

## AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN- REQUEST TO CONSULT

Council - 22 February 2022

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services

**Status:** For Decision

**Also considered by:**

- Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee - 5 January 2022
- Cabinet - 13 January 2022

**Key Decision:** no

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Green Environment -Priority 2 Maintain a clean local environment

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Margot McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Nick Chapman, Ext. 7167

**Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee**

- (a) To note the contents of the 'Draft Air Quality Action Plan' and support the Environmental Health Team undertaking public consultation of the draft plan.

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

- (a) To note the contents of the 'Draft Air Quality Action Plan' and support the Environmental Health Team undertaking public consultation of the draft plan.

**Recommendation to Council**

- (a) To note the contents of the 'Draft Air Quality Action Plan' and authorise the Environmental Health Team to undertake public consultation of the draft plan.

**Reason for recommendation:** The District Council is required to consult on the proposals within its Air Quality Action Plan and then incorporate comments in the final version.

## Introduction and Background

- 1 Sevenoaks District Council is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which details measures it intends to take to mitigate air pollution within its designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) over the next 5 years.
- 2 A specialist consultant was engaged in 2019 to produce our Air Quality Action Plan with the assistance and input of our officers within strategic planning and environmental health teams. An initial draft of the AQAP is now available for consultation and is presented in Appendix 1.
- 3 The AQAP is a technical document, which brings together the scientific evidence and air quality monitoring data collected by the District Council to justify appropriate measures to improve air quality.
- 4 Within Sevenoaks District, vehicular activity is the principle source of emissions and all of our existing AQMA are associated with busy stretches of road and junctions.
- 5 A source apportionment exercise undertaken by our consultant has shown that within these areas, diesel cars and diesel LGV's make up the largest proportion of the measured pollution.
- 6 It has been confirmed that that in AQMA 10 (Sevenoaks High Street) the area of poorest air quality is located along the High Street between Dorset Street and Locks Yard. In this location, a 59.0% reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> from emission sources would be required to achieve that the national air quality objective level for NO<sub>2</sub> of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Elsewhere within this AQMA, a reduction of 25.0% NO<sub>x</sub> is required.
- 7 Within AQMA 13 (A25) the area of poorest air quality is located along London Road, just off the A25 in Westerham. A reduction of 49.2% in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is required in order to meet the national air quality objective level and generally within this AQMA a reduction of 25.8% in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is required.
- 8 As a result of this analysis, measures which reduce emissions from internal combustion engines are likely to have the most significant impact on air quality within our AQMA's
- 9 Table 5.1 of the draft AQAP, outlines a number of measures which could be implemented to improve air quality within our AQMA. These measures have been identified following consultation with Councillors, Officers and our consultants and are each believed to be achievable and realistic.
- 10 A number of these potential measures align with the District Councils Net Zero aspirations. As a result, the District Council has already made progress in a number of areas and several initiatives that will improve Air Quality are already under way.

- 11 The District Council is required to consult with relevant stakeholders and the public on the measures proposed by our AQAP. It is intended that this consultation will take place over a 6-week period between February and March 2022.
- 12 The outcome of this consultation will then be reported on and the comments used to shape the final draft AQAP that will be brought back through the committee process in April 2022.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

There are costs associated with running a public consultation. These costs will be met from existing budgets.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

It is a legal requirement for the District Council to consult stakeholders on the actions proposed by the Air Quality Action Plan.

### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

### Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The decisions recommended in this paper directly impact on this ambition. The impact has been reviewed and there will be an (decrease) on carbon emissions produced in the district as a result of this decision.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Draft Air Quality Action Plan December 2021

### **Background Papers**

- Report from Bureau Veritas- Sevenoaks District Council Detailed Assessment of Existing AQMA
- Sevenoaks District Council Annual Status Report 2021

**Richard Morris**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services**