
**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 – RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR
WORKS TO RAILWAY MUSEUM ROOF**

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Lee Vasey, Leisure Services Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval to release capital monies approved in the 2005/06 Capital Programme for the Railway Museum.

Background Information

2. At the Council meeting on 10 March 2005, the Council considered the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan, (CMTFP) and the Capital Programme, including Corporate Management Team's recommendations of Corporately funded schemes. Prior to approved schemes commencing, a Cabinet report is required to formally release the funding. The Corporately funded scheme described below was not included in the report considered by Cabinet on 15 March and is therefore presented to this meeting to request the formal release of funding.

Information and Analysis

2005/06 and 2006/07 Corporately Funded Capital Schemes

3. An explanation of the reason why each proposed Corporately funded Capital scheme is required to be undertaken, together with a full description of the scheme detailing the benefits/outputs, the total capital costs and any other relevant information is provided below:

**Darlington Railway Centre and Museum – Critical Restoration - £400,000
Works to the Station Building and Train Shed**

4. This scheme is necessary to ensure that the Darlington Railway Museum, a Grade II* listed building, remains watertight and a safe and accessible place for visitors and a secure and environmentally suitable venue for the collections in its stewardship which are of national and local significance. A recently commissioned Condition Survey of all of the buildings confirmed fears regarding the condition of the building and the roof. A further inspection of the timber roof over the North Road Railway Station concluded that the roof has been significantly affected by water ingress resulting in significant and in some cases severe loss of strength to roof trusses. There were serious concerns about the structural integrity of the majority of the roof trusses and it was recommended that a programme of strengthening work was implemented as a matter of urgency.

5. The first phase of this scheme will be to carry out essential repair work to the Station Building and Train Shed at Darlington Railway Centre & Museum (DRCM) to include valley gutter repairs, roof repairs, chimney repairs and rainwater system repairs costing £490,000 to ensure that the roof structure is safe for the public and that the building remains watertight. Consultation with English Heritage and Corus outlined changes to the suggested method of construction for the repair which resulted in an increase in the project costs by £90,000. This final figure also includes monies for applying for Building Regulations, planning supervision and on site health and safety and project management. Subject to confirmation of the release of funds there will be a 12 – 14 week tender period followed by 14 weeks to carry out the repairs.

Financial Implications

6. The Capital Programme for 2005/06 included an allocation of £400,000 for this scheme. In order to undertake the repairs outlined in the report it will be necessary to allocate an additional £90,000 which can be brought forward from forthcoming Capital Programmes, it will naturally reduce future resources and consequential flexibility.

Outcome of Consultation

7. There has been extensive consultation with English Heritage and Corus, who have confirmed they are happy with the approach being taken to repair the roof.

Legal Implications

8. 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

9. 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

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

Decision Deadline

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Cabinet note the details of this scheme and approve the release of £400k previously approved by Council and an additional £90k to enable the repair and restoration to the Station Building and Train Shed to be undertaken.

Reasons

13. The recommendation is supported to enable work to proceed on the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

- (i) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan – 2005/6 – 2006-7
- (ii) Capital Bids
- (iii) Condition Report (part of the Conservation Plan) - University of York, 2004
- (iv) Structural Appraisal of the Roof Structure at Darlington Railway Museum - Billingham George and Partners, August 2004
- (v) Structural Inspection Report on Darlington North Road Railway Station Roof - Billingham George and Partners, October 2004
- (vi) Visual Inspection Report on Darlington North Road Railway Station Roof - Billingham George and Partners, November 2004

Clare Boston-Smithson : Tel 363208
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