

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**Beaumont Leys/All**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
**Cabinet**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

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**Gorse Hill City Farm**

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**Report of the Type in who the report is by**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

This report outlines the current position of the funding of Gorse Hill City Farm and a proposal to extend funding to allow time to manage the move to a re-commissioning arrangement. This will require further consideration to be given during the 2006/07 budget process.

**2. Summary**

The Farm received a grant of £56,400 from the Council in 2004/05, with a subsequent interim arrangement to continue funding until the end of June 2005 agreed. A further extension is required to complete the transition to a re-commissioned service for school visits and funding is requested until the end of the financial year to allow this to happen.

**3. Recommendations**

Members are asked to approve the continuation of funding in this financial year until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 pending further consideration being given as part of the budget process for 2006/07.

**4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications**

- 4.1 Financial Implications: The cost of the grant will be met from the Lifelong Learning & Community Development Division budget, and the recovery plan will need to reflect any commitment members make for 2005/6. Decisions in respect of 2006/7 will be made as part of the budget.

David Wilkin, Head of Finance x7750

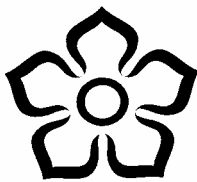
4.2 Legal Implications: The appropriate contractual formalities will be complied with to document any agreed extension of funding and thereafter to deal with termination pending any revised contractual arrangements that would need to be put in place following any future decision with regard to possible recommissioning as part of the 2006 / 07 Budget process.

4.2.1 The report explains the rationale behind the extension of funding for the remainder of this financial year. This has to be seen in the context of the proposed options previously presented to Members to deal with the over commitment of the Lifelong Learning and Community Development Division budget. A decision to extend funding needs to be set against the wider picture of the consultation exercise now underway so as to ensure consistency of approach which will minimise firstly the risk of any judicial review challenge and secondly the likelihood of any such challenge being successful.

Anthony Cross, Asst. Head of Legal Services x 6362

**5. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

**Paul Vaughan  
Acting Service Director  
Lifelong Learning & Community Development**



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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1. Report**

- 1.1 Gorse Hill City Farm, established in 1985, is one of the oldest working city farms in the East Midlands. The Farm is unique in the city and is providing access and education to farming practice through community involvement. The Farm works cooperatively, following organic principles in the humane treatment of animals and offers access to all communities in the city and region, free of charge. Last year (2004/05) the Farm received 35,643 visitors.
- 1.2 As part of the budget for 2004/5, funding for the farm was due to cease in 2005/6 but this decision was expressly subject to review. It was anticipated that the farm would seek alternative funding sources.
- 1.3 The Management Committee has commissioned the production of a Development Plan and the implementation of the plan is based on the continuing funding of the project.
- 1.4 The Farm has considerable impact on raising awareness of the environment. Young people are encouraged to volunteer, they are informed about animal welfare and they are encouraged to use allotments. In addition the Farm manages considerable land (including woodland), which it rents from the Council.
- 1.5 The Farm will also continue to work with disaffected pupils and provide work experience placements but within a clearer contractual framework.
- 1.6 The project has a number of live funding applications and further negotiations between the Management Committee and Officers of the Lifelong Learning and Community Development Division need to take place. Therefore, an extension of funding until the end of the financial

year is critical so that the Council can assess the potential impact as part of the 2006/07 budget process

**2. Financial Implications**

The financial implications are as stated in the headline Financial Implications

**3. Legal Implications**

The legal implications are as stated in the headline legal implications.

Anthony Cross, Asst. Head of Legal Services x 6362

**4. Other Implications**

<b>OTHER IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Paragraph References within this report</b>
Raising Standards	YES	1.1
Equal Opportunities	YES	1.1
Policy		
Sustainable and Environmental	YES	1.4
Crime and Disorder		
Human Rights Act		
Elderly/People on Low Income	YES	1.1

<b>RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX</b>			
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood L/M/H</b>	<b>Severity Impact L/M/H</b>	<b>Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)</b>
In the event that continuation funding were not approved :-			
1 Loss of public service resulting from full or partial closure	H	H	
2 Desired outcomes not achieved with schools/ individuals	H	M	
3 Loss of income to Council	H	L	
4 Staff redundancies at Farm	H	L (numerically)	
5 Environmental Impact	H	M	
6			

7			
8			
9			
10			

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

**5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

**5. Consultation**

Officers from Lifelong Learning and Standards & Effectiveness Division have been in consultation with Gorse Hill City Farm on commissioning of services for schools and on links between the school curriculum and the work of the Farm.

**7. Report Author/Officer to Contact**

**Paul Vaughan**  
**Acting Service Director**  
**Lifelong Learning & Community Development**