

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **19 June 2018**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

Subject: **TAXI REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE SCHEME**

SUMMARY

The United Kingdom's revised National Air Quality Plan was published by DEFRA in July 2017. Fareham Borough Council was highlighted as one of the Authorities that must produce a targeted local plan. The area of road identified is from the Delme roundabout taking in part of the A27 to Portchester, Eastern and Western way taking in part of the A32 and the A27 off of the Station roundabout. To that end, DEFRA issued a Compliance Directive on Fareham Borough Council, along with the other identified Authorities. As part of the Government's national Air Quality programme we have had the opportunity to bid for Early Measures funding to help achieve compliance with the above. A bid was submitted in January 2018 to the Early Measures fund in respect of funding for an incentive scheme to encourage the replacement of older polluting diesel fuelled taxi and hackney carriages within Fareham and Gosport. This bid was successful and £150,000 was awarded in this respect. This report details the scheme approved by the Joint Air Quality Unit.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee notes the content of this report.

INTRODUCTION

1. The UK Government is required under the Environment Act 1995 to produce a National Air Quality Plan. The Plan sets out the United Kingdom's air quality objectives and recognises that action at national, regional and local levels may be needed, depending on the scale and nature of the air quality problem. The United Kingdom's revised National Air Quality Plan was published by DEFRA in July 2017. This Plan identified 29 local authorities with likely pollution exceedances in 2020 (based on computer air pollution monitoring).
2. Fareham Borough Council was highlighted as one of the Authorities that must produce a targeted local plan. The area of road identified is from the Delme roundabout taking in part of the A27 to Portchester, Eastern and Western way taking in part of the A32 and the A27 off of the Station roundabout. To that end, DEFRA issued a Compliance Directive on Fareham Borough Council, along with the other identified Authorities.
3. This Direction required the Authority to undertake and submit a Feasibility Study (Initial Plan) to identify the option which will deliver compliance with legal limits by 31 March 2018, this has been complied with. The Authority must now also submit a Final Plan by 31 December 2018 which must identify the preferred option to deliver compliance. The Government is funding this work.
4. As part of the Government's national Air Quality programme we have had the opportunity to bid for Early Measures funding to help achieve compliance with the above. A bid was submitted in January 2018 to the Early Measures fund in respect of funding for an incentive scheme to encourage the replacement of older polluting diesel fuelled taxi and hackney carriages within Fareham and Gosport. This bid was successful and £150,000 was awarded in this respect.
5. With many Authorities currently considering Clean Air Zones, it is likely these older diesel vehicles will be charged for entering some of these zones if implemented.

THE SCHEME

6. The joint Air Quality Unit have been very prescriptive as to the form the scheme must take.
7. Older Diesel vehicles are the most polluting in terms of Nitrogen Dioxide. Since January 1992 engines have had to meet standards in terms of exhaust emissions at the time the Standard was Euro 1. Periodically the standards have been improved, with the latest standard being introduced from 1st September 2015, which is Euro 6. With advancements in technology the diesel 6 standard for emissions is significantly better than its predecessor Euro 5. There are different standards for diesel and petrol vehicles.
8. Within the Fareham and Gosport Taxi and Private Hire fleet, there are a significant number of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles which are Euro 5 or earlier.
9. Owners of licensed vehicles that have had the vehicle licensed for the previous 12 months when applying can apply for financial incentives to replace their current vehicle if it is a Euro 5 diesel or earlier, to help with running costs, based on the below:-

Replacing a diesel Euro 5

£925 5 years free licensing

£750 Servicing costs (on production of receipts, depending on warranty)

£750 Insurance

£2425 total

Replacing a diesel Euro 4

£925 5 years free licensing

£500 Servicing costs (on production of receipts, depending on warranty)

£500 Insurance

£1925 total

Replacing a diesel Euro 3

£925 5 years free licensing

£250 Servicing costs (on production of receipts, depending on warranty)

£250 Insurance

£1425 total

10. The vehicle that is being purchased to replace the older diesel vehicles must be either an Ultra-Low Emission vehicle or at least a Euro 5 or 6 hybrid vehicle. It must meet all of the other usual licensing criteria.
11. There is a Sliding scale as the newer vehicles were more expensive to buy and would be replaced normally after a longer period.
12. A commitment to being licensed for 5 years, with the same Authority will be required, insurance is checked as part of the normal process.

THE NEXT STEPS

13. The Scheme will be launched later in June and run through to the end of February 2019.
14. The Joint Air Quality Unit will be monitoring the Schemes Delivery monthly. It may be possible to extend it should there be available funding.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

16. It is hoped that by incentivising the replacement of the most polluting vehicles with cleaner types that this will have a knock on effect of improving Air Quality in the affected area and beyond. It is estimated that 5% of journeys in the study area for the Air Quality Project are made by Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles. The Joint Air Quality Unit are finding this scheme.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman. (Ext 4773)