

AIR QUALITY IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE: UPDATE

To: **Health Committee**

Meeting Date: **7 September 2017**

From: **Director of Public Health**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **n/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To update the Health Committee on the measures to address current concerns regarding air quality in Cambridgeshire following the Health Committee recommendations agreed at the 16th March meeting**

Recommendation: **The Health Committee is asked to**

- a) note and comment on progress since the meeting of the 16th March**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A report on the current air quality issues in Cambridgeshire, local opportunities/ initiatives to improve air quality and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Draft National guidance was presented to the Health committee on 16 March 2017. The Committee recommended that the Director of Public Health draw this report to the attention of the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council and to the Chairmen/women of and Spokes for its Policy and Service Committees with a recommendation that the committees consider the potential impact on air quality as part of their decision-making process. In addition she was asked to draw this report to the attention of the Chairmen/women and Chief Executives of the Greater Cambridge City Deal, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire's district councils and Cambridge City Council with a recommendation that they consider the potential impact on air quality as part of their decision-making process and for those named above to actively bring forward projects which will improve air quality.
- 1.2 This report highlights the progress to date on achieving the actions above and suggests areas for further development.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Following the committee recommendation the Director of Public Health wrote to the bodies mentioned in paragraph 1.1 above. The report was well received with requests from the following bodies and organisations for further support and/or to present the main findings to their respective organisations:
- Huntingdonshire District Council Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Environment).
 - The local villages' Joint Heavy Commercial Vehicles Group in East Cambridgeshire.
 - The Combined Authority with respect to Market Town master planning.
- 2.3 The public health department is working actively with Cambridge City Council and is part of its air quality action plan steering group, and is working with the Mayor's office on the "blueprint" for St. Neots.
- 2.4 At the request of Cambridge City Council a joint letter from the Director of Public Health and the Strategic Director of Cambridge City Council was sent to all schools within the city asking the headteacher/principal to disseminate the message to students and parents about the importance of switching off their engines at drop off and pick up times.
- 2.5 District Council Duties – Annual Air Quality Status Reports and Air Quality Action Plans:
As stated in the previous report the Environment Act 1995 provides that every local authority is required to submit an Annual Status Report each year, it is also recommended that all local authorities should consider drawing up an Air Quality Strategy.
- 2.6 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) expects the highest level of support from local authorities (for example, Chief Executive and Council level) to

ensure that all parts of a local authority are working effectively together, and that the public can be given further confidence that the work being taken forward to tackle air quality is supported at the highest level. Although not statutory, it is recommended by national guidance that Action Plans and annual reports should be signed off by Chief Executive and heads of the main departments including the Director of Public Health.

2.7 For this year's reports (covering 2016-2017) the Director of Public Health has "signed off" the Annual Status Reports for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council only, so there is further work to be done to engage all the district Councils within Cambridgeshire on the importance of addressing poor air quality.

2.8.1 Since the previous discussion in March the Government has published:

- A) A new UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations¹. This places the emphasis on local authorities in tackling poor air quality including, exploring new technologies in order to reduce emissions in a way that best meets the needs of their communities and local businesses; changing road layouts at congestion and air pollution pinch points; encouraging public and private uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles; using innovative retrofitting technologies and new fuels; and, encouraging the use of public transport. If these measures are not sufficient, local plans could also include access restrictions on vehicles, such as charging zones or measures to prevent certain vehicles using particular roads at particular times.
- B) The final Air Quality NICE guidance (which was at draft stage when it was last brought to the attention of the committee). The main recommendations cover the following areas:
 - Planning,
 - Development management,
 - Clean air zones,
 - Reducing emissions from public sector transport services and vehicle fleets,
 - Smooth driving and speed reduction,
 - Walking and cycling,
 - Awareness raising.

2.9 A Consultant in Public Health, appointed to Peterborough City Council, and working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as part of the joint public health team, will have lead responsibility for strategic public health input to planning, transport and health inequalities, including the impact of transport on air quality, and will be working with districts. Furthermore, the post will be co-located with the Combined Authority one day per week which will provide the opportunity to inform and advise on health impact of policies and options which may affect issues such as air quality.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017>

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

It has been estimated that over 5% of Cambridgeshire's population mortality is attributed to air pollution, equivalent to 257 deaths attributable to air pollution in Cambridgeshire in 2010. Air pollution also impacts respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions and incidence of respiratory disease.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

In England, the most deprived wards experience the highest levels of air pollution and there is a high proportion of children living in these areas. It is worth noting that some new developments in Cambridgeshire are sited near to poor air quality areas.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

See main body of the report.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes 16 Aug 17 Name of Financial Officer: Clare Andrews

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes 22 Aug 17 Name of Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes 16 Aug 17 Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes 18 Aug 17 Name of Officer: Liz Robin
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes 22 Aug 17 Name of Officer: Joanne Dickson
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes 18 Aug 17 Name of Officer: Liz Robin
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes 18 Aug 17 Name of Officer: Liz Robin

Source Documents	Location
Health Committee Paper 16 March 2017 - AIR QUALITY IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE – IMPLICATIONS FOR POPULATION HEALTH, and associated Minutes	Web Link to Committee Paper Web link to minutes
UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017