

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C/092/2007-08.**

**Date of meeting: 17 December 2007.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Environmental Protection.**

**Subject: Air Quality Management Area – Epping.**

**Officer contact for further information: John Gilbert (01992–564062).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992–564470).**

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That a District Development Fund Growth bid in the sum of £4,000 for 2008-09 be approved in respect of the costs associated with the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Epping.**

### **Report:**

1. The Council has for many years routinely monitored air quality throughout the District. This is undertaken through the use of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes, which are situated at some 40 locations. The air quality within the district is generally satisfactory, although there are one or two areas of concern. The National Air Quality Objectives (NAQO) state that nitrogen dioxide should not exceed a yearly average of 40ug/m<sup>3</sup> (approx. 21 parts per billion)
2. Recent analyses from Epping identified an area where the NAQO had not been met and this required the Council to declare the area as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). A Portfolio Holder Decision undertook this declaration on 17 October 2007 (Decision reference EP/003/2007-08).
3. Declaring an AQMA means that the Council has to consider what action is required to reduce nitrogen dioxide and to undertake additional monitoring in the AQMA itself and other potential locations in the vicinity of the AQMA. This will require additional funding from the District Development Fund estimated at £4,000.

### **Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

4. The declaration of the AQMA was a statutory requirement as is the subsequent monitoring and management plan. The £4,000 funding request is being put forward as a DDF bid at this time since it is uncertain whether any further expenditure will arise following the additional monitoring

### **Other Options for Action:**

5. The only alternative is not to follow the AQMA declaration with relevant additional monitoring and action planning. Given the statutory nature of this process, this cannot be recommended.

### **Consultation Undertaken:**

6. Consultation within the area affected by the AQMA will be undertaken as part of the AQMA process. No further consultation is required as part of this bid for additional funding.

**Resource Implications:**

**Budget Provision:** £4,000 DDF.

**Personnel:** Nil.

**Land:** Nil.

**Council Plan 2006-10/BVPP Reference:** "Green & Unique".

**Relevant Statutory Powers:** The Environment Act 1995.

**Background Papers:** Portfolio Holder Decision EP/003/2007-08 dated 17 October 2007.

**Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:** Further monitoring of AQMA and local environs to assess air quality and to prepare a management plan.

**Key Decision Reference (if required):** Not a Key Decision.