

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2437
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Department:	Development
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Subject: **Alfreton Road Improvements**

Total Value: **£50,000 (Type: Revenue)**

Decision Being Taken: **To allocate £50,000 to Alfreton Road improvements, in accordance with the decision of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration, to address vacancy rates and area improvements.**

Reasons for the Decision(s) **Following on from concerns raised in February 2015 about the state of Alfreton Road as one of the key arterial routes into the City Centre, the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth agreed to expand the work of the City Centre Team to apply a similar approach to that taken within the city centre to addressing vacancy rates and area improvements, and in doing so agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration an allocation of £50,000.**

The funding will cover:

- 1. Work with landlords / owners - to understand reasons for vacancy and encourage them to consider a more proactive approach to filling them.**
- 2. Improved advertising of vacant property**
- 3. Small grant scheme**
- 4. Focusing regeneration activities on two main derelict sites within the area.**

This activity could not have been included in this year's budget as it was not identified as a priority until after the budgets had been agreed. The grants scheme that has been operating within the city centre is fully allocated and there is no capacity within the existing Economic Development budgets to undertake this work.

Briefing notes documents: Briefing Note DDM - Alfreton Road.doc

Other Options Considered: Not to take action - this was not an option.
Concerns were raised by the Nottingham Post with a front page article highlighting the poor state of Alfreton Road. The Council was already aware of the impact of Alfreton Road as a gateway into Nottingham city centre due to its work on Derby Road as part of the Vacancy Action Plan, where this had been highlighted by Derby Road businesses as detrimental to the approach to the city centre. However existing limited budgets were confined to the identified city centre boundary and it was not possible to extend the grant scheme to Alfreton Road, even if there had been any spare capacity.

Background Papers: Presentation to Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park Area Committee 18th November 2015
Nottingham Post - 16 February 2015 - <http://www.nottinghampost.com/SAVE-STREET/story-26031781-detail/story.html>

Published Works: Presentation to Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park Area Committee 18th November 2015

Affected Wards: Arboretum, Radford and Park

Colleague / Councillor Interests: Not applicable

Consultations:
Date: 21/10/2015
Ward Councillors: Anne Peach
A meeting was held with Cllr Peach, as the Chair of Area 4 Committee, and Cllrs Ali, Aziz, Bryan and Choudhry, to discuss the proposed improvement scheme on 21st October 2015.

Date: 18/11/2015
Area Committees: Area 4: Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park (from May 2012)
A presentation on the proposed Alfreton Road Retail Improvements Action Plan was made to Area 4 Committee on 18th November 2015.

Date: 26/02/2016
Chief Finance Officer: Finance Analyst - Maria Balchin
Contingency request approved by Cllr Chapman.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

A poor quality built environment leads to negative perceptions of an area, and business properties may be more liable to suffer from business crime. Addressing derelict sites and vacant properties will also help to improve perceptions of a safer environment during the day and night time.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA form - Alfreton Road - revised 22.03.16.doc

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

29/04/2016

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

The proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues and are supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 17/03/2016.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to spend £50,000 in respect of Alfreton Road improvements, in order to address shop vacancy rates and improve the area.

The expenditure can be financed from Corporate Contingency as agreed by Councillor Chapman in August 2015, and approved in December 2015 by Executive Board in the quarter 2 2015/16 review of revenue and capital budgets (paragraph 2.4, table 3).

The expenditure is expected to take place during financial year 2016/17 onwards and therefore the contingency funds will need to be maintained in earmarked reserves subject to the Council's 2015/16 financial out-turn.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 02/03/2016.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

It will be important that the actions set out in the EIA are realised in order that opportunities are taken and that citizens feel included and are able to reap the benefits of an improved locality. This applies particularly to BME groups. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 24/03/2016.

Signatures

Graham Chapman (PH for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration)

SIGNED and Dated: 22/04/2016

David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)

SIGNED and Dated: 11/04/2016