

Air Quality Feasibility Study

Summary

On 3rd October 2017 the Executive received a report on the Air Quality Feasibility Study which Surrey Heath, Rushmoor and Guildford Borough Councils are required to undertake along the A331 Black Water Valley Road. The Government initially allocated £50,000 to each of the authorities. Following submission of a proposal from the partner authorities a further grant payment of £600,000 will be paid to Surrey Heath Borough Council, which is leading on the procurement for the study.

Portfolio - Community

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 24 January 2018

Wards Affected

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE to undertake a feasibility study to explore a range of measures to ensure compliance with the air quality objectives in the shortest time possible. The cost of the study to be funded from a grant of £600,000 paid to Surrey Heath Borough Council under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003,

1. Resource Implications

1.1 The Government has recognised that to produce an air quality feasibility study and to implement schemes to improve air quality will require time and expertise from Council staff and contractors. In recognition of this the Government initially allocated each of the partner authorities funding of £50,000. Following submission of proposals for the study from the partner authorities, Defra has allocated a further £600,000. The money is being paid to Surrey Heath Borough Council which is leading on the procurement for the study.

2. Key Issues

2.1 On 3rd October 2017, the Executive received a report on the need for Surrey Heath in conjunction with Rushmoor and Guildford Borough Councils to carry out an air quality feasibility study along the A331 Blackwater Valley Road. The study should explore a range of options to ensure compliance with air quality objectives in the shortest time possible.

2.2 The partner authorities have submitted their proposals for the study to Defra. The proposals include traffic modelling and counting; air quality modelling; and real time air quality monitoring. In recognition of the cost of the work a further £600,000 has been allocated for the study.

2.3 Apart from the A331 the Council is not required to carry out feasibility studies in any other area of the Borough but will continue to carry out air quality monitoring, in fulfilment of its obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management.

2.4 There are several key milestones through the feasibility process when funding can be reviewed and additional requests made. These milestones are at the Strategic Outline Case (March 2018 latest), Initial Evidence Submission (expected spring/summer 2018) and Outline Business Case (expected before Dec 2018 if consulting on a scheme, and sooner if not).

3. Options

3.1 The options for the Council are limited. The Council has been directed to carry out the feasibility study and has been allocated specific funding to enable it to do so.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the Council carries out the feasibility study using funding allocated by Defra for this purpose. The study will be carried out in conjunction with Guildford and Rushmoor Borough Councils and working with Defra; Highways Agency and SCC Highways Authority.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 The following documents support this report

- a. UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations Detailed plan – Defra July 2017
- b. Environment Act 1995 (Feasibility Study for Nitrogen dioxide compliance) Air Quality Direction 2017.
- c. Surrey Heath borough council 2017 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

6. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

6.1 The Executive approved a new Five Year Strategy in August 2016 which sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the next five years. It also includes a number of longer term key priorities in addition to the Council's ongoing service delivery. The Five Year Strategy is a rolling document and a refreshed version was approved earlier this year. The priorities are presented under the headings of Place, Prosperity, Performance and People.

6.2 The objective under people is that we will build and encourage communities where people can live happily and healthily. Clean air is a fundamental requirement for people to live healthily.

7. Legal Issues

7.1 The UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide was published by the Government in July 2017. The Plan sets out how the Government will ensure that compliance with air quality limits is achieved in the shortest time possible. A key part of the Plan is a requirement on some local authorities to undertake feasibility studies to explore a range of measures to improve air quality. Surrey Heath has been named as one of the authorities required to undertake a feasibility study.

7.2 The Environment Act 1995 (Feasibility Study for Nitrogen dioxide compliance) Air Quality Direction 2017, places a legal duty on the Council to undertake the feasibility study.

8. Consultation

8.1 This will be considered as part of the feasibility study.

9. PR And Marketing

9.1 This will be considered as part of the feasibility study

Annexes	Nil
Background Papers	UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations Detailed plan – Defra July 2017
Author/Contact Details	Tim Pashen – Executive Head Community Tel: 01276 707351 Email: tim.pashen@surreyheath.gov.uk
Head Of Service	Tim Pashen – Executive Head Community Tel: 01276 707351 Email: tim.pashen@surreyheath.gov.uk

Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	✓	✓
Capital		
Human Resources		
Asset Management		
IT		
Other Issues	Required	Consulted
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	✓
Policy Framework		
Legal	✓	✓
Governance		
Sustainability		
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Community Safety		
Human Rights		

Resources	Required	Consulted
Consultation	✓	✓
P R & Marketing	✓	✓

Review Date:

Version: