

Overview and Scrutiny

25 November 2024

Member questions

Agenda item 6: Air Quality Update

1. Question from Councillor Jackie Chelin

Page 3 of the plan: *Despite this generally improving picture, levels of NO2 in small areas can be adversely affected by increased road congestion due to new development and changes to circulation patterns.*

To what extent is this addressed/considered in the planning applications of large new building developments?

Response from Gareth Jones:

When applications for larger sites (or residential development in the AQMA) are received an air quality impact report can be requested. This type of report predicts levels of air pollution under various scenarios, both including and excluding the proposed development. There is no nationally agreed standard for this report, but they are generally prepared using guidance by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM).

2. Question from Councillor Jackie Chelin

Page 9 of the plan: *In amending the boundaries there is considerable value in using the opportunity to publicise and educate residents on fuel and appliance requirements, rather than trying to pursue rigorous enforcement which requires considerable manpower input and small financial returns.*

Very much agree that a positive and proactive approach is better than a reactive enforcement approach, so how will this be enacted?

Response from Gareth Jones :

(Page 12 of report). The balance of education vs. enforcement or pro-active vs. responsive will depend largely on the budget available. Education will engage more members of the public and encouragement generally produces wider, more positive results, but requires manpower, materials etc. Enforcing a relatively small number of complaints would take less time, and therefore cost less.

3. Question from Councillor Jackie Chelin

Page 9 of the plan: Regarding anti-idling campaigns, will this apply to other areas as well as schools, e.g. stations and car parks?

Response from Gareth Jones :

Absolutely, yes. We aim to run this campaign in conjunction with transport providers, and have already identified the rail station and Arle Court transport interchange as likely sites.