

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: All

Cabinet

April 5 2004

INVESTMENT IN PARKS, GREEN SPACES AND STREETS

Report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Culture

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement to the implementation of the investment identified in the budget strategy for parks, open spaces and streets.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Launching the Liveability initiative in 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister said “Successful, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe and attractive – areas that local people are proud of, and want to spend their time in. Tackling failure such as litter, graffiti, fly posting, abandoned cars, dog fouling, the loss of play areas or footpaths is for many people the top public service priority”.
- 2.2 In constructing the budget strategy agreed by Council in February this year, Members recognised the value put upon parks, open spaces and streets by Leicester’s citizens, and the importance of the urban environment in regenerating the city, by including investment of £3.7million for parks, open spaces and streets. An additional £700K of one off money saved from the Waste PFI has been identified by Members for investment in public lavatories.
- 2.3 Members asked that officers bring a paper to Cabinet setting out their proposals for spending the investment. This paper makes those proposals and sets out how the investment will be managed. The proposals in this paper will:
- Upgrade existing public lavatories
 - Build and maintain new public lavatories
 - Set up an enforcement team to deal with, among other things, fly tipping, fly posting, pavement obstructions, illegal trading and graffiti
 - Improve the street scene in the city centre
 - Set up a rapid response Blitz team to support area cleaning times
 - Make major improvements to key parks
 - Improve maintenance standards to parks and green spaces across the city

3 Recommendations

Members are recommended to agree the investments detailed in Section 2 of the supporting information:

	2004/5 £K	2005/6 £K	2006/7 £K	3 yr total £K
Corporate Budget Strategy	2000	1200	1200	4400
Investment Profile				
Public Lavatories capital investment	270	230	200	700
Street scene investment	400	300	300	1,000
Parks & open spaces	900	900	900	2,700
<i>Carry forward</i>	430	200	0	
Total	1,570	1,430	1,400	4,400¹

4 Financial & Legal Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1. The programme in this report reprofiles the one off investment in public toilets of £700k from a 2004/5 spend (the Corporate Budget Strategy) to a spend over 2004/5 – 2006/7. The reprofiling will be managed within the Regeneration and Culture Department.

The Council's budget provides for new growth of £3.7m for parks and streets over the three year 2004/05 to 2006/07 which, together with £0.7m from waste PFI savings, will cover the investment proposed in this report.

Andy Keeling/James Slater 17/25 March 2004

Legal Implications

- 4.2 No legal implications have been received

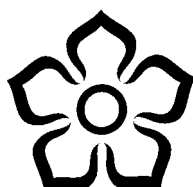
5 Report Author

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DECISION STATUS

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

¹ £3.7mil ongoing investment from budget strategy + £700K from waste PFI savings



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Cabinet

April 6 2004

INVESTMENT IN PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND STREETS

Report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Culture

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Council in February 2004 agreed a three year financial strategy for the Council. In recognition of the value put upon parks, open spaces and streets by Leicester's citizens, and the importance of the urban environment in regenerating the city, Members agreed investment of £3.7million in these areas. An additional £700K of capital funding has been identified by Members for investment in public lavatories.

2. Investment

Public Lavatories

- 2.1 Members intend investing £700K of capital, gained from savings from the waste PFI, in public lavatories in Leicester. Officers propose that this investment should be split between repairing and upgrading existing street and park facilities, and demolishing badly located or unsuitable park public lavatories and replacing them with modern facilities in more convenient locations. £50K per annum is proposed as an allocation for the duration of this budget strategy for the maintenance of new public lavatories. From 2007/8 this will be picked up from the ongoing additional streets/environment revenue investment.
- 2.2 The table below shows how the £700K capital will be allocated across the three years of the current budget strategy:

Table 1 – Capital Investment in Public Lavatories

	2004/5 £K	2005/6 £K	2006/7 £K	3 yr total £K
Upgrade existing street WC's	100	60	0	160
Upgrade/Demolish existing park WC's	70	20	0	90
New WC's	50	100	150	300
Maintenance	50	50	50	150
Total	270	230	200	700

Streets

- 2.3 Officers propose investing £450K of the revenue investment allocated by Members in improvements to establish a street enforcement team to tackle fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti, obstructions on the pavement, illegal trading and dog fouling, and to take action against persistent offenders. Another £150K is proposed as a start up allocation for a rapid response mobile Blitz Team to deal with support the area cleaning teams, with finance for the Blitz team from 2005/6 coming from PSA funding. Officers propose a further £400K for improving the street scene in the city centre, with improvements to lighting, festive decorations, planting and street furniture.
- 2.4 The table below shows how £1million of investment in Leicester's streets will be allocated across the three years of the current budget strategy:

Table 2 –Investment in Streets

	2004/5 £K	2005/6 £K	2006/7 £K	3 yr total £K
Street enforcement team	150	150	150	450
Rapid response Blitz Team	150	0 ²	0	150
City Centre street scene improvements	100	150	150	400
Total	400	300	300	1,000

Parks and Open Spaces

- 2.5 Officers propose investing £2.7 million in improvements to major parks and making a real step change to maintenance and horticultural standards in parks and open spaces over the next three years. Officers have identified the following key major parks for investment over the next three years, over and above the general improvement already identified in the department's budget strategy:

- Bede Park
- Watermead Park
- Knighton Park
- Victoria Park
- Western Park
- Castle Gardens
- Evington Park
- Humberstone Park
- Abbey Park
- Spinney Hill Park

Investment in these major parks could mean new planting, paths and landscaping; improvements to park buildings; and new parks furniture and play areas.

- 2.6 Improved maintenance across the city would result in ornamental standards being re-introduced for shrub beds, weekend and evening litter collections started, park furniture replaced and looked after, trees properly maintained and areas of nature conservation conserved and maintained.

² Years 2005/6 onwards funded from PSA

- 2.7 The table below shows how £2.7million of investment in Leicester's parks and open spaces will be allocated across the three years of the current budget strategy:

Table 3 – Investment in Parks and Open Spaces

	2004/5 £K	2005/6 £K	2006/7 £K	3 yr total £K
Improvements to major parks	515	195	195	905
Improved maintenance standards	385	705	705	1795
Total	900	900	900	2,700

Total investment

- 2.8 The table below shows how the investment in Leicester's parks and open spaces, streets and public lavatories allocated by Members in the Council's budget strategy will be allocated across the three years of the current budget strategy:

Table 4 – Total Investment

	2004/5 £K	2005/6 £K	2006/7 £K	3 yr total £K
Public Lavatories capital investment	270	230	200	700
Street scene investment	400	300	300	1,000
Parks & open spaces	900	900	900	2,700
Total	1,470	1,480	1,450	4,400³

3. Delivery

- 3.1 If Members approve the schedule of investments shown in section 2 above, officers will put together project teams to oversee the investments and ensure that the work is carried out to specification, on time and to budget. Regular reports from those teams will be made to the Regeneration and Culture Department's Link Members, who will be kept up to date on implementation progress.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 4.1 See cover report

Legal Implications

- 4.2 No legal comments received

³ £3.7mil on going investment from budget strategy + £700K from waste PFI savings

5 Other Implications

- 5.1 This investment delivers the key priority of the Council's Corporate Plan; *"Improve the environment to make neighbourhoods and the city centre places for people to be proud of"* and supports the recommendations of the Environment Best Value Review.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	None Specific	
Policy	Yes	Corporate Plan
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Investing in parks and open spaces ensures a future for Leicester's green lungs
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Investing in street enforcement will reduce anti-social behaviour, and crime reduction improvements to parks will improve public safety
Human Rights Act	None Specific	
Older People on Low Income	Yes	Improvements to public lavatories in the city and parks as well as improvements to parks in general will benefit older people who are key users of both services

5.2 Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Improvements not delivered on time, to required standards, and in budget	M	M	Rigorous project management arrangements

L - Low
M - Medium
H - High

L - Low
M - Medium
H - High

6 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Council's Budget Strategy - February 2004

7 Consultations

Consultee

Financial Strategy Team – Julian Allen
 Legal Services – Joanna Bunting/Anthony Cross
 Service Director – Resources (Regen and Culture)
 Service Director - Culture
 Service Director - Environment

Date Consulted

March 2004
 March 2004
 March 2004
 March 2004
 March 2004