
SUPPORTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (REVENUE)
FOR AIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Stephen Harker, Consumer and
Environmental Services Portfolio**
Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to release funding for the purchase of air monitoring equipment to support the Town on the Move project.

Information and Analysis

2. A successful bid has been made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for a Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)(SCE (R)) allocation of £33,000 to purchase additional air monitoring equipment. The equipment would be sited at the heavily trafficked junction at St Cuthbert's Way/Northgate adjacent to Marks and Spencer to monitor road traffic emissions - emissions from road traffic have been identified as the most significant source of air pollution in this authority. The air monitoring unit which was previously at this location has recently been moved to Woodland Road, Cockerton, to a site which is more representative of public exposure in accordance with the requirements of the National Air Quality Strategy.
3. The benefits of the new air monitoring equipment at St Cuthbert's Way are that it would allow us to continue to monitor long-term traffic emissions at a 'worst case' location and would assist with local transport policy. The station would also support the work being carried out under the Sustainable Transport Demonstration Town project ('Town on the Move') for which DfT funding has recently been secured. The station would provide longer-term trend data which would be particularly helpful in showing whether the action being taken under this scheme is having an effect on traffic emissions in the centre of Darlington.

Outcome of Consultation

4. This is not a scheme for which external consultation was considered necessary. No objections were raised following consultations within the authority.

Financial Implications

5. The estimated cost of the scheme is £33,000, which is fully funded from DEFRA. There are ongoing annual revenue costs of £2,887, which is to be met from the “Town on the Move” project for five years.

Legal Implications

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

7. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

8. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

9. For the purpose of the ‘call-in’ procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that Members grant approval to release the supported capital (revenue) funding of £33,000 to purchase air monitoring equipment.

Reasons

11. The recommendation is supported as the additional equipment will support the Town on the Move project and traffic management.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

- (i) Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) application
- (ii) Cabinet Report – Darlington: A Town on the Move 13 July 2004

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