

<b>13 October 2015</b>		<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Regeneration, Air Quality and Health</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Maria Payne, Health Needs Assessment Manager		
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Ian Wake, Director of Public Health		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning / Ian Wake, Director of Public Health		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

### **Executive Summary**

A report by Dr Cate Edwynn, Interim Public Health Consultant, was presented to this committee on 17 February 2015 which summarised the evidence regarding health impacts of air pollution. This report provides an update on the subsequent actions taken by Thurrock Council, including the commissioning of an integrated Air Quality Strategy for the borough.

#### **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress made from the previous report in developing an integrated approach to improving air quality to mitigate health risks.**
- 1.2 The Air Quality Officers' Working Group presents the completed Air Quality Strategy to a future meeting in 2016, together with a proposed action plan.**

#### **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 A report previously presented to this committee on 17 February 2015 outlined the multiple sources and types of air pollution, and the associated acute and chronic health effects from exposure to air pollution. The committee subsequently supported the establishment of a cross-directorate Officers' Working Group with responsibility for identifying integrated actions and approaches to minimise the impact of air pollution on Thurrock's health and wellbeing.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 An Officers' Working Group has been established, and its membership includes officers from a range of disciplines including Planning, Public Health, Transport and Environment officers. The Group has discussed several opportunities to lower exposure to air pollution as well as reduce emissions; however resources and expertise were not available in-house to fully evaluate which options would be most effective in Thurrock.
- 3.2 A decision was taken to appoint SmallFish Strategy Consultants to develop an integrated Air Quality Strategy. SmallFish were selected due to their previous experience in developing air quality management plans for Thurrock Council and their extensive knowledge of the area.
- 3.3 The Strategy will be delivered in three sections:
- An Air Quality Evidence Base – this will incorporate local data and intelligence to improve understanding of the causes and extent of air quality issues in Thurrock.
  - An Issues and Options report – this will address the key issues highlighted in the Evidence Base, identifying a list of potential options or interventions that could be used to improve air quality and related health. Each of these interventions will be assessed through a cost-benefit analysis in order to help prioritise measures.
  - An Air Quality Strategy – this will be an expression of the preferred/ prioritised measures from the Issues and Options report, with an action plan and monitoring programme for realising the expected benefits.
- 3.4 The Air Quality Evidence Base has been completed in draft, and was produced in conjunction with Thurrock Council officers. It includes a detailed analysis of the most recent air quality monitoring data and modelling of other potential contributory factors. This is presented alongside analysis of numerous health data indicators which enable identification of communities who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of poor air quality, such as those with respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.
- 3.5 SmallFish Consultants are currently in the process of producing the Issues and Options report. The Officers' Working Group is working with SmallFish to ensure the agreed potential options are effective and achievable.
- 3.6 The deadline for completion of the Strategy is January 2016.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The committee is advised to note the process in place for mitigating the health impacts of air pollution in Thurrock and approve presentation of the Strategy at a future meeting to enable further discussion regarding the proposed action plan.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 A report on Air Quality and Health was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015. This was received favourably by members.
- 5.2 A presentation outlining the evidence of health impacts of air pollution, the key drivers for Thurrock and the proposed approach for an integrated strategy and Officers' Working Group was presented to the Health Watch Advisory Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. Interest in this approach was noted by members.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 6.1 The development of an integrated Air Quality Strategy and continued work of the Officers' Working Group will support the delivery of two of the Council's priorities:
- Improve health and well-being
  - Promote and protect our clean and green environment

#### **7. Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**  
**Strategic Resources Accountant**

There are no direct financial costs arising from this report. Costs associated with monitoring of air quality must be contained within the associated revenue budget for Environmental Protection.

##### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering**  
**Principal Solicitor**

There are no legal implications – the previous report acknowledges the duties imposed upon local authorities by statute and that measures are being taken

to address Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Thurrock. Furthermore, the report is for noting only.

### 7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Officer**

The introduction of measures to reduce air pollution will help to improve the health and wellbeing of some of the more vulnerable members of the local community, including those suffering from health conditions affecting the respiratory system or those with cardiovascular disease.

The implementation and ongoing monitoring of an integrated Air Quality Strategy will help to tackle existing air quality problems, particularly reducing the health impacts for people living and working in and around Air Quality Management Areas.

The Council will have due regard to the Equality Act 2010 when there are any major proposed actions or schemes for the reduction of air pollution in Thurrock.

### 7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

The benefit of this integrated approach to reduce air pollution is the topic of this report.

### 8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

### 9. **Appendices to the report**

- "Air Quality, Regeneration and Health" – A report to Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 February 2015.

### **Report Author:**

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