



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**to
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
31 JULY 2018**

**AIR QUALITY UPDATE AND PROPOSED DECLARATION OF AN AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT AREA ON MARKET HILL, MALDON**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a reference and recommendation from the Community Services Committee.
- 1.2 To approve a Supplementary Estimate of £20,000 for the production of an Air Quality Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the a Supplementary Estimate of £20,000 be approved to enable the production of an Air Quality Action Plan to comply with legislation;
- (ii) That the concerns raised by the Community Services Committee and the responses from Officers to those concerns be received and noted.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This matter was considered by the Community Services Committee on 10 July 2018 and a copy of the report considered and its appendix is attached as **APPENDIX A** to this report.
- 3.2 Local authorities have a legal requirement to work towards Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.
- 3.3 Whilst conducting the LAQM process, the monitoring has identified high concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Market Hill, Maldon. Analysis of roadside air quality monitoring has identified that for the period of July to December 2017 the mean concentration of NO₂ was 55.19µg/m³ and that an exceedance of the annual mean Air Quality Objectives (40µg/m³) is highly likely. It has been estimated that the NO₂ concentration at the receptor (façade of residential property) is 52.4µg/m³.

3.4 The Community Services Committee had concerns and a summary of these is attached at **APPENDIX B**.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Council is required to declare an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) where monitoring dictates it will not meet the set Air Quality targets. It is clear that Market Hill fails to meet the relevant targets and therefore the Council is obliged to declare the area as an AQMA. The Council is required to complete and submit an AQMP within 12 months of the declaration which is at a cost to the Council of £20,000.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

5.1 Potentially, the current position could have a negative impact on the corporate goals in particular “Strengthening Communities to be Safe, Active and Healthy” and “Protecting and Shaping the District”. By declaring the AQMA and preparing an action plan which aims to develop measures to improve the air quality along Market Hill, this will reverse the impact on the corporate goals and comply with the relevant UK Air Quality targets.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – By declaring the AQMA and preparing an action plan it will have a positive impact on customers in particular those who reside in the area.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The Council is committed to providing equal opportunities with no discrimination. There are no identifiable impacts currently although this should be monitored as the action plan is developed.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Failure to declare the AQMA could result in financial penalties against the Council by Government. Failure to prepare and deliver measures set out in the proposed AQMP could impact on public health and an inability to meet the corporate goals.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial and human)** – The financial implication is up to £20,000 to prepare and deliver an AQMP. Putting measures in place recommended by the Plan will ensure that residents within the AQMA will benefit from good air quality.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – By identifying the AQMA and subsequent action planning to introduce measures to improve air quality this will provide a positive impact on the environment

Background Papers:

Air Quality Update and Proposed Declaration of Air Quality Management Area on Market Hill, Maldon report.

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