



To: Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services
Report by: Jas Lally Head of Refuse and Environment
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee 5/10/2010
Wards affected: All Wards

REPLACEMENT OF AIR QUALITY MONITORING EQUIPMENT Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

Cambridge City Council monitors air quality at 5 locations as part of its statutory responsibilities. The monitoring instruments at 3 of these locations are now overdue for replacement and require more frequent repairs; some equipment is obsolete and no longer covered by the service contract.

Monitoring with accurate instrumentation is a statutory requirement because the levels of air pollution in Cambridge breach the National Objectives. Accurate measurements are required to declare or remove an Air Quality Management Area. PM_{2.5} monitoring is a new requirement where a 10% reduction between 2010 and 2020 is to be pursued.

The data provided by these instruments is required for annual progress reporting to Defra.

Objective 3c in the Environmental Services Service Plan is to procure the replacement of air quality monitoring equipment at the permanent air quality monitoring stations in the City.

Funds have been set aside in the Repair and Renewal Fund to fund the purchase of the capital equipment. Also, DEFRA grant funding has been allocated towards the cost of new equipment to monitor PM_{2.5}.

The service/maintenance contract will be included in the tender; the revenue costs are anticipated to be similar to the current costs, so there are no additional revenue implications expected.

The service and maintenance contract for equipment at the two other permanent air quality monitoring stations are anticipated to be similar to the current costs.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

Financial recommendations:

The Executive Councillor is asked to recommend this capital scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the Scheme. The total capital cost of the project is £120,000, and it is proposed that this funded from specific, identified R&R funds for the purpose, of £99,000 plus DEFRA grant of £21,000 which has already been secured.

There are no additional revenue costs arising from the project. The costs associated with the maintenance contract are expected to be similar to current costs.

Procurement recommendations:

The Executive Councillor is asked to approve the carrying out and completion of the procurement of replacement air quality monitoring equipment and associated maintenance contract as detailed below.

If the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.

The estimated contract value is £178,000.

3. Background

The project

The replacement of air quality monitoring equipment at three of the permanent air quality monitoring stations in the City, including in one an instrument to measure very fine particles. A maintenance obligation for a period of 3 - 5 years will be included as part of the contract.

There is an additional option to include the service and maintenance contract for equipment at the two other permanent air quality monitoring stations.

DEFRA has granted £21,000 towards the costs of the equipment; Repair and Renewal funds will be used to fund the balance.

Target Start date	October 2010
Target completion date	May 2011
<i>The Cost</i>	
Total Capital Cost	£120,000

Capital Cost Funded from:

Funding:	Amount:	Details:
Reserves	£0	
Repairs & Renewals	£99,000	09510 - Environmental Services R & R Fund
Section 106	£0	
Other	£21,000	Defra Grant

Revenue Cost

Year 1	£26,500
Ongoing	£26,500

The Procurement

The procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules, The procurement team have recommended a two stage restricted procedure procurement process to buy. The tender will be advertised in appropriate specialist journals and on the Cambridge City Council website; the limited number of suppliers will be informed.

Three replacement sets of equipment will be purchased to analyse ambient nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM₁₀) and an additional instrument to measure particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

The total value of the contract will be around £178,000, i.e., the capital cost (£120,000) and the annual maintenance cost (£14,5000 over 4 years).

What is the project?

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What are the aims and objectives of the project?

The aim of the project is to provide continuous and comparable data on air quality by replacing the air quality monitoring equipment with suitable and up-to-date equipment. Data collected at these sites since the end of 1998 has provided good evidence for the declaration of the Air Quality Management Area in 2004. Continuing data is required to monitor the impacts of actions taken under the Air Quality Action Plan and to provide evidence of other future improvements, as well as to inform local planning policy and local transport policy.

The project relates to the Vision Statement:

“A City, which minimises its impact on the environment from pollution”;

and is supportive of

“A City where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot”.

In addition, the data provided by the new equipment supports both City Council Officers and Members in discussions regarding bus fleet standards, which is a specific item for action in the Annual Statement 2010/11.

Although the City Council is not the transport authority, the data supports key actions in the Air Quality Action Plan agreed in partnership with the County Council, relating to bus emissions reductions, Core Area traffic schemes and the Local Transport Plan.

Summarise the major issues for stakeholders and other departments?

The main impact upon stakeholders – ourselves and others - will be to continue to provide air quality data to:

- Members of the Public
- Inform the Development Control and Spatial Planning process in (City Council)
- Inform the LTP and other transport matters (County Council Transport Officers)
- Provide annual reporting to DEFRA
- Provide annual reporting to LSP (Quality of Life)
- Provide annual reporting to the County Council (LTP; Quality of Life)
- Provide annual reporting to the City Council (Local Plan; Quality of Life)
- Enable consultants and developers to carry out Air Quality Assessment for future projects
- Researchers/academics

Site owners at Gonville Place and Parker Street have been consulted and they have approved access and placement of equipment on sites owned by them and thereafter access for maintenance.

As a key partner in pursuit of the improvement in air quality in Cambridge, relevant officers at the County Council have been consulted to confirm that the data is still required and we have taken account of any specific or new requirements. Their view is that the data remains important in terms of future traffic management in central Cambridge and influencing and informing the work of the Bus Quality partnership. No new requirements have been identified.

Consultation with suppliers has been undertaken as part of the procurement process to gain an understanding of the current market for analysers and data retrieval equipment.

4. Implications

key risks associated with the project

If the project does not take place, there is a high risk of equipment failure resulting in significant data loss to the stakeholders listed above. Cambridge City Council would not be carrying out its statutory duties as required by the Environment Act 1995. DEFRA would be likely to sanction the Council with close scrutiny to ensure that we fulfil our statutory duties regarding Local Air Quality Management should we fail to deliver the appropriate quality and coverage of monitored information.

There are risks of delay in delivery from unexpected financial restrictions, unanticipated staff shortages or re-prioritisation to accommodate new urgent projects; further contraction and re-alignment in the supplier market.

Financial implications

- a. Appraisal prepared on the following price base: 2010/11
- b. Specific grant funding conditions: The Defra grant awarded in 2008/9 is for the purchase of "air pollution monitoring equipment". The grant is ring-fenced, but it is not time-limited.

Capital and Revenue costs

(a) Capital

	£	Comments
Purchase of vehicles, plant & equipment	120,000	
Total Capital Cost	120,000	

(b) Revenue

	£	Comments
Service and maintenance contract	14,500	
R&R contribution (based on a 10 year life cycle)	12,000	
Total Revenue Cost	26,500	Included in the Base Budget

VAT implications

There are no adverse VAT implications to this project.

Other implications

Health and Safety: Other than the installation and ongoing maintenance considerations then the monitoring equipment should not pose any health and safety risks.

Legal: Cambridge City Council Contract Procedure Rules require acceptance of non-negotiable terms as listed in Rule 22.1.3. The Head of Legal Services will be consulted for advice in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules. No legal implications have been identified at this stage.

There are no ICT implications.

Equal Opportunities: Air Pollution disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as children, older people and people with existing medical conditions. Therefore it not only makes people's health worse, but increases health inequalities.

Environmental: The project is an essential component of Cambridge City Council's ability to deliver improved air quality.

No other implications have been identified.

Estimate of staffing resource required to deliver the project

This procurement is built into the Environmental Services project team work plans for 2010/11.

No external resources are required.

Identify any dependencies upon other work or projects

Cambridge City Council's statutory duties under Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) are dependent upon the successful completion of this project. The LAQM system of was established in response to requirements of the Environment Act 1995. Duties were placed on local authorities to periodically review and assess air quality; work towards achieving national objectives for prescribed pollutants and to tackle the issue of air pollution where the risk of poor air quality to human health needs to be addressed.

5. Background papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report

6. Appendices

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Jo Dicks
Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 457892
Author's Email: jo.dicks@cambridge.gov.uk