no immediate action was considered, however the Council has a legal obligation to maintain the canal and avoid risks to property and residents. Delaying the works any longer will result in the canal structure further deteriorating leading to much higher costs in the future and risks of failure.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The structure of the canal is deteriorating as evidenced by the water seepage and a report on condition carried out by JBA Consultants. Installing water level control features and safe means of access will mitigate the risk of failure in the short term whilst the longer-term future of the canal is decided.
- 5.2. The award to ECS Engineering Services Ltd is based on an open tender and assessment of their pricing and quality of response, both of which scored more highly than the other valid tender received, therefore the Council is choosing the most cost-effective tender.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. Consultation has occurred with the Grantham Canal Partnership who are supportive of the works to be undertaken as it contributes to their long-term vision of having a viable and vibrant canal between Nottingham and Grantham.
- 6.2. Discussions have also occurred with The Grantham Canal Society who has been instructed to undertake initial scrub clearance works.