



# Individual Executive Decision Notice

<b>Report title</b>	Project Live-Tap Air Quality Monitoring Project	
<b>Decision designation</b>	GREEN	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Planning/ Public Health	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Ric Bravery Tel Email	Strategic Health Lead (City Planning) 01902 552177 ric.bravery@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

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## Summary

The Council has been approved as the local authority partner in a successful funding bid by Coventry University and Earthsense to Innovate UK for a proposed innovative air quality monitoring project. If the project proceeds, Coventry University and Earthsense will be in receipt of and accountable for the grant funding. In return for providing sites for the pilot study, the Council will receive the 15 air quality monitors located in Wolverhampton, the data generated and the potential for live monitoring available to the public.

## Recommendations for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of City Environment.

1. Approves participation by the Council in the Project Live-Tap as detailed in this report.
2. Authorises the Council to enter into any memorandum of understanding or agreement necessary to participate in the project.

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Signature

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Signature

Date:

Date:

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Poor air quality is a major threat to public health in the UK and across the world and is the subject of increased scrutiny and pressure on local authorities to take action. Under current Clean Air legislation and requirements, the Council and other Black Country Councils submitted a Targeted Feasibility Study to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in July 2018.
- 1.2 In September 2018 the Director of Public Health received an enquiry from Coventry University about whether the City Council was interested in being the local authority partner in an air quality research project. The proposal was to bid to Innovate UK for funding for an air quality monitoring system which would give real time data accessible by mobile phones and computers.
- 1.3 An expression of interest was submitted with the support of the Director of Public Health, Head of City Transport and Head of City Planning.
- 1.4 On 30 April 2019 the Council heard that the project had been formally approved and funding was awarded from Innovate UK. The Council will benefit from operation of 15 air quality monitoring sensors and the data which they generate.

## 2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 The project is titled Live Visualization of Emission - Towards Informed Avoidance of Pollution Hotspot (LiVE-TAP) and has been awarded £390,988 by Innovate UK. The project officially started on 1 April 2019 and lasts 18 months though, due to delays in arranging technical partners, it has not yet commenced.
- 2.2 The project involves installing 'real time' sensors for air pollutants in 15 sites identified by the Council; the suggestion is that these would be hot spots for which the Council would like more data. The monitors would measure key pollutants such as NO<sup>2</sup>, CO<sup>2</sup> and PM<sup>2.5</sup>s and data would be shared with the Council to inform its air quality work.
- 2.3 If the data collected is considered useful enough for dynamic modelling purposes, the partners would seek permission from the Council to develop a local app that would help citizens use 'real time' data to plan active travel routes that minimise their exposure to pollutants.
- 2.4 The partners are City of Wolverhampton Council, Coventry University, Leeds Beckett University and Earthsense Systems Limited, a technology company based in Leicester. Earthsense and Coventry University submitted the funding bid and Earthsense are the lead partner in receipt of the grant for the project. The Council will play no part in contracting for the works, procurement or managing the finances of the project.
- 2.5 The grant of £390,988 covers the costs of purchasing, developing, installing, maintaining and operating the monitors and software. There are no capital or revenue budgetary implications for the Council, revenue costs are limited to an estimated five days of staff

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time and travel expenses for visiting sites and attending project meetings in Leicester. These will be met within existing budgets. At the end of the project the partners will either remove the equipment or the Council would take on ownership.

- 2.6 Agreement is sought to participate in the project and for the Solicitor to the Council to be authorised to sign any legal documents, such as a memorandum of understanding, that may be required.

### **3.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not participate in the project. This would incur no costs and provide no benefits to the City.

### **4.0 Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 The benefits to the Council of participating in the project are:

- Receipt of additional air quality monitoring data to that currently available
- Reputational gain from taking part in an innovative pilot project
- Demonstration to local partners and to Defra that the Council is gathering additional data to inform action on air quality

- 4.2 The proposal would also progress the Council Plan's proposed outcomes of providing Wulfrunians with longer, healthier lives and its aims of creating healthier communities and a vibrant, green city of which we can be proud.

### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 At this point the financial impact for the Council of being a partner in this projects is limited to an estimated five days of staff time and limited travel expenses, this cost can be met from existing revenue budgets within the City Transport and City Planning services.

- 5.2 At the end of the project, if it is decided that the Council wishes to keep the monitoring equipment, the financial implications will be addressed separately.  
[HM/15052019/H]

### **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 No contract or memorandum of understanding has yet been provided to the Council. Relevant Legal advice will be sought before any such document is signed.
- 6.2 If the Council is required to enter into any licences, contracts or wayleaves to implement this project these will need to be authorised in accordance with the Constitution.  
[TS/15052019/W]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 No equalities analysis has been completed at present. The sites have yet to be chosen for the monitoring equipment but will be in areas with known issues around air pollution. The most disadvantaged in the community are generally disproportionately represented among those living in areas with high incidence of air pollution. The data received from the project and actions which it informs will therefore disproportionately benefit the most disadvantaged in Wolverhampton. The live streaming of pollution data via a mobile phone app, if it proves feasible, will also benefit those in the most disadvantaged sections of the community who are able to access and use the data.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

8.1 The project will assist in improving the quality and availability of air quality data in the City, supporting the Council's actions on air quality in line with national and local legislation and policy.

## **9.0 Human resources implications**

9.1 Participation in the project will require some staff time which can be accommodated within existing work programmes.

## **10.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

10.1 None.

## **11.0 Health and Wellbeing implications**

11.1 Improved monitoring of air quality will assist in identifying and monitoring measures to improve air quality and will therefore be beneficial to improving health and wellbeing.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

12.1 None.