



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

Cabinet

15th February 2010

CORPORATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS (LEW) AND BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT
PROGRAMMES

Report of the Strategic Director, Development Culture and Regeneration

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of work items for the 2009/10 Local Environmental Works (LEW) and Bridge Refurbishment programmes.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report details work items that are recommended for the 2009/10 LEW and Bridge Refurbishment programmes.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The original Bridge Refurbishment works were to be carried out on Aylestone Old Mill Bridge, however this depends on future funding from the 2010/11 Corporate Capital programme yet to be approved by Cabinet.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve the 2009/10 LEW programme of £250,000 as detailed in Appendix 1 and carry forward £150,000 and £384,000 for the LEW and Bridge Refurbishment programmes to 2010/11 respectively.
- 3.2 The Cabinet is requested to approve that the LEW and Bridge Refurbishment programmes may be varied by the Director of Regeneration, Highways & Transportation in agreement with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation.

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.

- 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 £500,000. The estimate will be firmed up with the detailed design, which will be developed following the stakeholders consultation that is planned to start in January 2010.
- 4.4 This year the 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. Works to solve parking problems in housing areas have been funded from LEW programmes in the past. However initial discussions have shown that there is an unwillingness to fund highways work from the Housing Environment Works budget, although there is a willingness to spend this funding to improve the housing frontages along Stephenson Drive.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 details the 2010/11 LEW programme estimated to cost £250,000 with £150,000 being carried forward to 2010/11 towards the cost of the Stephenson Drive scheme.

- 4.6 The original City Council owned bridge included in the Bridge Refurbishment programme was Aylestone Old Mill Bridge. The Canal Bridge is in urgent need of repair works to ensure safety of road and canal users. Considering the amount of works required and that previous attempts to repair the structure have failed it was decided that it would be most cost effective to replace the structure. In the last 2 years, the condition of the bridge has worsened and the cracks have increased in size from 30mm to 40mm and bricks are starting to become loose.
- 4.7 The current revised estimated total costs for replacing Aylestone Old Mill Bridge is £600,000, which includes British Waterways requirements and the possible needs for environmental surveys (which may be quite high). It was therefore originally proposed in 2008 to fund this from the Bridge Refurbishment budgets in the 2008/9 to 2011/12 Corporate Capital programmes that totalled £600,000 (4x £150,000). However, the 2010/11 Corporate Capital Bridge Refurbishment budget has not yet been approved and therefore this years funding of £384,000 should be carried forward to 2010/11. If the Aylestone Old Mill Bridge scheme is not carried out, it will need a 7.5tonne Weight Limit being placed on it as an alternative. This would be subject to discussions with local users of the bridge and a further report to Cabinet.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

5.1 *Financial Implications*

There is an approved budget in the Corporate Capital Programme 2009/10 of £400,000 for Local Environmental Works and £384,000 for Bridge Refurbishment.

Paresh Radia, Finance, Regeneration and Culture, 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

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.
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

7. Background Papers

- Report to Cabinet 17th March 2008 entitled 'Capital Programme - Overall Strategy'.
- Report to Council 27th March 2008 entitled 'Capital Programme - Overall Strategy'.
- Report to Lead Member 5th August 2009 entitled 'Local Environmental Works Programme 2009/10 First Draft'.
- Report to Lead Member 13th January 2010 entitled 'Corporate Capital programme 2009/10 and 2010/11, Local Environmental Works (LEW) and Bridge Refurbishment Programmes'

8. Consultations

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

9. Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or 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
M - Medium
H - High

L - Low
M -Medium
H - High

10. Report Authors

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

Appendix 1 - Local Environmental Works (LEW) Programme 2009/10 and 2010/11

Priority Number	Location - Work Item	Ward	Requested by	Approx Cost 2009/10	Comments
1	Church Lane - Layby outside St Denys Church	Evington	Ward Councillors and Church	10,000	Blocked traffic during funerals and weddings.
2	Asfordby Street - Improvement to the park area	Coleman	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Total cost estimate is £25,000 and £5,000 is from Ward C fund.
3	Brocklesby Way - Parking area	Humberstone and Hamilton	Ward Councillors and residents (petition)	30,000	Severe parking problems for residents.
4	Keightley Road - Verge hardening	New Parks	Ward Councillors and residents	10,000	Continuation of 2007/8 verge hardening scheme.
5	Heacham Drive Bridge Clean up	Beaumont Leys	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Cleaning of the sub-way bridge.
6	Various Traffic Regulation Orders	Spinney Hills	Ward Councillors and residents	5,000	Road marking changes relating to the modified TROs.
7	Halifax Drive - Laybys	Abbey	Ward Councillors and residents	20,000	Housing land may be involved.
8	Newfield Avenue/Waltham Avenue junction - Verge hardening/Laybys	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	Ward Councillors and residents	10,000	Recent site visit, minor parking on verge issue.
9	Bramall Court - Access for elderly persons	Charnwood	Ward Councillors and residents	14,000	Access road will go over private land (Housing Association).
10	Holderness Road - Laybys	Abbey	Ward Councillors & residents	10,000	Extension of 2008/9 scheme (£10,000).
11	Swinford Park - Lighting	Eyres Monsell	Ward Councillors	3,000	Details agreed.
12	Chatsworth Street - Removal of hump/build out o/s number 48 and replace with speed cushions	Spinney Hills	Ward Councillors and residents	10,000	Subject to advertisement and any objections.
13	Stephenson Drive - Environmental improvements throughout the street	New Parks	Ward Councillors and residents	23,000	Details are in the report.
14	Various highway improvements	Latimer	Ward Councillors	15,000	Some money already spent. Improvements to be agreed.
15	Northfields Garages	Charnwood	Ward Councillors & residents	10,000	Only £10,000 funding for 2010/11.
16	Festive Decorations			15,000	
	Design and Supervision Fees			25,000	Estimated at 10% but may vary.
	Total			£250,000	

