



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance

Decision Date: 22 November 2023

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Peacock

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli Deputy Chief Executive & Director - Resources

Lead Officer: Brian Rawlinson Parking Services Manager, Corporate Property, Ext. 5835

Report Summary	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open report, Non-Key Decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Newark Lorry Park – Purchase and Installation of a New Mobile Female / Unisex Shower Block
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek Portfolio Holder approval to increase the original Capital Scheme from £60,000 to £105,150 in order to provide a larger shower block than first proposed.
<b>Recommendation</b>	That the scheme in the Capital Programme be increased by £45,150 to be financed by an increased grant allocation of £17,851 and £20,000 from repairs and renewals (R&R) to give a total of £105,150.
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	<p>Parking Services initially looked at providing 4 additional unisex showers, following approval of match funding from the National Highway HGV facilities Grant Funding Scheme.</p> <p>Following further discussions with National Highways they agreed to match fund bigger and better facilities if this improved the current offer of drivers facilities on Newark Lorry Park. The Council pride themselves on providing the very best facilities for our loyal HGV drivers. This has been hugely important and one of the reasons the Lorry Park has excelled in providing essential income for the authority. The Director – Resources was was supportive of the proposal given the match funding support from National Highways.</p> <p>Parking Services then visited the main manufacturer of these bespoke mobile facilities to see what facilities were available. A shower block providing 8 individual shower rooms and 3 additional toilet facilities was considered the best option to deliver better facilities for all genders at Newark Lorry Park</p>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To provide an improved offer of additional individual showers to multi genders at Newark Lorry Park, increasing our offer currently provided to HGV drivers using the facility.

<b>Decision Taken</b>	As per the recommendation.
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## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Parking Services have been working with National Highways and assisting them with HGV driver survey's on Newark Lorry Park for the last 18 months. National Highways have grant funding available to improve HGV driver facilities in the UK.
- 1.2 Parking Services are passionate in providing their many loyal HGV drivers the very best service and facilities.
- 1.3 Newark Lorry Park has provided an excellent income return to the authority to assist in providing essential services to our communities.
- 1.4 The investment and commitment to providing an excellent service has been very evident in the net income that has been achieved since 2018/19:
  - Net Income in 2018 /19 was £162,153.87
  - Net income in 2022/23 was £486,333.92
- 1.5 Parking Services want to continue to improve our offer to drivers. There has been more and more lady drivers coming into the Haulage Industry, unfortunately the UK does lack quality female facilities. We have been working with National highways to bring in a new unisex facility at Newark Lorry Park. Initial discussions and costings came in at £60,000.
- 1.6 Parking Services have received full support for this Capital Scheme from the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Resources and S151 Officer and this support and approval was also agreed with Leader on 27 February 2023. Following further discussions with National Highways, they had stated that they would match fund a bigger and better shower block if this was a better option.
- 1.7 The Parking Services Manager visited the Arkem Leisure and discussed what options were available. Arkem Leisure recommended an option of increasing the number of shower unit to 8 individual shower units aand adding separate toilet facilities to ensure that the showers were not taken up by drivers using the toilet. The new proposal provided a better option of providing the very best facility to improve our current offer.
- 1.8 The new facility option was shared and approved by National Highways grant funding board and the authority have been officially awarded £47,851.00 in grant funding to cover 50% of the cost. Their funding offer will increase if our total cost increase as they will except an increase in manufacturing costs and installation provided we evidence additional expenses that were unforescene.
- 1.9 The new facility would enhance and improve the drivers experience, with reduced wait time at peak periods and separate facilities to cater for all genders and assist with equalities for all drivers visiting the site. This will attract new drivers looking for these facilities, that many truck parks do not facilitate.

## 2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council provide match funding with National Highways to provide an improved option to install a New Shower Block for Newark Lorry Park.
- 2.2 The existing Capital Scheme of £60,000 was set up to be financed by £30,000 National Highways and £30,000 from Council Reserves. It is proposed that this budget be increased to £105,150 to cover the materials, installation, electrical works and contingency, financed by the additional grant and a contribution from R&R.

## 3.0 Financial Implications (FIN23-24/8611)

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

- 3.1 There is an existing budget in the Capital Programme of £60,000. The proposal is to increase this to £105,150. Below details the financing of the existing and proposed budgets.

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>105,150</b>
<i>Financing:</i>		
Grant Funding from National Highways	30,000	47,851
Council Reserve	30,000	30,000
R&R	0	27,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>105,150</b>

- 3.2 As per paragraph 1.7, National Highways will contribute 50% of the costs. Should the full £105,150 above be spent, this is likely to increase to £52,575 but that will not be certain until the end of the project upon evidence of spend being provided, therefore additional funds from R&R are proposed to be committed to ensure the full budget is financed.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.