

COUNCIL MEETING - 22 JULY 2003

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. Supplementary Credit Approval - Air Quality Monitoring

Successful bids have been made for Supplementary Credit Approval (SCA) for:-

- (a) Action Planning in the sum of £16,000 and
- (b) replacement of Meteorological Station, £5,000.

The coincidental timing of so many air quality projects, each of which require very significant amounts of work, means that the development of the Action Plan for the Air Quality Management Areas cannot be undertaken from within existing staff resources. It is proposed therefore to employ the Air Quality Management Resource Centre at the University of the West of England to carry out a comprehensive review. They have considerable experience in this very specialised field and are highly regarded by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The success of future air quality projects will increasingly depend upon reliable and very local meteorological data. It is therefore important that the Council has access to and control of such data.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the DEFRA offers of Supplementary Credit Approval be accepted in the sums of £16,000 and £5,000 for Air Quality Action Planning and for a replacement Meteorological Station respectively and that the General Fund Capital Programme for 2003/04 be amended accordingly.

Councillor M Edwards

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REPORT OF COUNCILLOR EDWARDS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The portfolio that I am responsible for is very broad with many areas that have a direct impact on the lives of everyone that lives in Taunton Deane. I welcome the challenge and thank the new leader of the Council John Williams for entrusting me with this portfolio.

There are a number of challenges for the varying departments that sit within my portfolio. Initially there are three specific areas, which I am concentrating on:

Licensing
the Licensing Bill

there are changes coming to licensing powers as a result of

- Councillors should be aware that with the changing responsibilities additional stresses will be on the Licensing department.
- expansion of Street Trading within Deane now as part of my portfolio in line with other licensing functions. This is a real opportunity to enhance the town centre and aim to bring more vibrancy and encourage the market town. As a first success I am delighted that the Farmers market has been extended to run every Thursday from the 14th August..

Litter/ Street Scene
highlighted the following:

I requested a report go forward to Health and Leisure this

- Increase in Street Cleansing on Sundays
- Litter Hotline
- More communication with traders in particular fast food restaurants
- In addition we need to look carefully at fines for all littering in particular fly tipping and the enforcement of these fines.

Noise

I have recently requested that a report be prepared with regard the issue of noise and the Council responsibilities. This will be prepared and discussed by the Health and Leisure panel later in the year. I will be meeting with officers in due course to discuss my ideas in relation to this issue.

Cornhill, Wellington

It came to the attention of the new Executive that there was a very specific problem in Cornhill, Wellington after many years of neglect and inaction. I was tasked with improving the Street Scene with regard litter, street cleansing and the clearance of weeds, moss and algae. I am very satisfied that this first stage has been achieved and I will insist that we play our part within this area to make sure it is regularly cleaned and inspected.

Recycling

We will continue the work with regard recycling and discussions are taking place as to how we can best assess its success as I have expressed a concern that there is a drop in usage which is below my expected levels. This is being investigated and assessed.

I have been visiting as many individuals and departments as I have been able and I have found a great deal of talented, able and determined individuals. I look forward to working with them all in the coming months and years and thank all the officers for their assistance so far.

MARK J EDWARDS