

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED: CASTLE**

**CABINET**

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

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## **NEW WALK MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLAN**

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### **Report of the Corporate Director**

#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 One of the conditions attached to the £1.4 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant towards the New Walk Restoration Scheme 2001-2004 included a requirement to prepare and implement a 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) for New Walk.
- 1.2 This report seeks Members' support for that MMP.

#### **2 Summary**

- 2.1 The MMP is attached as Supplementary Information. Its main purpose is to show how the Council intends to deliver high quality and on-going maintenance of New Walk over the next 10 years.

#### **3 Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

1. Adopt the Management and Maintenance Plan accompanying this report as the standard to be achieved.

#### **4 Financial & Legal Implications**

##### *4.1 Financial Implications*

- 4.1.1 The maintenance of New Walk is not a separate activity but forms part of the ongoing services provided by a number of sections undertaking similar activities across the city (as outlined in Table 2).
- 4.1.2 The costs of this maintenance therefore are not separately identifiable but fall within the existing budgets for all these sections.  
*Alan Tomlins, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2004*

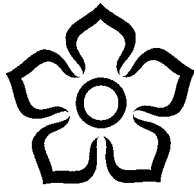
##### *4.2 Legal Implications*

- 4.2.1 New Walk and Upper New Walk have been afforded footpath status by the Leicestershire Act 1985. This allows New Walk to be kept as a public walk for the use and accommodation for the inhabitants of the city. It is an offence to use a vehicle on the footpath without lawful authority, enforcement is a matter for the police. Each case where there is an application to permit a vehicle on New Walk shall be considered on its own merit.  
*Anthony Cross & Taranjit Lalria, 23 August 2004*

#### **5 Report Author**

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**29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2004**

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## **NEW WALK MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLAN**

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### **Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration & Culture**

#### **Report**

#### **1. Background**

1.1 In 2001 a grant of £1.4 million was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the cost of the restoration of New Walk. One of the conditions attached to the grant required the Council to put in place, and undertake, high quality management and maintenance over the 10 years following completion of the work. In Leicester's case this will be from 2004 to 2014. The means by which the Council would achieve this has to be set down formally in a Management & Maintenance Plan (MMP) that the HLF will approve and retain.

#### **2. The Issues**

- 2.1 Over £2 million has been spent overall on the New Walk Restoration scheme; the majority of the funding coming from the HLF. Works ranged from the complete replacement of the tarmac surface by a gravel-based finish, to new litter bins, seats and railings. In addition, private property owners have taken part in front boundary replacement projects. By the end of 2004/05, this will mean that their joint efforts with the Council will have secured the improvement of a large proportion of front boundary walls along the length of New Walk.
- 2.2 Such large investments have to be justified over the long term and the HLF needs to know that its share is being properly maintained. Its staff arrange frequent, sometimes unannounced, visits to check on site conditions and it is therefore important that grant recipients such as Leicester City Council have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that the grant works are maintained to as high a standard as possible.
- 2.3 A Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) is one of the ways to achieve this. It should set out why good management and maintenance is important and who is responsible for each of the many elements that contribute to the delivery of a high quality environment. An MMP will also be a public document so local people will be able to check on how well those responsible for management and maintenance are delivering the agreed targets.
- 2.4 The proposed MMP for New Walk is therefore attached for Cabinet's endorsement and approval. By approving a Management Plan the Council will indicate its commitment to delivery of a high quality environment along New Walk. The document sets out 'who does what, when and how' and includes

diagrams showing the past and present management structures as well as a list of Annual, Regular and Intermittent Tasks that need to be done to secure New Walk's proper maintenance and management. The costs shown are summaries of current budgets and are not therefore additional to the Council's current maintenance budgets for these services. A short summary of the history of the Walk and potential future enhancement work is also included. The matter of vehicle access onto and along New Walk is also considered in some detail and the MMP proposes alterations to the management of essential access. The MMP will also have a series of Appendices covering such elements as abstracts of relevant Council policies and Best Value Reviews, the New Walk Conservation Area Character Statement Supplementary Planning Guidance, the Parks Services Management Plan for New Walk's 3 open spaces and 'As Built' drawings.

2.5 However, the most important Appendix will be the Maintenance Log. This will be used throughout the 10 years of the management period to record all on-site checks (including the planned bi-annual, annual, 5 year and 10 year checks), as well as complaints or problems. It will also be used to record the remedial works necessary and their outcomes.

2.6 It is important that all sections of the Council with an interest in maintaining New Walk as an important and valued public amenity agree to commit the tasks and actions necessary to keep it up to the standard achieved on completion of the Restoration Scheme. The Management & Maintenance Plan presented for your approval has therefore been drawn up in consultation with all those sections, each of which has agreed to ensure that their service delivery will meet the required high standards.

### **3. Conclusion and Recommendations**

3.1 Endorsement of the Management & Maintenance Plan by the Council is an important step as it shows the HLF and other interested parties that the Council values New Walk and will ensure that it is properly looked after.

3.2 My recommendation is that this commitment is indicated by your endorsement of the draft MMP attached.

## **4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

4.1.1 The maintenance of New Walk is not a separate activity but forms part of the ongoing services provided by a number of sections undertaking similar activities across the city (as outlined in Table 2).

4.1.2 The costs of this maintenance therefore are not separately identifiable but fall within the existing budgets for all these sections.

*Alan Tomlins, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2004*

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

4.2.1 New Walk and Upper New Walk have been afforded footpath status by the Leicestershire Act 1985. This allows New Walk to be kept as a public walk for the use and accommodation for the inhabitants of the city. It is an offence to use a vehicle on the footpath without lawful authority, enforcement is a matter for the police. Each case where there is an application to permit a vehicle on New Walk shall be considered on its own merit.

*Anthony Cross & Taranjit Lallia, 23 August 2004*

## 5 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	YES	Effective and regular maintenance of the highways and street furniture will ensure that equal access is maintained for all users.
Policy	YES	The restoration project contributes to the achievement of Key priorities B1 and F1 in the Corporate Plan 2003-06.
Sustainable and Environmental	YES	The MMP sets out the works needed to maintain the highway, trees and open spaces in accordance with the Council's existing EMAS policies.
Crime and Disorder	YES	Additional street lights and a more reflective surface have improved lighting levels along the Walk. New Walk is also an Alcohol Control Zone and this, combined with CCTV, should help to improve feelings of personal safety and lower crime. The increasing attraction of New Walk for inner city living has also reduced the number of vacant properties, thereby reducing the appearance of neglect that can be a factor in the fear of crime.
Human Rights Act	YES	The Access Permit system is retained, though modified, so that owners and occupiers can gain access to their property for the purposes of maintenance and repair.
Older People on Low Income	NO	No impact

### 5.2 Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Graffiti	M	H	Rapid response requested from Graffiti Removal Team
2	Works to highway by Statutory Undertakers	H	H	Arrangements in place to ensure surface repairs are made in appropriate materials

## 6 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

- Agreement between Leicester City Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2001

## 7 Consultations

### Consultee

Regeneration & Culture (Finance)

R A & D (Legal Services)

Highway Management

Waste Management

Transport Development

Public Art

Friends of New Walk

### Date Consulted

6<sup>th</sup> August 2004

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