

To: Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate change

From: Crispin Kennard, Environmental Protection Team Manager

Director: Eleanor Hoyle, Planning Housing and Environmental Health

DATE 13 May 2022

BRIEFING NOTE: EXECUTIVE NON – KEY DECISION

Summary of Issue:

Following an application for DEFRA grant funding made in this funding round, for an Anti-idling campaign project, we have now been informed that we were successful in our bid for £36,664.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member delegate authority to the Director of Planning Housing and Environmental Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member to agree the project specifics including the purchase of sensor equipment and the spending of remaining Capital and Revenue grant money, and agree the initial schools involved.

1 Background

- 1.1 An Anti-idling campaign has been identified as a measure within Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils recently updated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).
- 1.2 In October 2021 a bid was submitted for £36,664 of grant money as part of DEFRA's Air Quality Grant Awards 2021-22. This was for a pilot project as part of our development of that anti idling campaign.
- 1.3 On 9 March 2022 we were informed that we were successful in our bid.

2 Main Issues

- 2.1 The total value of grant funding requested for this project was £36,664, made up of £31,322 in Capital funding and £5342 in Revenue funding. This has been awarded in full.
- 2.2 The total value of this project is £47,032 of which £10,368 will be match funded with the bulk arising through staff cost contributions seen as the most efficient way to secure our required match funding contribution to the grant.
- 2.3 As part of the development of the anti-idling campaign, this grant is awarded

based on a behavioural change and awareness project coupled with AQ monitoring. The results of the engagement will then be assessed, and successful elements used in a Borough wide roll out with additional monitoring ensuring effectiveness.

- 2.4 Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates will be achieved through the purchase of five suitable mobile sensors to record indicative levels, installed at selected schools prior to any engagement to establish background data and kept in place to monitor the effectiveness of the anti-idling engagement.
- 2.5 The results of this project will then be used to rollout a borough wide anti idling campaign over the subsequent 2-3 years to include remaining schools and other areas of concern including bus and taxi ranks.
- 2.6 Given tight timescales from receiving the award letter and the requirement to accept the bid. The grant has now been accepted by the Director of Planning housing and Environmental Health (DPHEH) using delegated powers.
- 2.7 Approval is now sought to delegate authority to DPHEH in consultation with the Cabinet Member to agree project specifics including the spending of Capital and Revenue grant funding and the selection of the five schools.

Project timeline and reporting

- 2.8 The project on which this grant has been awarded is subject to a timeline, major deviations from which require approval from DEFRA. There is also a requirement to report progress to DEFRA on a quarterly basis. These reports will also be made available to the Cabinet Member.

- 2.9 Original proposed timeline.

March 2022

Begin engagement by contacting schools in the Borough to identify five suitable candidates for participation in phase one.

Identify and order appropriate mobile air quality monitors allowing minimum 6 weeks lead time for delivery.

June 2022

Begin phase one, install mobile monitors at identified school sites to obtain background data (term and holiday) prior to engagement with schools. Visit sites without engagement to identify number of idling vehicles in random samples.

September/October 2022

Begin engagement with schools and erect anti-idling signage.

November/December 2022

Review effectiveness of engagement and produce report on outcomes.

January 2023

Rollout anti-idling campaign across the Borough using mobile air quality monitors at selected sites to confirm outcomes are in line with those expected.

- 2.10 It will be noted that there has already been some slippage from the envisaged timeline, due in part to recent TMBC governance changes. DEFRA has already been notified of this and advise that it is not considered a major deviation as the project is not due to begin in earnest until late summer/autumn therefore at present it is a matter for noting in the quarterly report.

3 Legal Advice

- 3.1 The matters raised in this report are considered to be routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex and a legal opinion has not been sought on these proposals.

4 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 4.1 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.

5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.1 This matter should not need to be considered by O&S/ SSC before a decision is made.

6 Communications

- 6.1 There has as yet been no media releases regarding this grant award.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Accepting the recommendation within this report will allow the grant monies to be spent in line with the project proposals.