

Leicester
City Council

Re possess

WARDS AFFECTED: WYCLIFFE, ABBEY, AYLESTONE,
BELGRAVE

Cabinet

27th September 2004

Capital Programme 2004/05: Conservation & Heritage Initiatives and Riverside budgets

Report of the Service Director, Environment

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval to schemes under the Capital Programme 2004/05

2 Summary

2.1 Cabinet approved a three year Capital Programme on 31st January 2002. This included several schemes that were reserved pending further Cabinet approval of details. Two of these were budgets for *Conservation & Heritage Initiatives* and *Riverside* amounting to £165,000 and £150,000 respectively, both over three years.

2.2 Details of expenditure against these budgets for 2002/3 and 2003/4 have previously been considered by Cabinet.

2.3 The Capital Programme 2004/5 included the final year's planned expenditure of £50,000 for each of these two schemes. Both schemes were categorised as "Pending Further Cabinet Approval" and this paper seeks that approval. Details of expenditure for 2004/05 are set out in the Supporting Information document.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Members are recommended to:

1. Approve the schemes set out in the Supporting Information document, and
2. endorse funding from the Capital Programme for these schemes from the *Conservation & Heritage Initiatives* and *Riverside* budgets.

4 Financial & Legal Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

4.1.1 The Capital Programme 2004/5 includes the full amount of expenditure planned under the two schemes.

Alan Tomlins, Head of Finance, R&C.

4.2 Legal Implications

4.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

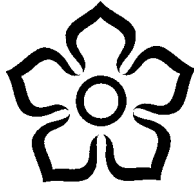
Anthony Cross, Assistant Head of Legal Services

5 Report Author

Ian Tomie

DECISION STATUS

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



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BELGRAVE**

Cabinet

27 September 2004

Capital Programme 2004/05: Conservation & Heritage Initiatives and Riverside budgets

**Report of the Service Director, Environment
Supplementary Information.**

Report

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet approved a three year Capital Programme on 31st January 2002. That approval included several schemes reserved for further Cabinet consideration. The reserved schemes included *Conservation & Heritage Initiatives* and *Riverside* budgets amounting to £165,000 and £150,000 respectively, both over three years.
- 1.2 Details of expenditure against these budgets for 2002/3 and 2003/4 have previously been considered by Cabinet. Details of expenditure for 2004/05 are set out below.

2. Riverside Initiatives

- 2.1 The Riverside Capital Programme helps sustain a rolling programme of improvements to Leicester Riverside, It funds a wide variety of environmental and regeneration projects vital to Riverside's development, both directly and in partnership with other agencies. The programme seeks to achieve three key strategic aims:
- To improve environmental quality
 - To encourage use and enjoyment of the riverside, and
 - To promote regeneration and investment.
- 2.2 The following table summarises the schemes, including those completed in the two years 2002-2004, and underway this year, 2004/05. These projects reflect the Riverside's strategic importance as a catalyst for regeneration, as a wildlife corridor, and as a place for local people and visitors to the City to visit and enjoy.

Capital Programme:	2002-2004	2004/5	Total	Notes
Aylestone Meadows LNR Access Improvement Scheme	30,000	5,000	35,000	Third Capital Funded Phase Completed, July 2004. Creation of 280 metres of boardwalk, with disabled access, through the most important wetland habitat in the City, with associated ponds and other improvements at Aylestone Meadows Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Important to the achievement of EMAS and Biodiversity Action Plan targets in Aylestone. In partnership with British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).
Castle Gardens		10,000	10,000	Work in Progress. Scheme due for completion Nov 2004. Significant improvements to security of overnight mooring facility for visiting boats at Castle Gardens. Opening up of views of the River from Castle Gardens. In partnership with British Waterways (BW).
Aylestone Grazing	5,000	5,000	10,000	Phase 1 Completed. 2 new grazing fields created and improved public access to River Biam in 2003/04, improving grazing quality, nature conservation and amenity open space in Aylestone Meadows LNR. Cost of improvements to be offset against future rental income.
Path / Step Works.	10,000	10,000	20,000	Work in progress. Access renewal and improvements, particularly in response to health and safety concerns. Most projects at Aylestone Meadows. In partnership with BTCV.
Improvement to Landing Stages at the National Space Centre and Abbey Park	10,000	10,000	20,000	First phase completed. New Landing Stage at Abbey Park and repairs at National Space Centre to support the provision of public trip boat operations between the Park and NSC.
National Space Centre River Frontage Improvement Scheme	22,000	10,000	32,000	First phase completed. Phased scheme in LRC Abbey Meadows Intervention Area. To improve the area around NSC, enhance NSC's Riverside setting, improve access, links with Abbey Pumping Station, greater use of the Riverside as a visitor attraction and support the regeneration of key sites in the area.
Abbey Park/ Frog Island Canal Frontage Scheme (Phase III):	13,000		13,000	Completed. Final phase of a major scheme to significantly improve the Canal Towpath between Abbey Park Road and North Bridge. In partnership with BW.
Red Circle Angling Centre (former Leicester Marina Site)	5,000		5,000	Completed. Former marina site brought back into beneficial use as an angling venue, in partnership with the Environment Agency. Management agreement to ensure retention of value for Nature Conservation. Total cost £40,836, EA leverage £30,975.
Riverside Base	5,000		5,000	Work in progress. Supports establishment of much needed Riverside operational base at Slater Street, following closure of Abbey Meadows Depot.
TOTALS	100,000	50,000	150,000	

3. Conservation Initiatives

- 3.1 In 2002 a budget of £165,000 over 3 years was set aside in the Capital Programme for *Conservation and Heritage Initiatives* : £65,000 in 2002/03 and £50,000 in 2003/04 and 2004/05. This was to be matched by a similar sum from English Heritage as part of a 3 year contract with it to improve the St Georges Conservation Area under a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS). The scheme formed part of a wider commitment to the development of the Cultural Quarter. Broad details of proposals were presented to Cabinet on 5th June 2002.
- 3.2 Property owners have been waiting for more positive signs of the area's regeneration before committing themselves to financial outlay and take-up of grants to improve properties has so far been slow.
- 3.3 Two schemes have been carried out to date.

Scheme	Total Value	HERS Grant	Other Contributions	LCC Contribution	Notes
St. George' Church	£66,000	£30,000	£6,000	£29,000	Restoration of stain glass windows and protective screens in this key listed building
St. George's Churchyard	£84,000	£42,000	£0	£42,000	Rebuilding of derelict wall, complete with new railings and gates to Rutland Street and new paving around entrance.

- 3.4 Work on both of these schemes commenced in 2002/3 and was completed in the current financial year. Both have been highly successful and have been welcomed by officers from English Heritage.
- 3.5 Approximately £94,000 remains unspent from the original budget allocation This is made up of £54,000 from the capital budget (including £4,000 carried forward from last year) and outstanding HERS grant to be paid of £40,000. Several schemes are currently being pursued with property owners. These include improvement schemes for the Secular Hall in Humberstone Gate, 59 Halford Street, 8 Eldon Street and 47 Humberstone Gate. Other schemes may also come forward now that the momentum for regeneration and investment in St. George's is beginning to build.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Investment in relatively small scale improvement schemes in regeneration areas such as the Riverside and St. Georges has an impact well beyond the scope of the individual projects themselves (important though these are). For people living and working in these areas, for visitors from elsewhere in the city and from further afield, and critically for potential developers and other investors they demonstrate a commitment to renewal by the local authority and a vote of confidence in the areas' long term future. As new development begins to take off, it will be important for the authority to continue to play its part in supporting and complementing private sector activity to help ensure the benefits of regeneration are widespread and sustained.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The Capital Programme 2004/5 includes the full amount of expenditure planned under the two schemes.

Alan Tomlins, Head of Finance, R&C.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Anthony Cross, Assistant Head of Legal Services

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	Yes	All sections of the community will be taken into account in the design of individual schemes as appropriate.
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	All work is designed to be sustainable and to improve the built or natural environment
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Schemes are designed to minimise the potential for crime and disorder.
Human Rights Act	No	
Older People on Low Income	No	

Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Failure to take up full allocation of HERS budget by March 2005	Medium	Low	Renewed efforts to encourage owners to come forward with suitable schemes.

9 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Cabinet 5 June 2002, Report of the Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services: Capital Programme 2002/05, Conservation and Riverside Budgets

Cabinet 19 January 2004, Report of the Chief Finance Officer: Capital Programme Monitoring 2003/04

10 Consultations

Consultee

Alan Tomlins, Head of Finance, R&C

Anthony Cross, Assistant Head of Legal Services,

Date Consulted

7 September 2004

3 September 2004