Chichester District Council

THE CABINET   **4 December 2018**

Air Quality Modelling for Chichester District

1. **Contacts**

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2. **Recommendation**

2.1 **That the Cabinet approves the appointment of a consultant to carry out air quality modelling pursuant to the Council's statutory Local Air Quality Management duties under the Environment Act 1995.**

2.2 **That the Cabinet approves a budget of £13,280 from reserves to fund the air quality modelling work.**

3. **Background**

3..1 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 all English local authorities have statutory air quality duties known as Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). Under LAQM the Council declared, by Order, three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where air quality failed a UK health based air quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) related to vehicle emissions. The three AQMAs are at Orchard Street, St Pancras and Stockbridge A27 roundabout.

3.2 Air quality monitoring data for the pollutant NO_2 suggests that it is appropriate to declare a further AQMA at Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst. A further AQMA at The Hornet, Chichester is also under consideration subject to the output of the work referred to in this report.

3.3 Where AQMAs are declared then authorities are statutorily obliged to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) detailing how it will tackle the air quality issues. The Council's current AQAP is due for renewal in 2019. DEFRA's statutory guidance details how an AQAP should be developed and suggests that air quality modelling should be undertaken and that 'the local authority should determine the nature of the local pollution problem as accurately as possible to enable an effective plan to be developed.'

3.4 The Council has a programme of air quality monitoring which focuses on Chichester and Midhurst. The monitoring data provides the Council with a spatial understanding of pollutants which is specific to the monitoring locations. Air quality modelling provides a geographically wider understanding of pollution concentrations than is

possible from monitoring alone. Modelling will also detail which part of the vehicle fleet are responsible for what fraction of local vehicle emissions.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

4.1 The proposed air quality modelling work will inform the shape of the new Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst AQMA and potentially The Hornet, Chichester AQMA. Air quality modelling, will facilitate a rewritten AQAP which is underpinned by a greater understanding of local air pollution issues and what needs to be done to tackle them.

4.2 The work will provide a robust understanding of local air pollution issues to inform the declaration of a further AQMA(s) and the rewrite of the AQAP in accordance with the statutory guidance. The greater understanding provided by air quality modelling will provide a stronger basis for working with West Sussex County Council as the Local Highway Authority and West Sussex Public Health, influencing related policy and bidding for grant monies.

4.3 The work proposed supports the Council's corporate priority to 'manage our built and natural environments to promote and maintain a positive sense of place'.

5. Proposal

5.1 It is proposed to use consultants to carry out air quality modelling of Chichester and Midhurst. A mini-tender exercise has been carried out to test the market which has resulted in the proposal to appoint Contractor B. The Tender Assessment is detailed in the Appendix.

5.2 The work proposed is beyond the capability of the Council's officers and so an external contractor is necessary to deliver the work.

5.3 The chosen consultant indicates that the delivery of the modelling work will be within five months of the contract initiation.

5.4 It is anticipated that there will be a further report to Cabinet in respect of potential new AQMA(s) in mid-2019.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

6.1 The Council could declare new AQMA(s) without air quality modelling; however it is best practice for the boundaries of AQMA(s) to be defined using a combination of monitoring and modelling data.

6.2 Other than not carrying out the modelling no other options have been considered.

7. Resource and legal implications

7.1 A budget of £13,280 is sought for the appointment of a consultant to carry out this specialist work.

7.2 The subsequent declaration of an AQMA(s) and rewrite and adoption of the AQAP can be accommodated within existing resources.

7.3 There are no IT or legal implications for this proposal.

8. Consultation

8.1 No consultation has been undertaken at this stage. However once the modelling has informed the shape of potential new AQMA(s) then it is anticipated that further reports will be brought to Cabinet in due course in respect of (a) consultation on the new AQMA Order(s) and (b) declaration of the new AQMA(s).

9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1 The modelling will confirm the shape of a potential new AQMA at Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst and the necessity or otherwise of an AQMA at the Hornet, Chichester. Declarations of AQMAs place a duty on the authority to adopt AQAPs for those areas detailing prioritised measures to improve air quality.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		✓
Climate Change and Biodiversity: The redesign of the AQAP and the prioritisation of actions and measures to tackle air pollution related to traffic should largely be positive in relation to tackling climate change and minimising the air pollution impact on biodiversity.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		✓
Safeguarding and Early Help:		✓
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):		✓
Health and Wellbeing: Measures to tackle air pollution are likely to include active travel type interventions which have a positive impact in relation to wellbeing and public health.	✓	

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix: Tender Assessment

12. Background Papers

12.1 None