

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Planning, Transportation and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
DATE:	16 th September 2014	
TITLE:	Air Quality Update	
WARD:	All	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1 – Low Emission Zone Summary

Appendix 2 - An assessment of the impacts of air quality on health within Air Quality Management areas in Bath and North East Somerset; key learning.

Appendix 3 – Briefing Note on Air Quality Areas

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 To Provide an update to the Panel on:

- (1) the outcome of the Low Emission Zone feasibility study;
- (2) A summary of health effects associated with poor air quality;
- (3) The current situation in relation to the Saltford and Keynsham Air Quality Management Plans.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Panel are invited to note the report and offer any comments which can be fed into the Transportation Strategy and the forthcoming work on the Air Quality Action Plans for Saltford and Keynsham.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 Development of the Air Quality Action Plans would require staff resources to identify locations where people more vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality may congregate e.g. Care Homes, Childcare providers and to conduct a literature review. This will be covered from within existing staff budgets. Production of leaflets, if required, will also be covered from existing budgets.
- 3.2 A bid is being submitted to DEFRA for an implementation plan / business case for 'Option 4' HGV/Bus: Euro-class 5 or better for 'Central Area' - inside A36 (see appendix 1).
- 3.3 Implementation of the action points of the Air Quality Action Plans will have significant resource implications but these are yet to be determined and will be subject to future decision making and budgetary process.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council is required under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 to periodically review and assess the air quality in their area in line with guidance issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Present and likely future quality of the air is compared to the National Air Quality Objectives. Where the objectives are found to be exceeded and are identified as areas of public exposure, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1. Air Quality Action Plans (AQAP) are devised to address exceedances in pollution levels that led to the Council to determine an Air Quality Management Area. B&NES Council has received DEFRA funding to undertake a feasibility study for the introduction of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) or other restrictions in the vicinity of the A36 Cleveland Bridge, Bath and model options for a reduction in heavy goods vehicles and engine standard stipulations.
- 5.2. The aims of the study were:
 - to identify to what extent the implementation of a Low Emission Zone would reduce levels of nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter;
 - to identify the costs of introducing and managing an LEZ;
 - to identify options relating to the extent of the zone;
- 5.3 The summary report attached in appendix 1 outlines the method, the options considered, findings and provides conclusions and key learnings from the modelling undertaken.
- 5.4 The link between poor air quality and health effects are well documented. The report attached in appendix 2 summarises work completed by Public Health and Research & Intelligence teams to provide information on the health implications of poor air quality. The report briefly summarises the international evidence base on the health impacts of poor air quality. It also highlights recent work to explore

the health impacts of poor air quality in Bath & North East Somerset and suggests what further exploratory work could be completed.

5.5 Finally, the third report (appendix 3) outlines the current situation in relation to the Saltford and Keynsham Air Quality and the proposed steps to be undertaken prior to signing off the plans.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The outcome of the LEZ feasibility study will now be fed into the Transportation Strategy and the views and comments made by the Panel will be taken into account in devising AQAP's for Saltford and Keynsham.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation will be through circulation of this report in addition to the statutory public consultations.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the implementation of any Low Emission Zone and new Air Quality Action Plans for Saltford and Keynsham will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	