



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**All Wards**

**Cabinet**

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

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**BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT & WATERCOURSE IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAMME 2008/9**

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**Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to spend the 2008/9 Bridge Refurbishment and Watercourse Improvement budgets.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Cabinet recommended at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 that, before committing expenditure to the 2008/9 Bridge Refurbishment and Watercourse Improvement programmes, a further report be brought to Cabinet for approval. Firstly, It is proposed that the Bridge Refurbishment funding (£150,000) be spent on essential repairs to the Aylestone Old Mill bridges. Secondly, it is proposed that the Watercourse Improvement funding (£50,000) be spent on completing the Braunstone Lane Flood Monitoring Scheme. This report asks for approval to spend the 2008/9 Bridge Refurbishment and Watercourse Improvement budgets on these schemes.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the expenditure of the 2008/9 Bridge Refurbishment and Watercourse Improvement budgets.

**4. Report**

**4.1 Watercourses**

The proposed flood alleviation signing in Braunstone Lane East is to be funded from the carried forward Corporate Capital Programme 2007/8 budget (£91,000) and the 2008/9 budget (£50,000). The scheme has been designed and external suppliers have been appointed. We now have Environment Agency and DfT approval and so can go ahead with the scheme. The scheme will save money by reducing the need to erect and remove temporary diversion signs everytime that Braunstone Lane East floods which normally happens several times a year and is getting more frequent. It will also mean the flood crews will be able to concentrate on flood issues elsewhere at that time. At other times the signs will be managed as part of the Urban Traffic Control system and will be used as a traffic control measure. There will be some funding left from the 2008/9 budget which will be spent on any necessary remedial land drainage works in the City.

**4.2 Bridge Refurbishment**

- 4.2.1 The City Council owned bridges that are currently in the worst condition are the Aylestone Old Mill River and Canal Bridges located to the west of Aylestone Road approximately opposite to the Grace Road junction. The River and Canal Bridges are adjacent to each other on the track leading to Riverside Park. The bridges provide essential access to the Waterside Park.
- 4.2.2 The Canal Bridge is in urgent need of repair works to ensure safety of road and canal users. Considering the amount of works required and that previous attempts to repair the structure have failed it would be far more cost effective to replace the structure. In the last 2 years, the condition of the bridge has worsened and the cracks have increased in size from 30mm to 40mm and bricks are starting to become loose. Closure of the bridge may have to be considered if the condition continues to deteriorate. The River Bridge is a lot smaller and needs re-pointing to the brickwork, waterproofing, resurfacing and protection work for scour. There would be cost savings if the works on the 2 bridges were carried out at the same time.
- 4.2.3 Unfortunately it is not possible to estimate the costs of this work at this time as we need to carry out surveys to investigate the access requirements, British Waterways requirements and the possible needs for environmental surveys (which may be quite high), that may be required. It is therefore proposed to carry out the investigations and design the remedial works in 2008/9, carrying forward part of the 2008/9 budget to 2009/10. In 2009/10, a further report will be submitted to Cabinet detailing the costings and the proposed programme of works. If sufficient funding is available, it is anticipated that the work will start in late 2009/10.

## **5. Financial & Legal Implications**

### ***Financial Implications***

- 5.1 There are budgets in the 2 year Corporate Capital Programme (2008/09 and 2009/10) approved by Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 of £150,000 for Bridge Refurbishment and £50,000 for Watercourse Improvements. Any expenditure on these budgets is subject to a further report being taken to Cabinet.

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

### ***Legal Implications***

- 5.2 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*

- 5.3 The Land Drainage Act 1991 places powers on the Council to undertake works for preventing flooding or mitigating any damage caused by flooding in its area. These powers are:
- a) to maintain existing watercourse or drainage works, by way of cleansing, repair or otherwise in a state of efficiency
  - b) to improve existing watercourse or drainage works
  - c) to construct new watercourse or drainage works required for the drainage of land

**6. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Para 4.2.3. The bridge refurbishment may have environmental impacts on the Waterside.
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

**7. Background Papers**

- Report to Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 entitled 'Capital Programme –Overall Strategy'.
- Report to Council 27<sup>th</sup> 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	Damage to the Waterside environment by the construction works	L	L	Project planning, carry out environmental surveys to reduce any impact of the works
3	Conflict with other works eg Statutory Undertakers	L	L	Attend Coordination Meeting

L - Low  
M - Medium  
H - High

L- Low  
M -Medium  
H - High

**10. Report Author**

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<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)