

## AIR QUALITY BRIEFING NOTE

<b>Committee name</b>	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Val Beale – Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A - Details from Cabinet Meeting 30 May, 2019
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

To provide Members of the Committee with a brief update on the development of Hillingdon's Air Quality Action Plan, to be expanded upon by officers at the meeting held in March 2020 following the Plan's implementation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Notes the information presented in the report; and**
- 2. Confirms whether there was any further information requested to be included in the report to come before the Committee in March 2020.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 The RESPOC report "Review of Air Quality in Hillingdon" gave a number of recommendations for the Council to consider in relation to the development of the Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024. These were;

- 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 idling emissions from cars and coaches (R1);
- Further promotion of the Air Text service providing pollution alerts for Borough residents should be considered (R2);
- The Council should explore ways to work with businesses to help them and their employees improve air quality in the Borough (R3);
- The air quality monitoring networks across the Borough should be reviewed to ensure that there is appropriate coverage, particularly in Air Quality Focus Areas (R4);
- The Council will explore further ways to make businesses and residents aware of their responsibilities recognising that the whole Borough is designated a Smoke Control Area (R5);
- 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, should be integrated

into the Action Plan along with ways to evaluate their impact in helping to reduce emissions.(R6)

1.2 The report was approved by Cabinet and the recommendations taken forward into the review of the Air Quality Action Plan.

## 2 Development of the Air Quality Action Plan, 2019-2024)

2.1 The new Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has taken account of the GLA guidance and has been further developed to ensure it reflects the specific issues within the borough, for example, additional actions have been added to ensure the stakeholders with responsibility for contributing significantly to the pollution sources which impact within the borough are appropriately engaged.

2.2 The recommendations within the RESPOC report, as detailed previously, have all been incorporated into the Council priorities within the Air Quality Action Plan with appropriate implementation measures incorporated into the action plan delivery table. Details of the adopted air quality priorities are below with a link made to each relevant RESPOC recommendation.

### Air Quality Action Plan objective

2.3 To focus actions to:

- a) *improve the areas of poorer air quality as soon as possible;*
- b) *to continue to improve air quality across the borough and reduce public exposure to air pollution, especially for vulnerable groups within our communities such as the young, the old and those already suffering with associated respiratory illnesses.*

### Council priorities

2.4 These have been defined as below.

- *Lead by example*

The Council will undertake a review of its own fleet and develop a programme for reducing emissions from this source over the five years of this Plan. This approach will also be adopted in regard to reducing emissions from Council buildings and the Council will both promote the use of, and seek funding to ensure the supply of, the infrastructure necessary for the increased use of low/zero emission technologies throughout the borough.

- *Prioritise reducing public exposure and improving air quality around schools*

The Council will work with schools to help them implement measures to reduce exposure both at school and on the journey to school. This will focus initially on those in the areas of poorer air quality and where schools are close to busy roads. (RESPOC Recommendation 1)

- *Prioritise the implementation of improvement strategies in the Air Quality Focus Areas*

The Council will investigate the development of an air quality improvement strategy for each Air Quality Focus Area on a rolling programme across the five years of the Plan. (RESPOC

Recommendations 4 and 6)

- *Ensure the integration of the Healthy Streets approach in relevant council work programmes*

The Council will ensure its transport management projects and town centre improvements programmes incorporate delivery outcomes which include reducing pollution emissions and protecting public exposure. (RESPOC Recommendations 3 and 6)

- *Ensure the planning system supports the achievement of air quality improvements in relation to new developments*

The Council will use its planning policies to ensure new developments incorporate air quality positive design measures from the outset. Suitable mitigation measures will be sought to reduce pollution increases associated with new development, especially in areas where the air quality is already poor. (RESPOC Recommendation 6)

- *Raise awareness via targeted campaigns*

The Council will develop a rolling programme of awareness and enforcement campaigns focused on the protection of public health such as; promotion of the free pollution alert system, AirText, to vulnerable groups in the borough; a renewed focus on the issues of health impacts from particulate matter arising from sources such as from the burning of wood, coal and other substances especially in domestic fireplaces, enforcement on pollution issues arising from construction site activities and the enforcement of no idling throughout the borough (RESPOC Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5).

- *Promote the use of greener walking and cycling routes to help the delivery of the Council's transport objective of an increased mode share for walking and cycling*

The Council will use available funding mechanisms to provide the necessary infrastructure and local improvements needed for increased cycling and walking facilities. Along with the use of enhanced green infrastructure to create greener walking and cycling routes away from the most polluted areas and roads, this will form an important integrated approach to reducing exposure to pollution and promoting healthier lifestyles as well as improving air quality by providing a zero-emission alternative to use of the car (RESPOC Recommendation 6).

- *Work with external stakeholders*

The Council will ensure that external stakeholders, whose operations influence the pollution levels experienced within the borough, are actively engaged to deliver focused actions to reduce emissions from their operations and play their part in improving the air quality in the local communities.

### 3 RESPOC Recommendation 4

3.1 In addition, as recommended in RESPOC 4, a review of the air quality monitoring network across the borough has been commissioned. The project has been tasked with

assessing whether the current locations should be retained, whether there are locations that could be withdrawn and where new sites should be located, paying particular attention to the Air Quality Focus Areas. It is anticipated that the new network will be up and running by August 2019.

#### 4 Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024

4.1 Following a statutory and public consultation, the Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024 was adopted by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> May, the details and links to the documentation are detailed in Appendix A.

#### **Implications on related Council policies**

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

#### **How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

Air quality is a significant issue across all areas of London, including for Hillingdon residents. Hillingdon's new Air Quality Action Plan seeks to tackle this through a number of measures, to improve the quality of life for residents.

#### **Financial Implications**

None at this stage.

#### **Legal Implications**

None at this stage.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**



NIL.

## Appendix A

Details from Cabinet Meeting 30 May, 2019

### 8. Hillingdon Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024 PDF 163 KB

#### Additional documents:

- [Consultation Report , item 8.](#)  PDF 124 KB
- [Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024 , item 8.](#)  PDF 2 MB

#### Minutes:

#### RESOLVED:

#### That Cabinet:

**Considers the responses to the consultation received in Appendix 1; and  
Approves the Hillingdon Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024 for adoption by the Council.**

#### Reasons for decision

Cabinet approved the Hillingdon Air Quality Action Plan for 2019-2024. It was noted that the Plan fulfilled the Council's statutory requirement to update its current Plan and put in place actions to improve air quality, in accordance with guidance from the Mayor of London. Cabinet considered the consultation responses, and the process undergone by the Council to review the Action Plan, which had incorporated recommendations from the Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee's review on Air Quality in 2017/18. In particular, Cabinet noted the health impacts on residents on poor air quality and efforts to tackle idling cars, particularly outside schools.

#### Alternative options considered and rejected

None. If the Council were not to update its Action Plan, it would not be using the most accurate information to tackle poor air quality and could be directed to do so under the Environment Act.