



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PROJECT

Project Update July 2021

Review topic:	Air Quality
OSC Committee reporting to:	Enterprise and Wellbeing
Update completed by:	Councillor Lisa Collins (Lead Member) Amanda Clayton (Project Support)
Service Manager/CMT responsibility:	Ian Waller (Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing)

1.0 Opportunity / Idea and Background

1.1 Chesterfield Borough Council has a role to play in regulating emissions to air from a range of pollution sources, enforcing the Clean Air Acts, influencing land use planning and supporting Derbyshire County Council in developing the Local Transport Plan. Chesterfield Borough Council also has a key role in implementing Local Air Quality Management.

2.0 Project Aims / Objectives

2.1 To identify existing plans and strategies in respect of air quality within the Borough.

2.2 To identify areas of concern within the Borough and the management plans in place.

2.3 To examine air quality around schools within the Borough and if any issues are identified, to suggest ways in which the schools can impact/mitigate against them.

3.0 Proposed / Expected Benefits

- 3.1 To identify any opportunities to improve the air quality in the Borough thus contributing to the Council's vision of a clean, green and attractive Borough, where our open spaces and built heritage are valued.

4.0 Timeline

- 4.1 The project started with a guidance meeting between the Democratic and Scrutiny Officer and Lead Member on 12 August 2019.
- 4.2 The Democratic and Scrutiny Officer attended an Air Quality Stakeholders meeting with Environmental Health Officers from both Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council 20 September, 2019.
- 4.3 A further guidance meeting between the Democratic and Scrutiny Officer and Lead Member took place on 22 October 2019.
- 4.4 The first meeting of the members of the Scrutiny Project Group took place on 31 October, 2019. Members discussed key areas of focus for the review and the need to speak to more stakeholders.
- 4.5 A further meeting took place with the Senior Environmental Health Officer and the group members on 28 January, 2020 where it was agreed that a member of the Public Health Team from Derbyshire County Council would be invited to the next meeting.
- 4.6 Planned meeting with Public Health 17 February, 2020 was cancelled due to pressures of the emerging Coronavirus.
- 4.7 A meeting with the Development Management and Conservation Manager and representatives of local Cycling groups 6 April, 2021 was cancelled due to COVID 19 pandemic.

5.0 Current Situation

- 5.1 The project has been on hold since April 2020 due to pressures on all involved parties caused by the impact of COVID-19. The key stakeholders that the group was keen to engage with included schools, Public Health officials, Environmental Health Officers and Highways Officers, all of whom are still dealing with changed

circumstances and increased workload due to easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

- 5.2 The impact of the pandemic also provides additional scope in terms of measuring air quality within the borough including;
- Data comparisons between the periods of lockdown versus 'normal' levels
 - How can the benefits that may have been achieved during the lockdowns be maintained?
 - Whether air pollution levels have now returned to their average pre-COVID.

6.0 Moving Forward

- 6.1 The Democratic and Scrutiny Officer and Lead Member are in agreement that the work of this group remains relevant and appropriate, contributes to the Council's Vision and complements the work undertaken by the Climate Change Working Group and its Climate Change Action Plan.
- 6.2 All stakeholders are, to some degree, still dealing with an increased workload and may not be ready to participate in the analysis at this time. In order to ensure that the maximum benefit is achieved and to draw meaningful conclusions, it may be necessary to extend the timescales of the working group.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Democratic and Scrutiny Officer contact all stakeholders to ascertain their position and current availability.
- 7.2 An update be provided to the next meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.