



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

15 February 2010

Watercourse Maintenance & Improvement - Capital Programme for 2009/2010

Report of the Strategic Director, Development, Culture and Regeneration

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Cabinet approval to spend the 2009/10 Watercourse Improvement budgets.

2. SUMMARY

Leicester City Council's approved capital programme for the 2009/2010 financial year includes a sum of £50,000 for watercourse maintenance and improvements. When setting the budget, Cabinet recommended that before committing this expenditure, a further report be brought to Cabinet for approval. It is proposed to undertake a number of minor works on watercourse and drainage features around the City. The proposals include maintenance works to ordinary watercourses and measures to alleviate the risk of flooding at known flood "hot-spots". This report asks for approval to spend the 2009/2010 Watercourse Maintenance/Improvement budget on these works.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

Cabinet is asked to approve the expenditure of the 2009/2010 Watercourse Maintenance and Improvement budget.

4. REPORT

The following is a brief summary of the works proposed:

- 4.1 Aylestone Playing Fields & Tributaries of the River Biam.** A storm sewer outfall is at present under water, decreasing the effectiveness of nearby highway drains. The watercourse needs de-silting to alleviate this problem. **£5,000.**
- 4.2 Chesterfield Road.** We are the Riparian Owners of a brook bank, a section of which has eroded and collapsed. We propose to reinforce this section of the bank to mitigate the risk to the neighbouring property. **£4,000.**
- 4.3 Dorothy Road Brook Access Point Maintenance & Improvement.** As the Riparian Owner of a large proportion of the watercourse network, we have a number of access points to enable us to gain access and deal with Riparian Owner issues. This particular one requires some improvement works. **£3,000.**

- 4.4 Hinckley Road & Anstey Lane.** The highway ditches are silted up and overgrown. This is preventing the adjacent highway gullies from working efficiently and leads to rain water ponding on the highway. **£10,000.**
- 4.5 Blackbird Road.** This location has suffered from severe highway flooding issues due to leaves from trees blocking the gully gratings. We are therefore proposing to install a new style of gully frame and cover on all the affected gullies. This will require re-aligning the kerbs in some areas. This is not a direct watercourse scheme but when this road floods, the money to resolve the problem comes out of our watercourse budget. **£20,000.**
- 4.6 General Riparian Owner Issues.** As a landowner we have a number of watercourse sites with overgrown or unsafe trees which pose a potential flood risk and are also posing a potential risk to adjacent properties. Accordingly, we propose cut back problem trees on the brook banks where we are the riparian owner. We have also identified a site with Japanese Knotweed growing and propose to undertake works to eradicate this. **£8,000.**

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

There is a budget allocation in the 2 year Corporate Capital Programme for 2009/2010 which was approved by Cabinet on 17th March 2008 of £50,000 for Watercourse Maintenance and Improvements. Any expenditure on these budgets is subject to a further report being taken to Cabinet.

Paresh Radia, Deputy Head of Finance, Regeneration and Culture, Ext 29 6507.

5.2 Legal Implications

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.

Jamie Guazzaroni Solicitor, Legal Services, RAD, Ext 29 6350 (November 2008).

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

Jamie Guazzaroni Solicitor, Legal Services, RAD, Ext 29 6350 (November 2008).

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
1) Adverse weather conditions	H	L	Severe weather warning procedures in place. Suspend works in severe weather.
2) Damage to waterside environment.	L	M	Site environmental management procedures already exist to manage risks to watercourse from works, e.g. spillages.
3) Conflict with other works.	L	L	Attend co-ordination meetings and include schemes in general works programme.
4) Health & Safety	L	M	Safe system of work is routinely established for individual schemes.
5) Budget overspend due to unforeseen works.	L	L	Schemes will be programmed such that they are not all carried out concurrently allowing for some scheme to be dropped if necessary to stay within budget.

L – Low L – Low
M – Medium M – Medium
H - High H - High

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- Report to Cabinet 17th March 2008 entitled “Capital Programme –Overall Strategy”.
- Report to Council 27th March 2008 entitled “Capital Programme – Overall Strategy”.
- Report to Cabinet 17th November 2008 entitled “Bridge Refurbishment & Watercourse Improvement Programme 2008/9”.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- Legal Services (Re. Cabinet report dated 17th November 2008).
- Finance Team, Regeneration & Culture.
- Staff in Regeneration, Highways & Transportation.

10. REPORT AUTHOR

Martin Fletcher
Acting Group Manager
City Highways Group
(Acting for the Head of Highway Management)

Ext. 39 3360

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