

REPORT TO: Climate and Environment
Advisory Committee

28th January 2020

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Bill Handley

LEAD OFFICER: Jane Hunt

Air Quality Strategy

Executive Summary

1. Air Quality in South Cambridgeshire is good and we need it to stay that way for the health of our current and future residents. With our forecast levels of growth it is imperative that we take a strategic approach to considering air quality. This draft strategy outlines the current status, the national policy context, why this is important and how we work with our neighbours, our ambition and our 3 areas of focussed actions to ensure our air quality is maintained or improved.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the committee provides comment and observations on the draft strategy such that it can be developed for consideration at scrutiny and cabinet.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. This strategy underpins the priorities in the current Business Plan, largely under the 'Being Green to our Core' priority. The draft revised 2020-2024 plan contains actions:

Agree and deliver our strategy and actions needed to protect and improve the air quality of our district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and action plan revised by start of April 2020 • Air quality monitor in place to gather data at one new location by April 2020 • Complete a review of how and where we monitor air quality by end of September 2020
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Details

4. A previous draft strategy was discussed at CEAC in November 2018. This has been revised and updated to reflect the significant gains made in influencing planning policies and tools (particularly the Supplementary Planning Document). This strategy now also outlines actions we will take which invest the capital allocation of funds to support Air Quality.
5. The full draft strategy is included as Appendix A.

Implications

6. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Financial

7. This strategy and its planned actions are funded by existing officer posts, a new officer post agreed in 2018 (currently being recruited) and capital funds previously allocated.

Consultation responses

8. Discussion on the aims and content of this strategy have been held with Cambridge City Council; the Air Quality lead is supportive of SCDC developing its own complementary strategy and we will continue to work together to support air quality improvements across our geographies. As there are differences in the extent and nature of air quality issues across the councils, and the City has recently developed its own strategy and is developing an action plan focussed on its Air Quality Management Area, it is not appropriate to develop a shared strategy.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

9. See paragraph 3.

Appendices

Appendix A: SCDC Air Quality Strategy 2020 draft at 23 Jan 2020

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