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## NOTICE OF MOTION TO MORAY COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

### **Telford Bridge, Craigellachie - Ownership and Future Development**

#### **Background**

The Telford Bridge in Craigellachie is a world-renowned engineering structure conceived and designed by Thomas Telford and constructed between 1812 and 1814 following a large public fundraising exercise.

The bridge has been recognised as a landmark of importance by both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The bridge is currently used as a footbridge over the Spey and is a popular landmark for visitors and locals alike in Speyside. Many visitors come to Moray Speyside specifically to see this historic structure.

The local community, including the Friends of Craigellachie Bridge, have expressed concern over the condition of the bridge and how future maintenance of this historic site can be assured.

Friends of Craigellachie Bridge commissioned an inspection report in 2022, which identified structural repairs that required to be carried out over the coming years. The Friends of Craigellachie Bridge have been established for ten years and have been involved in fundraising, awareness raising, and seeking to establish ownership of the bridge in order to identify a means of maintaining and preserving the bridge for current and future generations to enjoy. There is a pressing need to have a full condition assessment carried out on the bridge.

As a historic monument, future ownership and management of the bridge by charitable organisations, such as a Community Development Trust, a Community Benefit Company or an organisation such as Historic Scotland could provide a possible alternative route to funding major preservation and interpretation works relating to the bridge.

#### **Actions**

Council notes the historical significance of the Telford Bridge, Craigellachie and the aspirations of the community with regard to its future preservation.

Council instructs officers to bring forward a report to Council covering the following matters:

- The known condition of the bridge

- What further inspection work may be required to ascertain fully the maintenance requirements and associated costs
- Current ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the bridge including whether a CPO may be required to define clear ownership
- Other future ownership/leasing options that could be considered

**Financial Implications**

A report would require officer time but could also generate options that would reduce future council involvement whilst securing the long-term future of the bridge as a major historical asset to Moray Speyside.

**Proposer: Councillor Juli Harris**

**Secunder: Councillor Derek Ross**

**Date Motion Submitted: 13 September 2023**