

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Cabinet agree that the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) “Air Quality Assessments in New Development” be published and subject to a six-week period (or equivalent) of public consultation.
- 1.2 That prior to publication, the final editing of the draft document (attached in Appendix 1 to this report) be agreed by the Executive Head for Planning, Regeneration and the Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out an approach to Air Quality in new development including:
 - the type of air quality assessment required to assess the impact of development on local air quality in terms of human health and ecological receptors. Links are provided to further guidance and access to air quality data and information;
 - how to manage and where possible reduce or mitigate activities that unacceptably impact on air quality.
- 2.2 This is a planning document prepared jointly between Planning and Environmental Health, accordingly the views of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel have also been sought in advance of the Cabinet report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Air pollution impacts on everyone’s health and is a major public health concern with the young, elderly and those with chronic health conditions being particularly susceptible. Whilst the New Forest District has the lowest deaths of people over 25 attributed to long term exposure to particulate matter in Hampshire nevertheless it is a material planning consideration.
- 3.2 In broad terms the air quality in the New Forest is generally good and is reflected in the air quality statistics reported by New Forest District Council¹ and Public Health England². The main concerns regarding impacts on local air quality in the New Forest are from:
 - increases in vehicles on the local road network (nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM))
 - industrial developments (NO₂, PM and sulphur dioxide (SO₂))
 - mineral extraction sites (NO₂ and PM)
 - construction sites (PM)

¹ [Air pollution - New Forest District Council](#)

² [Air Quality Library - Defra, UK](#)

- 3.3 Air quality is a material consideration within the planning regime. All development will have some impact on local air quality and therefore public health and deterioration of the natural environment and nature. To make development acceptable the Council will expect mitigation measures to be implemented by the applicant to reduce emissions to air from all proposed development. The mitigation measures implemented should be proportionate and dependent on the determined impact of the proposed development.

4. CONTENT OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 4.1 The draft SPD provides supplementary guidance to the Local Plan for the New Forest District Council area. In particular it provides guidance to support Objective SO2 (Biodiversity and environmental quality) and Policy CCC1 (Safe and healthy communities) which aims to prevent pollution or hazards which prejudice the health or safety of communities.
- 4.2 The draft SPD provides guidance on when an Air Quality Assessment will be needed to support a planning application and what the assessment needs to address. It also confirms when an Air Quality Statement is required. Where necessary to enable development to take place, appropriate mitigation measures will be required, the document contains suggested mitigation measures.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The views of the Panel on the draft Supplementary Planning Document were sought in advance of the matter being reported to Cabinet to seek authority to carry out a 6 week consultation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No direct financial implications for NFDC.

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Poor air quality can have a significant impact on both the health of the public and the natural environment. It is important that the Council ensure that when granting planning permission for new development it is satisfied that the development will have a neutral impact or through infrastructure delivered through the development will improve air quality.

9. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATION

- 9.1 Poor air quality tends to occur in more densely populated areas of the District, there is often a link between air quality and economic, social and health inequalities. Ensuring air quality is made no worse through development or is improved supports addressing some of these inequalities.

10. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none.

11. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

11.1 As Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure and Portfolio Holder for Partnering and Wellbeing we are both encouraged by this draft Air Quality SPD as a way of ensuring that the developers within the District are clear about the information they need to submit to enable our officers to fully assess the impact proposed development will have on air quality. Further it clearly sets out infrastructure that can be put in place to reduce emissions and ensure that sustainable development is delivered in our District.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Background Papers: