

## **DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO AIR QUALITY MONITORING ON NEW FOREST HABITATS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report addresses the funding of the required measures to monitor changes in air quality that may arise from new residential development in the district (as set out in the adopted Local Plan 2016-2036) and the impact those changes may have on protected habitats in the New Forest.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In preparing the New Forest District Local Plan 2016 -2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy the impact of development on protected nature conservation sites had to be considered. At the time of preparing the Local Plan there was inconclusive evidence regarding the cumulative impact of changes in air quality (from pollutants) arising from development on the protected New Forest habitats. Accordingly, and applying the 'precautionary principle', there is a requirement, set out in Policy ENV1 4v of the adopted Local Plan to monitor the impact of air quality on New Forest Habitats. This is to be funded by a financial contribution from developers. In the event that evidence emerged from this monitoring that development was giving rise to air quality issues that were having an adverse impact on New Forest habitats measures would need to be put in place to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

### **3. THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1 The monitoring work includes:
- The installation of appropriate air quality monitoring equipment for the 7 habitat areas to be monitored (3 that focus on 'short' habitats, and 4 that focus on 'tall' habitats).
  - Ecological survey of the identified habitats to evaluate habitat condition and any change in its status over a three-year period.
- 3.2 Over the remainder of the plan period the survey and monitoring work will be undertaken every three years. This work will be undertaken on behalf of the Council by a specialist contractor who will be appointed following a tender process. The National Park Authority have agreed to join this Council in commissioning this monitoring work.
- 3.3 The cost of this work over the plan period will be £85 per dwelling (index-linked). This will be collected via a Section 106 agreement or Unilateral Undertaking and will be applicable to dwellings given permission via the prior notification process. While over the plan period the Council will re-coup the cost of this work through developers' contributions. Initially some forward funding will be required. This is will be in the region of £75,000.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 To meet the Local Plan Policy ENV1 4v and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 requirements a developers' contribution towards the monitoring of air quality impacts on New Forest Habitats should be set at £85 per dwelling (index-linked).

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 To enable work to commence on the monitoring a budget of £75,000 needs to be set aside to forward fund the work in initial years. This will be recouped in line with the receipt of developers' contributions.

## **6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The report contains measures designed to ensure sensitive habitats in the New Forest are not adversely affected by development proposals.

## **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are none.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that developers' contributions towards the cost of monitoring the impact of air quality on New Forest protected sites be set at £85 per dwelling (index-linked with the RPI).

## **10. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT**

**I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.**

**Sign:** CLLR E HERON

**Date:** 2 March 2021

### **For further information contact:**

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### **Background Papers:**

Published

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 2 March 2021  
Last date for call-in – 9 March 2021