

Committee: Finance and Administration

Agenda Item

Date: 15th November 2007

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Title: Replacement Noise Monitoring
Equipment ; Takeley

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Item for
decision?

Summary

There has been a permanent noise monitoring site close to Stansted Airport at Priorswood Court, Takeley since January 1991, however the equipment developed a fault in January 2007 and is not repairable. The cost of a suitable replacement monitoring station would be £12 000.

Recommendations

That the cost of replacing the equipment be included in the capital programme for 2007, or 2008 or be permanently discontinued.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	Capital Programme
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	Monitoring of Airport and Aircraft Noise
Ward-specific impacts	Parishes and wards surrounding Stansted Airport
Workforce/Workplace	

Situation

1. In 1990 it was decided to establish a permanent noise monitoring station close to Stansted Airport at Priorswood Court, Takeley. The equipment has provided a record of rising background noise levels in the area over a lengthy period of time, and has been useful in identifying and quantifying noisy events such as engine testing at Stansted Airport.
2. In January 2007 a fault was detected and following investigations by the original supplier the equipment was found to be obsolete. Quotations were obtained to replace the equipment or to replace it with a more mobile system, and at that time the cost was approximately £10000 to £12000 depending on the exact specification.
3. It was not possible to accommodate the capital cost of replacing the equipment in the original 2006/07 capital programme and the Committee are asked to consider whether this item should be included in the revised programme for 2007, the programme for 2008 or the noise monitoring at this site be permanently discontinued.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That ongoing information on trends in noise levels around Stansted Airport be lost	High	High, monitoring of noise around Stansted is included in the Corporate Plan	Short term ad hoc monitoring can be carried out using existing equipment currently used to investigate neighbourhood noise complaints