



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

Overview and Scrutiny Board
Cabinet

17th June 2010
21st June 2010

CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS (LEW) PROGRAMME

Report of the Strategic Director, Development Culture and Regeneration

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of schemes for the 2010/11 Local Environmental Works (LEW) programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve the 2010/11 LEW programme of £750,000 as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Cabinet is requested to approve that the LEW programme may be varied by the Director of Regeneration, Highways & Transportation in agreement with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation.

3. Summary

- 3.1 This report details work items that are recommended for the 2010/11 LEW. The majority of the LEW items are small improvements requested by the residents and the ward councillors. They are listed in the attached Appendix 1 and not detailed in this report. However, major environmental improvements are proposed for Stephenson Drive, requiring substantial allocation of the programme funding, and they are detailed in this report.

4. Report

- 4.1 There is no specific definition for LEW but the budget for this programme is designed to cover a wide range of environmental improvements around the City, addressing a number of problems, needs and opportunities. Previously these have included the provision of a broad range of works such as:-
Laybys, Clearing up Untidy Land, Local Environmental Improvements, Bus Shelters, Improved Signing, Verge Hardening, Parking Areas, Minor Lighting Improvements, Parks and Green Spaces Improvements.

The majority of the LEW funding has usually been spent on the construction of laybys and verge hardening with comparatively small amounts spent on the other improvements detailed above. The works proposed in the 2010/11 programme have come from local ward members and residents and reflects their key local concerns, some of which go back many years. The LEW programme is closely aligned with the emerging Neighbourhood agenda but is

not a One Leicester or Local Transport Plan2 priority although it does achieve some of the objectives.

4.2 There have been requests from the Ward Councillors and residents to improve the poor condition of Stephenson Drive as part of the LEW programme for two main reasons:

a) Stephenson Drive is an important gateway to New Parks from the east. To deliver the vision of One Leicester it is essential that appropriate investment is made on this gateway to create a sustainable and confident environment. Stephenson Drive is a concrete surface road, which has rougher, noisier drive quality with the characteristic 'bump-bump' when driving/riding over it. This 'bump-bump' is due to the expansion/contraction joints that are needed on concrete roads. Concrete road surfaces are designed to last longer than blacktop road surfaces and should require fewer repairs during their life because of their rigid structure. Unfortunately the draw back of this is that it gives the impression that no maintenance is ever carried out on them. However all concrete roads are subject to the same planned and safety inspections as the other road types in the City and where identified repairs are undertaken.

b) Cars have been recorded as travelling at 70 mph along Stephenson Drive although it has a 30 mph speed limit and there are 2 schools nearby. It is therefore felt that as part of any environmental improvement scheme, traffic calming measures should be introduced to slow traffic down and enhance road safety. Any scheme would have to include additional works in Swannington Road to prevent rat running.

4.3 This LEW programme gives the opportunity to raise the quality of the environment along the length of Stephenson Drive. The budget estimate (excluding fees and service alterations) for the construction works is around £450,000. The estimate will be firmed up with the detailed design, which will be developed following the stakeholders consultation that is ongoing.

4.4 Housing Services also have an Environmental Works programme that is similar to the LEW programme and it gives a good opportunity for some joint funding and working to get the best possible improvements and make a significant difference to this area. They are funding a scheme (£92,800) to improve the housing frontages along Stephenson Drive.

4.5 Appendix 1 details the 2010/11 LEW programme estimated to cost £750,000 and includes criteria for scheme selection. All the works will be completed by the 31st March 2011.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There is an approved budget in the Corporate Capital Programme 2009/10 of £750,000 for Local Environmental Works.

Paresh Radia, Finance, Ext 29 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, Legal Services, Resources, Ext 29 6350

5.3 Climate Change Implications

The schemes detailed in the LEW programme overall will probably lead to the increased use of cars by providing an increased number of parking places. However, the new railings and the cleaning of Hand Avenue underpasses should lead to more walking.

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 but lead possibly to increased car usage. Para 5.3
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Imp Act	No	

7. 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 Lead Member 14th April 2010 entitled 'Draft Local Environmental Works Programme 2010/11'.

8. Consultations

- Finance Team
- Legal Services
- Staff in Regeneration, Highways and Transportation

9. Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact	Control Actions (if necessary/or
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			L/M/H	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 e.g. 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	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)

Appendix 1

Ref	Location - Work Item	Ward	Requested by	Approx Cost	Criteria	Comments
1.	Stephenson Drive	New Parks	Ward Councillors and residents	450,000	Improve Local Environment Eastern gateway to New Parks Improve ride quality Reduce high traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety. Joint Scheme with Housing	Excludes Statutory Undertakers costs. Consultation going ahead at present.
2.	Mere Road – Extending road hump ramps	Spinney Hills	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Reduce damage to vehicles Improve ride quality for buses, ambulances etc.	On site discussions about locations need to take place.
3.	Worthington Street - Removal of planters to provide additional car parking spaces	Spinney Hills	Ward Councillors and residents	45,000	Improve Local Environment Reduce pressure of local car parking Improve highway safety	Costs subject to underground services.
4.	Braunstone Lane Bridge - Removal of graffiti and repainting	Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	Ward Councillors and residents	25,000	Improve Local Environment Reduce vandalism Remove local eyesore	Subject to agreed traffic management arrangements.
5.	Hand Avenue underpasses- cleaning and removal of graffiti	Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Improve Local Environment Encourage walking Reduce vandalism and anti social behaviour	Cleaning of extensive graffiti and removal of damaged screens.
6.	Railing to Steps in Edgefield Close and benches around Hamilton Lake area	Humberstone and Hamilton	Ward Councillors and residents (petition)	10,000	Improve Local Environment Encourage walking Improve access for Elderly/Disabled persons. Make dangerous steps safe	Extent of works to be agreed with local Councillors and residents.
7.	Shaftesbury Avenue - Extending road humps ramps	Belgrave	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Reduce damage to vehicles Improve ride quality for buses, ambulances etc.	Raised by Belgrave Neighbourhood Association in recent patchwalk.
8.	381 –407 Braunstone Lane –	Braunstone Park & Rowley	Ward Councillors	30,000	Improve Local Environment Improve highway safety for local	Long standing complaint from residents who have to park on grassed area that regularly

	Hard surfacing and drainage to remove parking on verge	Fields	and residents		residents Remove large muddy area	floods
9	Northfield Garages, Wood Green Road	Charnwood	Ward Councillors and Planning	45,000	Improves Local Environment Reduce vandalism and anti social behaviour.	Total estimated cost, £55,000, £10,000 brought forward from 2009/10.
10.	Ashforby Street – Extending road hump ramps	Coleman	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Reduce damage to vehicles Improve ride quality for buses, ambulances etc.	Requests from Local residents. On site discussions need to take place
	Fees			65,000		
	Total			£750,000		