

Eye Town Council meeting 16th October 2019

Report to support item 11.1 – report and update from the Traffic Management Group

Background

On 17th July the council resolved to fund an application for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) from SCC up to a maximum of £10,000. It was agreed that the Traffic Management Plan Project Group (TMPPG) be authorised to scope the survey and seek external support.

This report responds to this resolution.

Proposal

An approach was made to Adam Power Associates who have provided engineering services to the council for work in the clock tower and the churchyard wall. Adam Power do not offer a service for traffic survey work and MLM, a company based in Ipswich, was canvassed and a quotation sought. They could undertake the full scope of services based on the council's brief including air quality testing which will form a vital part of future traffic management.

MLM attended a site meeting and discussed the brief and submitted a formal proposal. This was considered competitive by members of the TMPPG. The amounts were £5,000 for a traffic survey and £3,250 for air quality testing. The latter would take place over a period of 3 months which is the minimum period for a meaningful survey.

The time charges built into these quotations and submitted for ancillary services are £75 per hour for a senior traffic engineer and £45 for an assistant. These compare favourably with Adam Power's rates for engineering services and are considered to be good value.

It is possible that air quality testing services could be obtained from BMSDC at a reduced or no cost. This will be pursued by District Councillor Gould and accepted if available. The resolution is requested for endorsement if BMSDC sources cannot be harnessed.

Management of the Commission

Operational control and submission of photographs and other data will rest with Gary Rowland, a co-opted member of the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group. The point of contact for the council will be Councillor Berry and Councillor Walker.

Order placement, payment of fees and instruction of further services will rest with the council.

Recommendation summary

Traffic control in Eye is one of the most pressing matters in delivering quality of life in Eye now and in the future. Professional expertise is needed to supplement the data gathering and enthusiasm of the resident TOOOT group. It will strengthen the council's application for a TRO, provide important data to inform the council's position in considering the likely future planning applications for large scale chicken rearing plants and consequent HGV traffic generation and contribute to the joint working group begun with other parishes also affected by a potential growth in HGV traffic.

It will also be vital to secure implementation of an important aspect of the Eye Neighbourhood Plan. Policy 32 commits the council to work with SCC to develop a Traffic Management Plan and this research begins this process.