



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

Cabinet

17th November 2008

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2008/9

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to implement the 2008/9 Local Environmental Works (LEW) programme.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Cabinet recommended at their meeting on the 17th March 2008 that, before committing expenditure to the 2008/9 Local Environmental Works programme, a further report be brought to Cabinet for approval. There has been consultation with the relevant ward members and the proposed 2008/9 LEW programme is attached as Appendix 1. This report asks for approval to spend the 2008/9 Local Environmental Works programme budgets on these schemes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the 2008/9 Local Environmental Works programme of £400,000.

4. Report

- 4.1 Prior to 2000, local environmental work had been carried out on a piecemeal basis, with identified projects being included on ever enlarging lists. The budget for carrying out this work was increased in 2000/01 and it provided an opportunity to take a fresh approach. As an alternative to the “scatter gun” approach that does not provide sufficient impact in an area, it was decided to bring the various budgets together and identify particular areas that would benefit from a more intensive approach (Priority Areas). This part of the budget would be targeted on a particular inter-war housing area so as to make significant improvements to the local environment, by, for example providing parking areas where narrow roads and increasing numbers of cars cause problems. The new programme was called the Local Environment Works (LEW) programme. The budget was sufficient to allow some environmental works to be carried out citywide.
- 4.2 There is no specific definition for Local Environmental Works but the budget for Local Environmental Works is designed to cover a wide range of environmental works around the City, addressing a number of problems,

needs and opportunities. These have included previously the provision of a broad range of works such as:-

Laybys, Tidying up Untidy land, Local Environmental Improvements, Bus shelters, Improved Signing, Verge Hardening, Parking Areas, Minor Lighting improvements, City Centre Environmental improvements, Parks and Green Spaces Improvements

The majority of the LEW funding has normally been spent on the construction of laybys and verge hardening with comparatively small amounts spent on other areas as detailed above.

- 4.3 In 2008/9, the Corporate Director agreed that, in order to treat areas in a more comprehensive way, funding would be targeted at certain areas on an annualised need basis so for this year £50,000 funding will be spent in each of the 5 wards Abbey, Beaumont Leys, Charnwood, Freeman and Spinney Hills to address their priorities and in 2009/10 5 new wards will be selected. The remainder would be spent generally in Leicester East and Citywide. There have been discussions with the relevant ward Councillors and the programme as shown in Appendix 1 has been agreed. Officers are recommending that the 2008/9 LEW programme, valued at £400,000, as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report be approved by Cabinet.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There is an approved budget in the Corporate Capital Programme 2008/9 of £400,000 for Local Environmental Works.

Paresh Radia, Finance, Regeneration and Culture, Ext 6507.

5.2 Legal Implications

The City Council as Highway Authority has a legal duty to maintain highways and powers to improve highways. These scheduled works allow us to meet these responsibilities.

Jamie Guazzaroni, Solicitor, Legal Services, RAD, Ext 6350

6. Other Implications

| OTHER IMPLICATIONS | YES/NO | Paragraph references within the report |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| Equal Opportunities | No | |
| Policy | No | |
| Sustainable and Environmental | Yes | The proposals will improve the quality of life in the outer areas of the City. |
| Crime and Disorder | No | |
| Human Rights Act | No | |
| Elderly/People on Low Income | No | |

7. Background Papers

- Report to Cabinet 17th March 2008 entitled 'Capital Programme –Overall Strategy'.
- Report to Council 27th March 2008 entitled 'Capital Programme –Overall Strategy'.

8. Consultations

- Legal Services
- Staff in Regeneration and Culture Dept

9. Risk Assessment Matrix

| | Risk | Likelihood L/M/H | Severity Impact L/M/H | Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate) |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Weather Conditions | L | L | Plan works at appropriate times |
| 2 | Adverse comments from consultation with Local Residents and Pressure Groups | M | M | Project planning, ability to amend schemes |
| 3 | Conflict with other works eg Statutory Undertakers | L | L | Attend Coordination Meeting |

L - Low

L- Low

M - Medium

M -Medium

H - High

H - High

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) |

Appendix 1

| Ward | | Total Cost |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Freemen | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Washbrook Nature reserve Works 2. Babington Row - Complete Verge hardening 3. Great Arler Road - Complete verge hardening 4. The Fairway -Verge hardening opposite the shops. | £50,000 |
| Abbey | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to 348 –362, Abbey Lane across grassed area 2. Border Drive/Holderness Road - Verge Hardening/Laybys, subject to the results of the speed survey being carried out | £50,000 |
| Beaumont Leys | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blue Gates Road - Fencing and other works. 2. Scalpey Close and Gresley Close - Improvements to Fencing, footways and other areas. | £50,000 |
| Charnwood | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gipsy Lane – Laybys, southern side between Tomlin Road and Northfield Road adjacent to existing laybys. 2. Humberstone Road (south side). Layby to the east of Harewood Street. | £50,000 |
| Spinney Hills | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bradfield Close – Verge hardening of Grass verges. 2. Mere Road – lowering of Road Humps | £50,000 |
| Leicester East | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mere Road – lowering of Road Humps (Spinney Hills) 2. Catherine St/Sutton Avenue junction –provision of bollards and new paving (Belgrave) 3. Catherine St (Junction with Melrose Ave) – Layby (Latimer) | £30,000 £10,000 £40,000 |
| Citywide | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Lighting Energy Saving Initiative/Trial | £20,000 |
| Contingency | | £10,000 |
| Fees | | £40,000 |
| | Total | £400,000 |