

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst Air Quality Management Area

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the responses to the proposed Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst, Air Quality Management Area public consultation exercise.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the authority delegated to the Director of Planning and the Environment in consultation with the Director of Housing and Communities to make and seal an Air Quality Management Area Order at Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst as shown at Appendix 1 of this report and to commence preparation of an Air Quality Action Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to designate those parts of their areas, where any of the nationally prescribed Air Quality Objectives (AQO) are not being achieved or likely to be achieved, as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). This applies only to those locations where members of the public might reasonably be exposed. Under Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995, local authorities have to designate these AQMA's 'by means of an order'.
- 3.2 Members will recall that at the Cabinet meeting of 1 October 2019 it was resolved to approve a consultation on the proposed AQMA at Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst. This report presents the consultation responses received (Appendix 2) and the draft Order for the AQMA declaration (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 Once an AQMA is declared then the authority must produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 12 months. The AQAP for Rumbolds Hill will form part of the revised AQAP for Chichester District.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The outcome will be a new Air Quality Management Area at Rumbolds Hill and a revised Air Quality Action Plan for Chichester District with various options and actions

aimed at improving air quality in the area. The revised AQAP is due for adoption in the summer of 2020.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 That members consider the consultation responses in Appendix 2 and endorse the proposal to declare an AQMA in Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst.
- 5.3 Officers will work with West Sussex County Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Midhurst Town Council and Midhurst Vision Steering Group to co-write the draft revised AQAP in relation to Rumbolds Hill.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Where authorities have evidence that air quality fails an AQO then declaration of an AQMA is a statutory duty. The monitoring data at Rumbolds Hill is unequivocal in suggesting that the declaration of an AQMA is necessary for non-compliance with the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide stated as an annual mean value. As such no alternatives are considered appropriate.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 The AQMA declaration and delivery of the revised AQAP are deliverable within existing staff and financial resources.
- 7.2 Under Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995, local authorities have to designate AQMA's 'by means of an Order' where any of the prescribed AQOs are not likely to be met.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 A full list of those consulted is at Appendix 3. The consultation responses are at Appendix 2.

Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.2 The proposed declaration of the Rumbolds Hill AQMA is a statutory duty for the District Council. Nevertheless the matter relates to local traffic emissions where WSCC are the relevant Highway Authority. Options for improving air quality in this location will be the subject of future discussion with WSCC. In drafting the revised AQAP, consideration will be given to the consultation responses and suggestions made within.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		✓
Climate Change and Biodiversity Once the AQMA is declared then the related AQAP will propose measures to improve air quality in the AQMA. Measures that tackle air pollution generally have a positive impact in tackling climate change.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓

Safeguarding and Early Help		✓
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		✓
Health and Wellbeing Actions proposed to tackle air pollution and emissions have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Non-car modes of travel such as cycling and walking are well documented to be beneficial in relation to a wide range of physical and mental health issues. Reduced emissions are directly linked to lower exposure to pollution and a wide range of beneficial health and environmental effects.	✓	
Other		✓

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Rumbolds Hill AQMA Order for declaration.
Appendix 2: Consultation responses.
Appendix 3: List of consultees.

11. Background Papers

None