

MARSH LANE DEPOT FORECOURT SEPARATOR - SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Operators of facilities such as Marsh Lane Depot where commercial vehicles operate are required under the Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines to manage water run off from the site to ensure that it is cleaned of harmful particulates before entering the drainage system. This is achieved through a series of drainage channels within the yard that capture surface water run off and channels this to a separator / silt trap that then collects the harmful particles. During an annual inspection of the existing silt trap and separator in 2009/10, the term contractor reported that it was in an advanced state of disrepair and carried out a further in depth inspection. This subsequently revealed that one of the chambers was in a state of near collapse and would require replacing urgently.
- 1.2 Several companies were approached to give an estimate for the repair or replacement of the separator and the consensus was that it was not feasible to effect a repair but that the only option was replacement. As this work was unplanned a supplementary capital budget of £40,000 was sought and approved.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 During further survey work undertaken as part of the implementation for this scheme it was identified that the drains running from the forecourt / fuel pump area were discharging directly into the existing separator which is now in breach of current regulations, these having changed since the initial installation of the fuel pumps many years ago.
- 2.2 The depot is subject to regular inspections by the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with our Waste Management Licence. This is the first time that this problem has been brought to the Councils attention.
- 2.3 Subsequent liaison with the Environment Agency has confirmed the need for an additional Class 1 Forecourt Separator to be constructed to safeguard any fuel spillage from the fuel pumps. The installation of this additional interceptor would capture all deleterious matter in the event of a large spillage, which currently cannot be achieved with the existing set up.
- 2.4 Outfall from this additional separator will need to enter the foul sewage drainage rather than the surface water drain. This will result in additional drainage work needing to be undertaken.
- 2.5 The Council is currently at risk in the event of a fuel spillage and needs to address the issue now that it has been identified.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A detailed specification and budget for the additional works required has been prepared. This is estimated to be in the region of £40,000.
- 3.2 Whilst the above costs are estimates only it is hoped that by securing the contract via competitive tender will result in a lower price than the current estimates.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME AND DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Installation of a Class 1 Forecourt Separator and associated drainage works discharging to the foul sewage drainage will address the identified risks of pollutants entering the surface water drainage system and adjacent watercourses. The works will minimise the potential risk to the environment.

5. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

- 5.1 Given the unfortunate circumstances described in this report I agree with the recommendation.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The requirement to have in place a Class 1 Forecourt Separator has recently been identified following preparatory work to replace an existing separator and silt trap at Marsh Lane Depot. Now that the problem has been identified it is essential that this additional work is undertaken otherwise the Council will be placing itself at an unacceptable risk both to causing environmental pollution and possible litigation in the event of a spillage.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Members approve a supplementary capital budget of £40,000 to cover the cost of the Class 1 Forecourt Separator.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

None.