



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT  
INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER MEETING  
13 December 2006**

**ITEM 5**

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community

**Condition of Balham Walk**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A petition of 90 names has been submitted, complaining about the condition of Balham Walk and asking for it to be repaired. Highway Maintenance officers have inspected the Walk, and reported to Area Panel that they had found no defects exceeding intervention levels, other than a Transco reinstatement, which had already been defecting and remedial works requested. No other action was proposed. Mackworth Councillors requested that the matter be referred to the Individual Cabinet Member Meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That no further action is taken other than to consider Balham Walk for future year's footway resurfacing programmes, and that the condition of Balham Walk be monitored and repairs carried out as necessary .

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 There is already a list of potential footway improvement schemes approved by Cabinet from which this year's programme would be chosen. There are far more schemes on the list than present funding levels will permit to be carried out this financial year. In fact the list contains enough schemes for several years at present funding levels. These schemes have been prioritised across the city as a whole.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The approved list of potential footway improvement schemes already includes 5 schemes from the Mackworth Ward area, Mornington Crescent, Prince Charles Avenue (from No. 295 to Henley green Roundabout ), Fulham Road (Collingham Gardens to Greenwich Road), Peckham Gardens (Greenwich Drive to Fulham Road), and Highbury Close.
- 4.2 There is considerable pressure on the Highway Maintenance budget, and all potential schemes have to be prioritised. Including Balham Walk in the list of potential schemes would only increase pressure on available budgets unless one of the existing approved schemes is dropped.
- 4.3 An estimate of the cost of carrying out works to lay new concrete edgings to the Walk and overlay the existing surface with a new layer of tarmac is approximately £4,000. Reactive maintenance funding has to be targeted at repairing defects that exceed intervention levels, and it would not be considered as best use of funding to spend such a sum on a surface with no specific defects. Councillors may wish to consider spending Area Panel funding on improving this footway.
- 4.4 The Council are actively pursuing a Street Lighting PFI contract. This will involve providing new lighting on a large proportion of the city's streets within the first 5 years of the contract, involving excavation of the existing footways. Officers are trying to reduce the affect of such works on newly resurfaced footways, and plan footway improvements over the next 5 years in accordance with the street lighting PFI contractor's programme. The contract is not now expected to be awarded until the Spring of 2007, and the column renewal programme is not yet known. Councillors should be aware that if resurfacing of Balham Walk did take place this financial year, it is likely that parts will be dug up again at some stage within the next 5 years.

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**Background papers:** Report to Area Panel 5 on 4 October 2006 – Petition Balham Walk,  
**List of appendices:** Mackworth  
Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 There is severe pressure on the Highway Maintenance budget. Balham Walk is not on the approved list for planned maintenance, and funding major maintenance works from the reactive maintenance budget would only add to that pressure.

**Legal**

- 2.1 No implications.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 No implications.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 No implications.

**Corporate priorities**

- 5.1 To deliver excellent services, performance and value for money.