

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY –  
TUESDAY, 20 APRIL 2021



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>AIR QUALITY MONITORING</b>
<b>Presented by</b>	Clare Beattie Air Quality Consultants (AQC)
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Air Quality Progress Update – Cabinet 8 December 2020</a>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	An earmarked reserve has been approved for £7,100 from the general fund for spend in 2021/22. A bid by CSEWP to the Bardon Community Fund for funding of £4,000 has been approved. £500 will also be contributed to the fund from the allotment society.
	<b>Signed off by the Deputy Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes
<b>Legal Implications</b>	In order for expenditure to be classed as a special expense it must be expenditure incurred in the delivery of a function that the Council is legally required to deliver and one which a parish council can legally deliver in its place. In this case this is not a function that the Council is legally required to deliver nor one which a parish council could be legally required to deliver in its place and therefore it cannot be treated as a special expense.
	<b>Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	None identified.
	<b>Signed off by the Deputy Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide CSEWP with options for PM <sub>2.5</sub> air quality monitoring equipment within the CSEWP area. The cost of these options has been set out within the report.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CSEWP:</b>  1) <b>CONSIDER THE MONITORING OPTIONS AND COSTED PLAN</b>  2) <b>RECOMMEND TO CABINET AT THEIR JUNE MEETING THAT THE PM2.5 AIR QUALITY MONITORING EQUIPMENT IS PURCHASED AND MONITORING AS SET OUT IN THE REPORT IS UNDERTAKEN</b>

## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In December 2020, Cabinet approved an air quality delivery plan. One of the actions was to develop a monitoring plan for use of mobile monitoring equipment (Zephyr) to

monitor PM<sub>2.5</sub>. This monitoring plan has been completed and the first three monitoring locations have been identified:

- Bondgate, Castle Donington
- Bardon Road, Coalville
- Melbourne Road, Ibstock

1.2 Monitoring at each location is expected to be in place for 6-12 months.

1.3 At the last CSEWP meeting, it was resolved that - Officers be asked to undertake a scoping exercise and report back on the feasibility of providing additional air quality monitoring equipment within the Coalville Special Expenses Area. In order for the Working Party to then make recommendations to Cabinet.

## 2. OPTIONS

2.1 Appendix 1 is a detailed quote for monitoring and analysis of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at two locations within CSEWP area.

2.2 Option 1 – purchasing two machines to undertake monitoring over 6 months

	Item	Description	Fees
1	Purchase of 2 X Zephyr units	Price includes one year's operational fee, solar panel, full warranty, SIM card and data hosting, remote support, web portal	£7,950
2	Interpretation of data by AQC	Report to be issued following 6 months of monitoring outlining averages (in comparison with objectives) for all pollutants monitored	£2,450
<b>Total</b>			<b>£10,400</b>

2.3 Option 2 – purchasing one machine to undertake monitoring over 12 months

	Item	Description	Fees
1	Purchase of 1 X Zephyr units	Price includes one year's operational fee, solar panel, full warranty, SIM card and data hosting, remote support, web portal	£3,975
2	Interpretation of data by AQC	Report to be issued following 6 months of monitoring outlining averages (in comparison with objectives) for all pollutants monitored	£2,450
<b>Total</b>			<b>£6,425</b>

2.4 It is a decision for CSEWP as to whether the equipment is sited in a suitable residents property externally or mounted onto street furniture. It is important to highlight that if the equipment is sited on street furniture, permission must be sought from Leicestershire County Council and this will involve a structural survey and therefore additional costs of around £1,200 per post.

### **3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 As a result of looking into the funding request by CSEWP it has come to light that this expenditure cannot be classed as a special expense. This is because purchasing this equipment would not fall under a function that the Council is legally required deliver, even though it may have the power to do so. In the event that it was a function of the Council, it would also need to be a function that it is stated under legislation that a parish council could deliver in the Council's place. As this requirement is also not met, this expenditure does not satisfy the requirements in order to be treated as a special expense.
- 3.2 This enquiry regarding the use of special expenses to fund such expenditure has highlighted that it would be beneficial for the Council to have a policy setting out what expenditure can be treated as a special expense. Consequently, the Council's finance department are currently working on a special expenses policy, in consultation with Legal Services.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As this expenditure cannot be treated as a special expense, an alternative funding option has been identified. An earmarked reserve has been approved for £7,100 from the general fund for spend in 2021/22. A bid by CSEWP to the Bardon Community Fund for funding of £4,000 has been approved. £500 will also be contributed to the fund from the allotment society.