

REVIEW INTO AIR QUALITY BY THE PREVIOUS RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 2017/18

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Social Services, Housing, Health and Wellbeing
Officer Contact(s)	Anisha Teji, Chief Executive's Office
Papers with report	Review of Air Quality in Hillingdon : Updating the Air Quality Action Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	To receive the previous Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee's 2017/18 review of Air Quality in Hillingdon and updating the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People and Our Natural Environment</i> .
Financial Cost	No direct financial implications from the recommendations contained within this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- A. Welcome the upcoming review of the Council's Air Quality Action Plan in 2018 and the positive and comprehensive work being undertaken by the Council to tackle air quality issues locally.
- B. Note that in support of this, the Committee has examined the topic of Air Quality and makes the following recommendations to Cabinet, for consideration as part of the wider review as follows:

1. **The Action Plan should maintain a strong focus on Hillingdon school travel plans. It should prioritise work with schools most affected by air pollution, particularly to explore measures to tackle car/coach idling emissions.**
2. **Further promotion of the Air Text service/pollution alerts for Borough residents should be considered.**
3. **Explore ways in which the Council can work with businesses to help them and their employees improve air quality in the Borough.**
4. **Review the air quality monitoring networks across the Borough to ensure that there is appropriate coverage, particularly in Air Quality Focus Areas.**
5. **As the whole Borough is designated a Smoke Control Area, that the Council explores further ways to make businesses and residents aware of their responsibilities.**
6. **That existing work by the Council to promote healthier and greener alternatives to driving, such as cycling and walking and other practical ways to reduce pollution be integrated into the Action Plan along with ways to evaluate their impact in helping to reduce emissions.**

Reasons for recommendations

To consider the report of the previous Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee during 2017/18 and its recommendations on how the air quality in Hillingdon can be improved.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject some or all of the Committee's recommendations, or pursue alternative routes in which to progress the objectives of the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Air quality is a significant issue across all areas of the capital and the London Borough of Hillingdon is no exception. The matter is attracting more attention on a daily basis with many neighbouring Boroughs opting for different solutions to attempt to manage this rising global issue. Although the Council has come a long way in terms of recognising the triggers and regulating air quality, there is still work to be done to meet the changing demands of technology and community concerns. Therefore, the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee decided to explore this topic, in light of the upcoming review of the Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

The Terms of Reference of the review were agreed as follows:

1. To understand the Council's responsibilities on air quality, examine how air quality in Hillingdon has been managed by the Council since 2004, why expected improvements are not as large as predicted and what is now required with the GLA's air quality regime in terms of reviewing the AQAP.
2. To consider the options available for reducing pollution, including actions that can be taken directly by the Council, and identify the best means by which the Council can influence other organisations whose activities detrimentally impact on the air quality in Hillingdon.
3. In terms of the Council, examine the interactions that will be necessary between departments in order to bring about improvements in pollution levels and make a positive contribution to securing improvements to health.
4. To consider how the Council should prioritise air quality improvements, for example, Air Quality Focus Areas, on Borough-wide initiatives, directed towards at-risk/vulnerable groups.
5. To look at measures to best inform residents and local businesses in the Borough of the actions required to reduce air pollution.
6. To advise on the development of the Air Quality Action Plan before its submission to Cabinet for approval.

Members considered air pollution in Hillingdon generally and the areas most affected by poor air quality. Members also explored the measures currently in place and how areas could be improved. The Committee undertook a range of witness sessions with a variety of internal and external representatives, including hearing from an independent air quality expert. Members appreciated how insightful these witness sessions were to assist them in their review.

The Committee has made a number of recommendations which it is hoped will recognise the positive work already being undertaken by the Council and partners and also identify areas that can be strengthened further to ensure that air quality is managed within the Borough.

Officer comments on recommendations

Whilst the attached report from the Committee sets out the review in more detail, officers advise Cabinet that the Committee has made some positive recommendations to take forward.

If Cabinet agrees the recommendations, these will be considered and incorporated within the revised Air Quality Action Plan which will come to Cabinet to approve in 2018. These areas will continue to be a priority and work stream within the Action Plan. Following that, it is proposed that updates are provided to the Cabinet Member and the Committee detailing the effectiveness of the Action Plan's implementation.

Financial Implications

No direct financial implications from the recommendations contained within this report. In the event of additional action implemented following recommendations in this report, work is expected to be contained within existing approved revenue budgets.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The recommendations will support the Council's efforts to make sure residents in Hillingdon are not subjected to poor levels of air quality.

Consultation carried out or required

The Committee sought a wide range of external witness testimony as set out in its report.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.