



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**OSMB
Cabinet**

**3rd February 2011
7th February 2011**

Watercourse Maintenance & Improvement - Capital Programme for 2010/2011

Report of the Strategic Director, Development, Culture and Regeneration

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Cabinet approval to spend the 2010/11 Watercourse Improvement budgets.

2. SUMMARY

Leicester City Council's approved capital programme for the 2010/2011 financial year includes a sum of £50,000 for watercourse maintenance and improvements. When setting the budget, Cabinet recommended that before committing this expenditure, a further report be brought to Cabinet for approval. It is proposed to undertake a number of minor works on watercourse and drainage features around the City. The proposals include cutting down/pruning trees on ordinary watercourses and measures to alleviate the risk of flooding at known highway flood "hot-spots". This report asks for approval to spend the 2010/2011 Watercourse Maintenance/Improvement budget on these works.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to approve the expenditure of the 2010/2011 Watercourse Maintenance and Improvement budget.

4. REPORT

The following is a brief summary of the works proposed:

4.1 General Riparian Owner Issues. As a landowner we have a number of watercourse sites with overgrown or unsafe trees that pose a potential flood risk and are also posing a potential risk to adjacent properties. Accordingly, we propose cut back/fell problem trees on the brook banks where we are the riparian owner and replace with trees in more appropriate locations. We have also identified a site with Japanese Knotweed growing and propose to continue undertake treatment works to eradicate this. See Appendix 1 for more details.

4.2 Flood Alleviation at flooding hotspots

There are several flooding 'hotspots' on the watercourse network that are prone to flooding and need minor works to prevent future flooding. See Appendix 1 for more details.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

There is a budget allocation in the Corporate Capital Programme for 2010/2011 which was approved by Cabinet on 17th March 2008 of £50,000 for Watercourse Maintenance and Improvements. Any expenditure on these budgets is subject to a further report being taken to Cabinet. Approval to spend the budget was agreed at the Spending Moratorium Exemption Panel meeting on the 20th December 2010.

Paresh Radia, Deputy Head of Finance, Regeneration and Culture, Ext 29 6507.

5.2 Legal Implications

The Land Drainage Act 1991 places powers on the Council to undertake works for preventing flooding or mitigating any damage caused by flooding in its area. These powers are:

- a) to maintain existing watercourse or drainage works, by way of cleansing, repair or otherwise in a state of efficiency
- b) to improve existing watercourse or drainage works
- c) to construct new watercourse or drainage works required for the drainage of land.

Jamie Guazzaroni Solicitor, Legal Services, RAD, Ext 29 6350 (November 2008).

5.3 Climate Change Implications

The only climate change implications of the report are that it will reduce the possibilities of flooding due to climate change.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Impact	No	

7. RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
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1) Adverse weather conditions	H	L	Severe weather warning procedures in place. Suspend works in severe weather.
2) Damage to waterside environment.	L	M	Site environmental management procedures already exist to manage risks to watercourse from works, e.g. spillages.
3) Conflict with other works.	L	L	Attend co-ordination meetings and include schemes in general works programme.
4) Health & Safety	L	M	Safe system of work is routinely established for individual schemes.
5) Budget overspend due to unforeseen works.	L	L	Schemes will be programmed such that they are not all carried out concurrently allowing for some scheme to be dropped if necessary to stay within budget.

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

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- Report to Cabinet 17th March 2008 entitled “Capital Programme –Overall Strategy”.
- Report to Council 27th March 2008 entitled “Capital Programme – Overall Strategy”.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- Legal Services (Re. Cabinet report dated 17th November 2008).
- Finance Team, Regeneration & Culture.
- Staff in Regeneration, Highways & Transportation.

10. REPORT AUTHOR

Alan Adcock, Head of Highway Maintenance

Ext. 39 2042

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

Appendix 1.

List of Proposed Watercourse Works

1. **Gilroes Brook** - There are three parts to this brook; the lay-by entrance from the ring road, the entrance from inside the cemetery and also along side Groby Road which is about 150m in length. Cutting back along the above length.
2. **Queens Road Brook** - Cutting back along its length this is approximately 50m long
3. **Ethel Road Brook** - Cutting back from the grid approx 50m
4. **Western Park Brook** - Cutting back from the grid approx 75m
5. **River Biam and its tributaries (which run through Aylestone Playing Fields)** - Cutting back along the River Biam (approx 200m long) and the tributaries (approx 200m long).
- 6 **Greengate Lane** - All the highway drains run into a highway ditch. This ditch needs clearing out and the hedge needs cutting back or the drains will not run.
7. **Chesterfield Road** - We have got Japanese knotweed on a brook bank for which we are responsible. We need to carry out treatment works this spring and the cost is £2500.
8. **Citywide** - We have got many trees that need cutting back which are our responsibility as a 'Riparian' owner of brook banks along the enmained watercourses.