



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

2nd June 2008

APPROVAL OF 2008-09 NEW GROWTH POINT GRANT CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY REGENERATION & CULTURE

Report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Culture

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the addition of five schemes funded by New Growth Points (NGP) grant to the Regeneration & Culture capital programme for 2008-09.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has received £3.9m capital NGP grant for 2008-09 to carry out the 5 schemes listed below, which require Cabinet approval to be added to the Capital Programme because they each have a scheme value exceeding £250,000.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the addition of the 5 listed schemes, to a total value of £3.9m, to the 2008-09 Capital Programme.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The five schemes are:

1. St. George's North Wharf Street public realm phases 1 & 2 - £500k.
2. Waterside Jewry Wall and St. Nicholas Circle public realm improvements - £1,500k.
3. Waterside South road and bridge land assembly - £650k.
4. New Business Quarter railway station gateway / central ring road crossing/ car park access improvements - £650k.
5. Birstall Park and Ride implementation (with the County Council) - £600k

- 4.2 Sums given are capital expenditure, and include internal fees and project management/delivery costs. Some of the design work has already been completed, again funded by New Growth Point grant.

- 4.3 The five schemes have been approved by the Corporate Director in consultation with the Cabinet Lead and Leader of the Council. They form the next phase of the coherent strategy for transforming Leicester's City Centre, which began with the Council's £19m Streets and Spaces improvements, and was supplemented by £1.5m of New Growth Point funding last year.

St. George's North Wharf Street public realm phases 1 and 2

- 4.4 This scheme begins the task of upgrading Wharf Street, extending city centre quality and connectivity towards St. Matthews, encouraging developers to regenerate the area, and helps provide a quality setting for the Curve theatre.
- 4.5 It builds on the Cultural Quarter Infrastructure Project which is nearing completion (September 2008), with public realm improvements to Charles Street/Halford Street/Rutland Street/Curve Square.

Waterside Jewry Wall and St. Nicholas Circle public realm improvements

- 4.6 This is the next phase of implementing the LRC Masterplan for Waterside South. Last year, £1m NGP grant paid for the works on Bath Lane, and this phase will reconnect the riverside to High Street. Related works on the new Park and Ride terminus at St. Nicholas Place / Applegate will be co-ordinated, as will the High Street works for the opening of Highcross and John Lewis in September 2008.
- 4.7 Increasing the attractiveness of Waterside is essential to persuading developers to implement their planning permissions and start the regeneration of Waterside. It also sets the required high standard of public realm for the western gateway to the City Centre.

Waterside South road and bridge land assembly

- 4.8 A second intervention to encourage developers to start building at Waterside South is the road bridge and link road to unlock some of the sites. Part of the land has already been secured through developer contributions, and the land assembly scheme aims to bring the rest of the route into public ownership through purchase by agreement. The feasibility study completed last year was funded by NGP grant. This expenditure is for assembling the land required and for carrying out design and other works necessary to meet the CIF2 timetable.
- 4.9 New Growth Point status also brings access to the new Community Infrastructure Fund round (CIF2). The Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to DfT/CLG for £9.1m CIF2 support out of £13.85m scheme costs, and the scheme has been put forward as a Regional priority by the Regional Transport Group. A detailed CIF2 report has been prepared for Cabinet on 23rd June.

New Business Quarter railway station gateway/central ring road crossing/car park access improvements

- 4.10 The LRC Masterplan has always proposed reconnecting the railway station to the city centre by reducing the separation caused by the central ring road. The first phase of the New Business Quarter railway station gateway works begins this process, and provides more evidence to Network Rail of the Council's wish to improve the station and willingness to invest in the area.
- 4.11 This scheme again tackles a gateway to the city, to improve the first impression rail visitors have of Leicester. Because of the complexity of the options available for crossing Granby Street/London Road, a very detailed report of the choices is being submitted to Cabinet.

Birstall Park and Ride implementation

- 4.12 The Birstall Hallam Fields development includes developer contributions of some £2m to provide a new Park and Ride scheme on the A6. The cost of the entire scheme is some £5.1m, to be found from NGP and LTP sources. The service should be operational in 2009, ahead of the original LTP timetable. Again, CIF2 funding has been sought in order to free up LTP monies for bringing forward other schemes.
- 4.13 The new Park and Ride terminus at St. Nicholas Place/Applegate will be the destination for the service.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 This report is entirely about Cabinet giving formal approval for the financial expenditure listed. The capital funding grant has been received from CLG, and now has to be spent. Financial and project monitoring arrangements are in place.
- 5.1.2 Indicative CLG funding has been agreed for 2009-10 and 2010-11, which will allow the multi-year projects to continue beyond 2008-09.

Martin Judson, Head of Resources R. & C. (Ext.297390)

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 There are no direct legal implications in connection with this report as it concerns financial matters. The report comes to Cabinet in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution – Finance Procedure Rules, additions and amendments to the Capital Programme.

Anthony Cross, Head of Litigation (Ext.296362)

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	NO	
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	YES	6.1
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	NO	
Elderly/People on Low Income	NO	

- 6.1 The schemes listed support the Council's sustainability and environmental objectives, for example in making walking and cycling more attractive options; bringing forward the Birstall Park and Ride and associated bus services; improving the public realm and built environment; and preserving Leicester's heritage and making it more accessible. Two of the schemes specifically tackle gateways to the City.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

7.1 The corporate risks are:

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
Reputational risk to the City Council's reputation as an effective partner, which would adversely affect future funding levels	L – project management arrangements worked successfully last year with pilot funding	M – Leicester City did very well out of this year's allocation, and failure to deliver could reduce future allocations by up to 50%	Use of Treasury Green Book appraisals, PRINCE2 project management to ensure funding is spent correctly, Financial Regulations to ensure lawful expenditure, involvement of GOEM throughout process, slight over programming and ability to vire funds between projects to achieve full spend, appointment of a delivery manager to oversee progress
Funds allocated to individual projects prove insufficient	M – although estimates are based on best available information, there are some unknowns	L – unknowns form small proportion of scheme values, schemes do not have to be completed this year	The programme as a whole not to overspend; ability to vire between schemes and between financial years, contingency allowances and regular financial and PRINCE2 monitoring of spend and remaining works

L – Low, M – Medium, H - High

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None

9. CONSULTATIONS

Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Programme Board

Leicester Regeneration Company

City Centre Development Project Board

R&C Cabinet Lead

10. REPORT AUTHOR

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)