

## Appendix A

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### Public Protection Partnership Performance Update - Supporting Information

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#### 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Environment Act 1995 introduced a system of Local Air Quality Management which requires local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality within their areas. If monitoring indicates that levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are at or near specified levels, a detailed assessment must take place.
- 1.2 Monitoring that took place in 2012 and 2013 identified two areas in Wokingham Borough with slightly elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide. A Detailed Assessment of these areas was undertaken (this included modelling based on traffic data and taking into account known planning developments such as new Station Link Road) and identified a small number of properties within the vicinity of Tywford Crossroads and Wokingham Town Centre where the annual average nitrogen dioxide objective is likely to be exceeded. Monitoring in 2014, 2015 and 2016 has confirmed levels have continued to exceed the level of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> (with an annual average for Wokingham between 40 and 52 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and for Twyford between 43 and 54µg/m<sup>3</sup>).
- 1.3 The Council takes its responsibilities very seriously, and therefore declared two Air Quality Management Areas to ensure that we can monitor and seek to improve the situation. This ensured that we comply with legislation that required us to take appropriate action.

#### 2. Implications

- 2.1 Once the declaration was made the Council must prepare an Action Plan for each location, and this must be submitted to DEFRA within 12-18 months of declaring the AQMA. The action plan addresses how the Council will work towards reducing the levels of nitrogen dioxide within the AQMAs. In addition this should also ensure that decisions made by Wokingham Borough Council do not result in an increase in pollution levels in these areas.
- 2.2 This Action Plan is required to manage and reduce air quality in the identified area and will require multi-disciplinary input from a range of Council departments and stakeholders. The main reason for the air quality issues is from road transport so the Action Plan includes actions such as improved traffic signalling or infrastructure projects many of which are already in place or being looked into.
- 2.3 There are strong links between exposure to poor air quality and health impacts. Work with the Berkshire Public Health team has provided more

local data for inclusion within the Wokingham Borough Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Appendix C). Local measures to improve air quality will have a benefit to the health and well being of residents. There are co-benefits from measures within the plan such as encouraging active travel amongst residents.

- 2.4 There may be financial implications for the PPP Service in managing the action plan, implementing measures outlined and continuing to monitor the situation (increased costs to monitor real-time data in Twyford). This may also be an opportunity for Wokingham Borough Council in that it can strengthen the argument of need when applying for funding for projects (outlined in the plan).

### **3 Options Considered**

- 3.1 The legislation outlined above requires an action plan to be created in a prescriptive format, the only option is to create one or risk formal challenge. A number of options within the plan were considered alongside existing measures already in place within Wokingham Borough Council strategies.
- 3.2 At the initial public workshop everyone attending had an opportunity to make reasonable suggestions about tackling the issue of poor air quality within the two air quality management areas.
- 3.3 Whilst the wording was refined and some actions amalgamated overall the majority of these were included within the action plan which went out to public consultation. These are set out in Appendix B of this report (Chapter 7 of the Action Plan, a resume of the responses) and Chapter 8 outlines the reasons for not including options.
- 3.4 In addition some measures which were originally set out as area specific were moved to more generic measures, such as Residential Travel Planning

### **4 Options for Consideration by Joint Committee**

- 4.1 Agree the Air Quality Action Plan for Wokingham Town Centre and Twyford Crossroads.
- 4.2 Refuse the proposed Plan.
- 4.3 Amendment to the wording within the Plan by Wokingham BC members only and agree.

### **5 Proposals**

- 5.1 To agree the Air Quality Action Plan and PPP officers will then submit to DEFRA .

### **6 Conclusion**

6.1 The Environmental Quality Team will now work with colleagues within Wokingham Borough Council, Ward Members, Town Councils, local interest/business groups and local residents to improve air quality.

6.2 Reviews of the actions will be undertaken and a formal annual summary of progress will be included within the Annual Status Report which is submitted to DEFRA.

## **7 Consultation and Engagement**

7.1 Since developing the draft action plan we have held a number of internal officer meetings with representatives from:

- Environmental Health
- Public Health (WBC and Berkshire Teams)
- Highways and Transport (Transport Planning, Active Travel, Travel Planning, Street Works, Development Management, and Highway Assets Teams)
- Transport Policy
- Planning Policy Growth and Delivery
- Development Control
- Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration Management
- PR / Communications

7.2 External public consultation through the Wokingham Borough Council website took place from 15/06/2017 to 28/07/2017, 23 responses were provided and attached as appendix D, the comments where applicable have been included in the final document.

7.3 Further meetings with Transport Policy on 28/09/2017 and internal officer meeting on 13/11/2017, as well as 2 members on 13/11/2017, the Plan has also been shared with the Wokingham Borough Council Environment Leadership Team.

## Background Papers:

Air Quality Management Area (Twyford and Wokingham)  
National Air Quality Strategy – NO<sub>2</sub>  
Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2026) – Wokingham Borough Council

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## PPP Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Public Protection Partnership aims as stated in the Inter Authority Agreement:

- 1 – Community Protection
  - 2 – Protecting and Improving Health
  - 3 – Protection of the Environment
  - 4 – Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth
  - 5 – Effective and Improving Service Delivery
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## Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

**We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:**

*“(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:*

*(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*

*(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:*

*(i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;*

*(ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;*

*(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.*

*(2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.*

*(3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”*

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

<b>What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Committee to make:</b>	To approve the Air Quality Action Plan for Twyford Crossroads and Wokingham Town Centre
<b>Summary of relevant legislation:</b>	Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
<b>Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the partnerships key objectives?</b>	No
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Anna Smy
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	26/09/2017

<b>Is this a:</b>		<b>Is this:</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	No	<b>New or proposed</b>	Yes
<b>Strategy</b>	Yes	<b>Already exists and is being reviewed</b>	No
<b>Function</b>	No	<b>Is changing</b>	No
<b>Service</b>	No		

<b>1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?</b>	
<b>Aims:</b>	To set out how the PPP will work towards reducing levels of NO <sub>2</sub> within Twyford and Wokingham to meet legal limits.
<b>Objectives:</b>	To work with colleagues at Wokingham Borough Council on a number of measures to improve air quality in Twyford and Wokingham.
<b>Outcomes:</b>	Demonstrate reduction in NO <sub>2</sub> levels within the identified Air Quality Management Areas.

	Demonstrate these improvements have not had a detrimental effect on the air quality in nearby and adjacent areas as a result of the actions.
<b>Benefits:</b>	Improved air quality in both Twyford and Wokingham with improved public health and wellbeing to residents.

**2. Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.**  
 (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)

<b>Group Affected</b>	<b>What might be the effect?</b>	<b>Information to support this</b>
Age	Long term health implications of living with poor air quality	JSNA – Wokingham Public Health information
Disability	Long term health implications of living with poor air quality	JSNA – Wokingham Public Health information
Gender Reassignment	None	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	none	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Long term health implications of living with poor air quality	JSNA – Wokingham Public Health information
Race	None	
Religion or Belief	None	
Sex	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	

**Further Comments relating to the item:**

**3. Result**

<b>Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Please provide an explanation for your answer:</b> Measures outlined in the report are determined to reduce pollution levels in specific areas. If not monitored and evaluated effectively we could cause more issues elsewhere. There needs to be behavioural change alongside physical measures. Buisnesses may believe they are being affected by some of the proposals if say parking is impacted (reducing customer levels)	
<b>Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Please provide an explanation for your answer:</b> The template is designed to capture information and does not influence decision making.	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No – some individual measures will require their own equality impact assessment to be carried out
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	

Name: Anna Smy

Date:20/11/2017

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