

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 12 SEPTEMBER 2005
HOUSING COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT ON: QUALITY OF LIFE - HOUSING FOOTPATH REPAIRS

REPORT BY: JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
AND DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 460-2005

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee on progress with the city wide repair programme to Housing footpaths, funded from the Quality of Life Fund.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Sustainable working practices will be used in the works.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The improved condition of paths will benefit the elderly, the less ambulant and parents with prams.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article 7 of the minute of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 26 April 2004 and Article 1 the Housing Committee of 17 May 2004. In the report Committee were updated with progress to date and authorised the programme of Housing Footpath Repairs for 2004/2006.

- 6.2 The original housing footpath survey identified a prioritised programme of footpaths to be repaired. This prioritisation was based on an agreed numerical scoring system for the assessment of footpath condition. Category 5 footpaths were the most defective and were considered to pose a risk to public safety. Category 4 footpaths were also considered to be in need of treatment but were not considered to be in need of immediate repair. Footpaths in the range category 1-3 were considered to be in an acceptable condition.

6.3 Progress

- 6.3.1 From the prioritised list a total of £1.8m of repair works were identified to deal with all Category 4 and 5 footpaths against an availability of £617,000 of funding to 2005/06.

- 6.3.2 To date approximately 70% (7km) of Category 5 footpaths and 19% 5km of Category 4 footpaths have now been repaired. In the current financial year the programme is continuing and by the end of the financial year 2005/06 approximately 100% (10km) of Category 5 and 23% (6km) of Category 4 footpaths will have been repaired.

- 6.3.3 In the following financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08, provisional total allocation of Quality of Life funding of £400,000 has been made. Assuming this level of funding is maintained it

would be anticipated that the percentage of Category 4 footpaths repaired will increase to 53% (14km).

- 6.3.4 In order to complete the remaining backlog of Category 4 footpaths, taking into account the likely deterioration of the remaining network since the footpaths were originally surveyed it is estimated that a further £600,000 will be required. This would give a total expenditure of £1.617M against the original estimate of £1.8M.

6.4 Future Maintenance

- 6.4.1 It is proposed that as areas of housing footpaths are brought up to an acceptable standard, responsibility for their future inspection and maintenance will transfer from the Housing Department to the Planning and Transportation Department.
- 6.4.2 Planning for such a transfer has now commenced and it is anticipated that at the end of this current financial year the first areas will be transferred. From the information currently available approximately 51km of footpaths will be transferred at the end of the financial year equating to 46% of the housing footpath stock.
- 6.4.3 Joint operational arrangements will be put in place to avoid any confusion to members of the public when repairing defects.
- 6.4.4 As noted in previous reports, adjustments will require to be made in future budgets of the Planning and Transportation and Housing Department budgets to address the change in responsibility for future inspection and maintenance.

7 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

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KL/SM/EH

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