

Cabinet Meeting

Date: 15th of January 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Response

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Ross Garrod

Contact officer: Jason Andrews

Reasons for Urgency: The Chair has approved the submission of this report as a matter of urgency because it relates to Merton's statutory duty to produce an Air Quality Action Plan. The plan outlines the actions we will take to improve air quality in the London Borough of Merton between 2018 & 2023. The report was previously considered by members in November 2017 and deferred until 15th January 2018. The report is intended to provide Cabinet with a report of the consultation responses and enable a discussion of action plan priorities for the next 5 years.

Recommendations:

- A. Members to review the public consultation responses to the Councils Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2018 - 2023
 - B. Members to note responses and agree the draft action plan.
 - C. Members to delegate future decisions in respect of the action plan to the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking and the Director of Environment & Regeneration
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Merton has produced and submitted for public consultation an Air Quality Action Plan as part of its duty to the London Local Air Quality Management statutory process, and in recognition of the legal requirement placed on the local authority to work towards air quality objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

This plan outlines the action we will take to improve air quality in the London Borough of Merton between 2018 & 2023.

This report is intended to provide Cabinet with a report of the consultation responses and enable a discussion of action plan priorities for the next 5 years.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Air pollution is recognised as a major contributor to poor health with more than 40,000 premature deaths attributed to poor air quality across the UK each year, and an associated annual health cost to society estimated to be £15 billion.

- 2.2. Air quality has been identified as a priority both nationally and within London, where pollution levels continue to exceed both EU limit values and UK air quality standards. Pollution concentrations in Merton continue to breach the legally binding air quality limits for both Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀). The air quality monitoring network run by Merton has shown that the UK annual mean NO₂ objective (40µg/m³) continues to be breached at a number of locations across the borough including Colliers Wood, Morden, Tooting and South Wimbledon. In some locations the NO₂ concentration is also in excess of the UK 1-hour air quality objective (60µg/m³) which indicates a risk not only to people living in that area but also for those working or visiting the area.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. Re-submit the Air Quality Action Plan for further consultation.
- 3.2. Remove action plan measures
- 3.3. Add further Action Plan measures.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. A 6 week public consultation (Appendix 3) was undertaken. The consultation was part of the statutory process for the implementation of an AQAP and it comprised a number of strands, namely:
- The targeted engagement of partners and statutory bodies with an interest in air quality
 - A borough wide 6 week online publication of the draft plan and accompanying online survey
 - The targeting of some community groups that had engaged us on the subject of air quality.
- 4.2. This resulted in 155 responses and 6 group or organisation responses.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Phase 1: Adoption of the Plan (priorities and measures) January 2018 and draft and publish the final Air Quality Action Plan in March 2018.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Air Quality Action Plan will require an investment in resources to deliver the plan over the next 5 years, these resources will be dependent upon the final options adopted.
- 6.2. Many of these measures will already be influenced and implemented within the Councils capital and revenue commitments over the next 5 years.
- 6.3. Infrastructure measures are limited to the available grant funding streams.

- 6.4. A small number of measures have a direct consultancy cost and funding will need to be secured internally.
- 6.5. This plan will require a revenue staffing commitment to at least 1 FTE to deliver, coordinate and feedback measures and work with partners to deliver the Plan. Estimated cost is £48,000 (including on costs). This will be funded by revenue generated from the vehicle emissions charge.
- 6.6. Additionally, Merton's Local Implementation Plan funding (LIP) needs to be accessible by the Pollution Team to fund borough specific air quality actions.
- 6.7. Specific Actions to be considered (Appendix 1)

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Council has declared the borough as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and as such has a statutory duty to produce and update an Air Quality Action Plan.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. A recent study into poor air quality highlights the fact that inequalities in exposure to air pollution are mainly an urban problem, suggesting that measures to reduce environmental air pollution inequality should focus on cutting vehicle emissions in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Poor air disproportionately impacts on the old, the young and those suffering underlying health conditions.
- 8.2. The Council's new Air Quality Action Plan for 2018-2023 proposes a number of measures aimed at tackling air quality across the borough with a particular focus on hotspots where we know that air quality is at its worst.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 – Specific actions to be considered
- Appendix 2 - Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022 (Draft Consultation)
- Appendix 3 - Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Response

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1 – Specific actions to be considered

Action ID	Description	Consultation Support	Team Responsible for delivery	Cost	Funded by	Timescale for implementation	Supported and Funded YES/NO	Comments
Action 1	New SPD for Planning to ensure new developments are as clean as possible	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution	£6K	Already Funded	2018		Document already drafted but need to be embedded in the Local Plan. Also need to be agreed and refined.
Action 2	Ensuring enforcement of Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) air quality policies	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution	£10K	Currently by MAQF	2017/18		This project is currently being delivered by our team for South of London
Action 3	Mapping Focus Areas and Hotspots on the Councils GIS System	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution Planning/IT	£5K	Funded by LIP	2018		Would benefit planning and coordinating developments.
Action 4	Enforcing CHP and biomass air quality policies	Supported	EH Pollution	£6K	Funded by LIP	2018		Additional burden for staffing
Action 5	Enforcing Air Quality Neutral policies	Supported	EH Pollution/Planning	£0	Already funded	ongoing		Embedded in the SPD in Action 1
Action 6	Ensure that Smoke Control Zones fully promoted and enforced	Supported	EH Pollution.	£10K	Funded Jointly in the RSP supported by LIP	ongoing		Additional burden for staffing
Action 7	Promoting and delivering energy efficiency retrofitting projects in workplaces and homes.	Supported	London Borough of Merton	Unknown	Grant and revenue	ongoing		Dependent upon grant funding an national objectives
Action 8	Public Health Policy	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution Public Health	£0	Already Funded	ongoing		Coordination of Policy to embed AQ and Public Health Initiatives
Action 9	Engage with Head of Transport to identify air quality opportunities and risks related to transport	Strongly Supported	Transport Dept. EH Pollution.	£0	Already Funded	ongoing		Coordination of Policy and Traffic Management

	in the borough.							
Action 10	Promotion of Love Clean Air website (south London cluster)	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution	£3-6K	Match funding from member Authorities.	ongoing		Love clean air site set up by Merton need to be funded for improvements and initiatives
Action 11	Air quality at schools – STARS review	Strongly supported	Transport Team	Unknown	Revenue Staffing	ongoing		Need to be extended to cover schools in focus areas
Action 12	Update Merton procurement policies to include a requirement for suppliers with large fleets to have attained silver Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) accreditation/ EcoStars accreditation scheme.	Supported	Transport Commissioning	£0	Revenue	2018 +		Consider new contracts and procurement and embed AQ specifications.
Action 13	Review procurement contract for outsourced transport services.	Strongly Supported	Transport Commissioning	£0	Revenue	2018 +		As above
Action 14	Detailed assessment of traffic management solutions for GLA Focus Areas and AQ 'hotspots'.	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution Traffic & Highways	£20K per Focus Area	LIP Transport	2018/22		This will be need to be funded as a standalone consultancy role.
Action 15	'Mini 'Ultra-Low Emission Zone status for Air Quality Focus Areas and pollution 'hotspots' in Merton.	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution/Transport Team	?	LIP MAQF DEFRA	2018/ 19		This could follow from the above measure and will also be dependent on the Mayors project.
Action 16	School Air Quality 'Audit'	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution	£2K per school	LIP Funded	2017		This should be extended to all schools in focus areas
Action 17	Formalise anti-idling enforcement	Strongly Supported	EH Pollution/Parking Services	£12K	LIP Funding and MAQF	2018		This can be run by Pollution but will have a revenue cost
Action 18	Provision of EV charge infrastructure	Supported	EH Pollution ZipCar flex and Enterprise (formerly City Car Club)	Ongoing	LIP Grant Funding Revenue	2017/22		This can be extended in action 1 and is currently an ongoing project

			TfL OLEV					
Action 19	Emissions based parking levy for residential and business parking permits in Merton.	Supported	EH Pollution	10K Per review	LIP Funding Revenue Unknown	2018 &19		There is a commitment to review parking in as many ways possible to reduce vehicle use and therefore reduce emissions. To review and assess the present parking surcharge and consider extending the scheme to incorporate all vehicles parked in the borough.
Action 20	Provision of infrastructure to support walking and cycling across the borough	Strongly Supported	LBM – Future Merton TfL	Unknown	LIP Grant Funding Revenue Section 106	Ongoing		This is currently underway but need to be publicised in the AQAP

This page is intentionally left blank