

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>15 DECEMBER 2004</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DRAFT EASTBOURNE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN (INCORPORATING WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN)</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY, TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Hampden Park, Langney, Upperton and St. Anthony's</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To seek Members approval to use funding from the Eastbourne Park flood storage compensation contributions fund for further work in connection with the Eastbourne Park Water Level Management Plan.
<b>Contact</b>	Jefferson Collard, Planning Policy Manager, telephone 01323 415252 or internally on extension 5252.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To release £40,000 from the Eastbourne Park flood storage compensation contributions fund to pay for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) an asset survey of the water level control structures in Eastbourne Park,</li> <li>(ii) a review of the local drainage and</li> <li>(iii) to carry out water level and quality monitoring.</li> </ul>
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Introduction</u></b>

1.1	<p>In August 2001 the Landscape Group at East Sussex County Council were commissioned to write a Management Plan for Eastbourne Park which would also include a Water Level Management Plan. The second draft of this document was produced in September of this year and has been the subject of initial consultation with Officers of the Council and the Environment Agency.</p>
1.2	<p>The management objective for the Park is to secure a sustainable green open space for Eastbourne and to accommodate a balance of the natural, cultural and social assets and needs of the Town. Sub-objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· maximising the nature conservation opportunities throughout the Park;</li> <li>· maximising the recreational opportunities and</li> <li>· maintenance of the flood water storage capacity of the Park.</li> </ul>
1.3	<p>Eastbourne Park is therefore a multi-functional green open space and the Management Plan will seek to turn the necessity of dealing with the Town's surface water drainage, flood storage and continued economic development into environmental and recreational assets. In order to ensure that future Park management is integrated, a Management Park Forum will be established with representatives from the main landowners and stakeholders in the Park. This Forum will be responsible for the implementation and review of the Management Plan.</p>
1.4	<p>In preparing work for the Plan, the hydrologists identified a number of areas where further work needs to be undertaken and discussions with the Environment Agency has indicated that they are unlikely to agree to the Water Level Management Plan without this additional information.</p>
1.5	<p>It is proposed that an asset survey be carried out. There are reputedly over 100 different water level control structures within Eastbourne Park and its environs. A large number of these have already been identified, but there are still some that have evaded detection and details of those that have been detected are variable.</p>

1.6	<p>In addition, some of the existing structures are now redundant, are not used in their original capacity or are reaching the end of their useful life. It is therefore proposed that the location of each of the structures is identified together with its dimensions and condition, in accordance with the Environment Agency Flood Defence Asset Database.</p>
1.6	<p>The second piece of work proposed to be undertaken, is a review of the local drainage. The infilling of existing watercourses and the creation of new ditches by landowners and developers in an uncontrolled manner has led to drainage problems in a number of locations. The way certain areas in Eastbourne Park drain is not clear and needs to be clarified before remedial measures can be contemplated. Southern Water currently drain some of their surface water onto the Levels, but the locations of their outfalls is uncertain.</p>
1.7	<p><b>The tasks would be to update the existing mapping of the area to show the present arrangement of watercourses and control structures, including representative levels, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and local landowners.</b></p>
1.8	<p><b>Finally, it is proposed to undertake water level and quality monitoring. Some monitoring has taken place at a number of locations in and around the Park, however this has generally been on an ad hoc project specific basis and the data is held by a number of different organisations and is to different datums and in a variety of forms. Collation and conversion to a common format would enable</b></p>

1.9	<p><b>The tasks would be to liaise with interested parties to identify and obtain copies of available data, in addition to that already held. This would then be collated and converted to a digital format for further analysis. Site verification of level datums would also probably be necessary.</b></p>
2.0	<p><b><u>Consultations</u></b></p>
2.1	<p>The second draft of the Eastbourne Park Management Plan has been the subject of initial consultation with Officers of the Council, the Environment Agency, landowners and major stakeholders. As a result of the representations received, the Plan is to be amended and further consultation undertaken in the New Year.</p>
3.0	<p><b><u>Environmental Implications</u></b></p>
3.1	<p>The Eastbourne Park Management Plan aims to secure a sustainable “green heart” in Eastbourne, maximise the nature conservation opportunities through the Park in balance with other park uses and maximise recreational opportunities as far as they are compatible and complementary to wildlife, local amenity, character and quality of the informal “green heart” of the Town.</p>
4.0	<p><b><u>Human Resources Implications</u></b></p>
4.1	<p>There are no additional human resource implications as a direct result of this report as ongoing work on the Plan will be accommodated by existing staff.</p>

5.0	<b><u>Financial Resources Implications</u></b>
5.1	A total of £40,000 is proposed to be released from the Eastbourne Park flood storage compensation contributions fund, to pay for the proposed works. As of 31 March 2004, there was approximately £424,000 of uncommitted funds available.
6.0	<b><u>Other Implications</u></b>
6.1	There are no youth, human rights or anti-poverty implications as a result of this report.
7.0	<b><u>Conclusion</u></b>
7.1	In preparation of the draft Eastbourne Park Management Plan it was found that additional work needs to be undertaken in respect of water level management. It is therefore recommended that monies be released from the Eastbourne Park flood storage compensation contributions fund to pay for an asset survey of the water level structures in the Park, a review of the local drainage and to carry out water level and quality monitoring.
Lisa Rawlinson  Senior Planning Officer	
<b>Background Papers:</b>  The Background Paper used in compiling this report was as follows:  <b><u>Eastbourne Park Management Plan (including Water Level Management Plan) (Second Draft)</u></b>  To inspect or obtain copies of the background paper, please refer to the contact officer listed above.	