

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2019
<b>Title:</b>	Traffic Management (Speed Limit) Policy Exceptions in Relation to Air Quality Management Measures
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to make exceptions to the current Traffic Management Policy to allow the amendment or setting of speed limits on public health grounds with regard to air quality, in response to exceptional circumstances, and in accordance with the qualifying criteria set out in paragraph 3.7 of the supporting report.
- 1.2. That authority is given to enter into contractual arrangements with Surrey County Council in order to facilitate and implement the speed limit changes along the A331, to be finalised by the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Head of Legal Services.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to secure approval from the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to make exceptions to the current Traffic Management Policy. At present all speed limits are set for road safety reasons. The authority to make exceptions in accordance with the strict qualifying criteria set out in the supporting report (paragraph 3.7) will allow speed limits to be amended or set based on public health grounds with regard to air quality.
- 2.2. The exceptions are required because of the Clean Air Zones (CAZ) identified by the Government in the vicinities of the A331, affecting Rushmoor, and the A339, affecting Basingstoke. Both central government and local government are legally bound to deal with air quality issues in such zones. Local authority activity is being mandated by Ministerial Direction, requiring legal limits to be met 'within the shortest possible time'. The County Council has already been

served such a Direction in relation to Basingstoke and Deane and anticipates being similarly directed in Rushmoor, as well as for an area in Fareham, where air quality matters will be tackled by different means to be reported elsewhere. The delegations in this report are required to enable the County Council to respond to the Ministerial Direction relating to Basingstoke, and the anticipated Ministerial Direction relating to Rushmoor, by amending speed limits on public health grounds with regard to air quality, as opposed to on a strict road safety basis as required by the existing policy.

2.3. The A331 is a road which crosses boundaries but for efficiency reasons is managed by Hampshire County Council on behalf of Surrey County Council. In order to implement speed limit changes on this road it is necessary to enter into a new agreement/contract between both parties related to this issue. A delegation is therefore requested to allow the Director to take all steps necessary to sign such an agreement and implement a speed limit change on the A331, including in this case the making and determination of associated traffic regulation orders.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Do nothing – The County Council would be at risk of not fulfilling its statutory obligations related to public health and air quality.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**12 March 2019**

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport  
Councillor Rob Humby**