

KEY DECISION - NO

**FUNDED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE
FOR AIR QUALITY FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE A331**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The purpose of this paper is to seek Cabinet approval for an income and expenditure supplementary estimate of £50,000 in 2017/18. The Council has been required, and fully grant funded by DEFRA, to undertake a "Proposal for a Feasibility Study" into measures to improve air quality along the A331.

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- note the additional duties placed on the Council, and the deadlines for completion of key milestones
- approve an income and expenditure supplementary estimate of £50,000 in 2017/18 and, noting that further work may also be grant funded by DEFRA, approve future income and expenditure through the budget monitoring process, with the expectation that expenditure will be kept in line with income
- endorse the approach being taken to this work as described in the report, noting that the final Plan will require Cabinet approval.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations, published on 26 July 2017, sets out how the Government will improve air quality to meet EU targets. Rushmoor Borough Council, along with Guildford and Surrey Heath, have been named within the Plan due to modelled exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ limit value along the A331 (Blackwater Valley Relief Road). This requires local assessments (Feasibility Studies) to be undertaken to consider the best options to achieve compliance.
- 1.2 The first required deliverable is the submission of a 'Proposal for a Feasibility Study', due by November 2017. DEFRA have allocated a grant of £50,000 to each Borough to develop this initial work. All three Boroughs have agreed to work collaboratively and the Government supports this approach. The Final Plan, to be completed by December 2018, will be considered by Members when presented to Cabinet at that time.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake this work is set out in the Environment Act 1995 (Feasibility Study for Nitrogen Dioxide Compliance) Air Quality Direction 2017, which came into force on 28 July 2017.

3. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 DEFRA have advised that the work will be fully funded and that support will be provided at key stages. The initial resource grant payment has been made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, to enable the development of a "Proposal for a Feasibility Study". On approval, further funding will be allocated to undertake the Feasibility Study itself.
- 3.2 The Government has the right to request reimbursement of the grant funding if a task is not progressing within the agreed project timeline. This risk is mitigated by the fact that DEFRA will be working with us and directing the work as it progresses.

4. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No issues arise.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Approve an income and expenditure supplementary estimate of £50,000 in 2017/18 and, noting that further work may also be grant funded by DEFRA, approve future income and expenditure through the budget monitoring process, with the expectation that expenditure will be kept in line with income

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