

**Single Member Cabinet Decision**

**Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference**

**E2245**

**Air Quality Action Plan for Bath**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>The Environment Act 1995 introduced a requirement that every local authority is under a duty to carry out regular reviews of the air quality in their boundaries. Following a review of the air quality an Air Quality Management Area has been declared for parts of Bath. Following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area the authority is required to produce an action plan outlining the measures it proposes to take to reduce the levels of pollution.</p> <p>A consultation exercise has been undertaken to consider the various options available to reduce pollution and to hear the public's views on what should be included.</p>
<b>Decision Date</b>	21-Mar 2011
<b>The decision</b>	The Cabinet Member agrees that the Air Quality Action Plan is adopted.
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	The rationale behind recommending adopting the Action Plan is that the plan reflects the views of the local residents and businesses and also the views of the Council's Transportation Planning team.
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	<p>The Action Plan will commit the local authority to some measure of expenditure. Where proposals are seen as not being cost effective then the authority can decide not to pursue those actions. Following consultation a recommendation will be made to the authority regarding funding of any necessary measures.</p> <p>Addressing air quality problems is one of the criteria used by the Department for Transport to allocate Local Transport Plan funds to local authorities through the Integrated Transport Block. Improving air quality is one of the main objectives of the Joint Local Transport Plan. Those schemes recommended in the Action Plan that provide good value for money will be considered for funding from the Integrated Transport Plan Block allocation.</p> <p>A "growth item" of £30k has been included in the 2011/12 Environmental Services, Service Action Plan to finance an additional member of staff. However, funding for this post will be achieved through the savings made in the re-negotiation of the Council's Scientific Services contract. The tasks for this post holder will be to work with colleagues within other services of the Council and organisations outside the Council to progress the measures identified in the Air Quality Action Plan.</p>

<b>Issues considered</b>	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	A leaflet and questionnaire were delivered to all addresses in the Air Quality Management Area. The responses were taken into account and recorded in the final Air Quality Action Plan. A draft consultation Air Quality Action Plan was issued to interest groups and stakeholders. It was also available on the Council's website with a downloadable questionnaire and leaflet. An informal public display was held at the Guildhall that was attended by officers and provided an opportunity to submit comments and ask questions.
<b>Other options considered</b>	Other options considered include:-  Not to adopt an Air Quality Action Plan. This is not an option as the Council would be in breach of the Environment Act 1995.  Following the consultation exercise, some of the measures were amended due to changes introduced to the funding of transport initiatives, by the new government.

<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	
<b>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</b>	