

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

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'Breathing Better' - West Sussex County Council's Partnership Approach to Improving Air Quality

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That West Sussex County Council's air quality plan 'Breathing Better' be endorsed.**
- 2.2 That the draft terms of reference for the West Sussex County Council proposed Inter-Authority Air Quality Group be endorsed.**
- 2.3 That the Council's participation in the proposed West Sussex County Council Inter-Authority Air Quality Group be supported.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Since December 2017 West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has been working with West Sussex District and Borough councils to produce a plan to detail a partnership approach to improving air quality in West Sussex. The resulting 'Breathing Better' Plan (Appendix 1) details the legislative, public-health, policy and strategic context for tackling poor air quality. Furthermore it proposes an Inter-Authority Air Quality Group (IAAQ) for the development and governance of the Plan.
- 3.2 The main statutory obligation with regard to air quality, known as the Local Air Quality Management regime (LAQM), is borne by district and borough councils. This Council's work under the LAQM regime has led to the statutory declaration of three 'Air Quality Management Areas' for failure of a National Air Quality Standard and Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide in Chichester city. The dominant local source of Nitrogen Dioxide is vehicle tailpipe emissions and, as such, WSSCC's involvement as the highway authority, in tackling the issue is important. Likewise poor air quality is a significant public health issue and so West Sussex Public Health's involvement is also welcomed.
- 3.3 Air pollution and poor air quality has risen up the political agenda due to a number of issues (VW scandal, EU Infraction proceedings against the UK,

Client Earth High Court judgments against the UK government and an ever increased metrification and association of exposure to poor air quality with human health effects from womb to grave)

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The Plan's proposed approach should ensure a more integrated multi-authority approach to projects helping to tackle air pollution across all of West Sussex. The approach should bring greater visibility to such work and add weight to any funding bids through a demonstrably more developed governance structure involving WSCC as both the Highway Authority and West Sussex Public Health in air quality work.
- 4.2 It is likely that tackling air pollution will involve related infrastructure to support low emission vehicles and to encourage non-car mode journeys.
- 4.3 Outcomes will be measured through projects delivering infrastructure that remove and reduce car journeys and through air quality metrics and their trends. Suitable measures will be developed as part of the annual action plan which it is anticipated will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The proposal is to support WSCC's Breathing Better Plan and endorse their draft IAAQ so as to facilitate the Council's involvement in the development and delivery of annual action plans. These will seek to tackle pollution and improve air quality.
- 5.2 The draft terms of reference for the IAAQ are attached as appendix 2.
- 5.3 There are no identified disadvantages to participating in WSCC's proposed IAAQ.
- 5.4 This Council will continue to participate with all East and West Sussex authorities in Sussex-air which will remain a knowledge sharing and best practice forum that holds a contract for the management of air quality monitoring data and a health alert system providing alerts for pollution and excessive hot and cold weather. The IAAQ will be a more project based group and so has a distinct identity and purpose.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 The alternative is that the Council does not endorse the Plan or participate in the proposed IAAQ. Such a course of action would potentially result in the Council not benefitting from projects and resources that would flow from participation and, given the current high profile of air quality, might pose a reputational risk.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council's participation in the IAAQ and related projects will require officer and member (Cabinet Member for Environment Services) time attending the

quarterly meetings and contributing to the air quality actions agreed as part of an annual action plan. It is anticipated that this work can be managed within existing resources.

7.2 The Council will continue to carry out its statutory duties under the Local Air Quality Management regime of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

7.3 There are no other significant identified issues.

8. Consultation

8.1 None carried out by this Council on the Breathing Better Plan, the preparation of which was led by WSCC.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 At this time there are no specific identified impacts on people or places. Impacts will be better understood once the draft (annual) action plan is produced by the IAAQ. In any case the actions agreed by the IAAQ should be positively seeking to tackle air pollution sources, improve public health and encourage greener forms of transport.

9.2 No significant corporate risks have been identified other than that identified in paragraph 6 above.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		✓
Climate Change and Biodiversity Reducing emissions to atmosphere as intended by WSCC's proposal will largely have a positive impact for Climate Change and biodiversity.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓
Safeguarding and Early Help		✓
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		✓
Other (please specify) Reducing ambient pollution concentrations will reduce human exposure to pollution. As such the approach outlined should improve public health.	✓	

11. Background Papers

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1: WSCC, Breathing Better, a partnership approach to improving air quality in West Sussex.

Appendix 2: WSCC, Draft Terms of Reference, Inter-Authority Air Quality Group 2018.