

## **REPORT OF CABINET**

**(Meeting held on 18 December 2018)**

### **1. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL FINAL AIR QUALITY PLAN (MINUTE NO 65)**

The Cabinet has approved the Air Quality Final Plan for New Forest District Council (December 2018), as attached as Annex A to Report Item 4 to the Cabinet, and its supporting appendices, for submission to the Secretary of State.

The Portfolio Holder commended the Final Air Quality Plan to the Cabinet for approval. The Plan is the result of extensive research and work by the officers, in collaboration with Southampton City Council and the Joint Air Quality Unit. In response to the Ministerial Direction to address air quality along the A35 leading to the boundary with Southampton, this Council had submitted the draft Business Case to Government by the deadline in April and has prepared the Final Plan under budget and to time.

An extensive amount of work has been carried out locally allowing local air quality modelling to be carried out using local data and conditions, including information from real-time air quality monitors at key locations. A combination of factors including traffic movements being fewer than assumed in the national modelling exercise; traffic being more free flowing along the A35 than predicted; and improvements in emission performance of both HGVs and cars/vans mean that the target area in this District will meet the required EU Air Quality Directive by 2019. As no additional measures have been identified that could bring compliance forward, no further action is therefore required. The National Joint Air Quality Unit has therefore indicated that a "business as usual" approach locally is acceptable.

Members welcomed the proposal that, although the required standards would be met without further action, air quality should remain a high priority and a further programme of work carried out for the future. This will include:

- Monitoring of nitrogen dioxide levels on the roadside of the A35 in the New Forest using real-time monitors to ensure that standards are met and that forthcoming development does not cause exceedances of prescribed levels.
- Continued partnership working with:
  - Southampton City Council (producing their Final Plan in January 2019)
  - Hampshire County Council (transport and public health)
  - Local businesses / residents
  - Regional groups
- Research into any funding streams available to this Council
- The production of an Air Quality Strategy for the New Forest as part of the overarching Environmental Strategy.

The Council is taking a proactive approach to the issue, looking at the emission performance of its own fleet of vehicles, and also investigating the installation of additional electric vehicle charging points in Council car parks. Homeworking and encouraging the use of cycling by staff will also contribute.

Members thanked the officers for their hard work to progress this issue.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN  
CHAIRMAN**