

Communities, Transport and Environment PDS

13th March 2017

Richard Samuel

Agenda item 11

I wish to raise four issues with the panel for action.

1 The Council's failure to secure funding from DEFRA is a serious concern in itself. However what is far more concerning that the Council's current administration clearly considers clean air action to be a low priority because it has failed to allocate the necessary funds in its recent budget when it could so easily have done so. I call on the panel to examine why this is the case.

2. On behalf of residents in Camden I make the point that whilst measured levels of toxic pollutants may be slightly lower in our area than on the London Road they are still harmful to health and action is required. Camden Residents Association wants additional air quality monitoring stations along Camden Road so that the risk can be assessed. However recent correspondence with the officers has advised us if we want additional monitoring then we will have to pay for it ourselves. So my request to this panel is that you investigate why this is the case.

3 My next point to you is to request that you consider the rationale behind the very narrowly drawn air quality management area shown in your papers when the impact of overspill traffic from the main arterial routes is now so pervasive into resident streets. The Council's own figures report that 7000 vehicles a day short cut through Camden. I ask you to consider why the map is not drawn in a holistic way to reflect driver behaviour.

4. Finally I am calling upon the panel to support a proper traffic census on Bath's most polluted roads in particular vehicles using London Road and Bathwick Street. A traffic census is not the same as a simple traffic count. What it seeks to address is why drivers use these roads, where have they come from, where are they going. I have been told by officers that no such information exists.

If the information does not exist how on earth can an evidence based approach to reducing traffic usage be developed. We know the numbers, we know the impacts, what we really need to know are the reasons behind the numbers. I repeat my request to you to examine this deficiency.