

**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE -  
27 OCTOBER 2003  
HOUSING COMMITTEE – 17 NOVEMBER 2003**

**REPORT ON: QUALITY OF LIFE – HOUSING FOOTPATH REPAIRS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 662-2003**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update Committee on progress with the city wide survey of housing footpaths and to seek authority to commence a programme of early action works.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee note the contents of this report and authorise the appointment of Tayside Contracts and Ennstone Thistle Limited to carry out the early action works identified under the Unit Rate Contract.

2.2 Authorise the expenditure of £176,000 on the early action works identified in the report.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Director of Finance has confirmed that the cost of £176,000 for carrying out the early action works can be met from the £400,000 allowance within the Quality of Life Fund in 2003/04.

**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 V of the Housing Committee of 16 June which remitted the City Engineer to carry out a condition survey of the public footpaths which are currently held on the Housing Department account. These surveys are nearing completion although there remains a great deal of work to complete the analysis and costing of the survey information collected. In order to break the survey down into manageable sections, 42 housing estates have been analysed based on the development areas used by the Housing Department. In total there are 330 Development Areas that are to be assessed.

6.2 Following the physical survey, each footpath is scored with a 'condition rating'. This 'condition rating' reflects not only the physical condition of the footpath but also takes into account other factors such as the level of usage, proximity of sensitive facilities e.g. medical practice, sheltered housing etc.

- 6.3 A numerical scoring system is applied to each footpath within each Development Area. The length of each footpath is to be taken into consideration and a mean condition rating for each development area calculated. This allows a direct comparison between all of the areas surveyed.
- 6.4 Following this numerical analysis, other factors such as complaints and accident records are taken into account in differentiating between areas which have been awarded a similar 'condition rating'.
- 6.5 A number of additional factors will be considered, as they could impact on the priority or timing of any works to be undertaken:
- Planned repair works to nearby footpaths;
  - Current and likely future lighting replacement programme;
  - Affects of past or proposed demolitions; and
  - Known works planned by other statutory undertakers.
- 6.6 In order to maximise spend within the current financial year and to progress with some of the works as quickly as possible, six 'early action' estates were identified by the Housing Department as having footpaths in a particularly poor condition. These have now been surveyed and the results analysed based on the above scoring criteria to give an overall 'condition rating'.
- 6.7 Out of these six early action estates, the Development Areas with the highest 'condition rating' have been identified as:
- Ancrum Place – Development 1
  - City Road – Developments 1 and 2
  - Clepington Road – Developments 2, 3, 7 and 9
  - Craigie Drive – Developments 2, 3, 4 and 5
- 6.8 The works to these areas have been packaged into two contracts and priced using the Unit Rate Contract as follows:
- **Contract 1 – Ancrum Place, City Road and Clepington Road.**  
An offer of £66,595.16 from Ennstone Thistle Limited has been received and is recommended for approval.
  - **Contract 2 – Craigie Drive.**  
An offer of £69,923.86 from Tayside Contracts has been received and is recommended for approval.
- Further allowances of £13,000 for professional fees and £26,480.98 for contingencies, give an overall expenditure of £176,000 for these early action works.
- 6.9 Once the overall survey and analysis of the footpaths in all the other development areas is complete, it shall be possible to compare the condition of all such footpaths across the city. From this a comprehensive programme of works for this and the next two financial years will be prepared to ensure that the additional Quality of Life funding is maximised. The results may conclude that further works are required within other developments within the early action areas, but this will not be known until the analysis is complete.

- 6.10 A further report outlining the complete three-year programme and costs shall be reported to a future Committee.

## **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/EH

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