

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board

Date: 23rd May 2017

Subject: Improving Air Quality in Leeds – draft Scrutiny report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Introduction

1. At the beginning of the municipal year, the then-Director of Environment and Housing and the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability raised the need to improve air quality as a key local priority for the Council and one which would benefit from further Scrutiny by the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board.
2. In agreeing to undertake an inquiry into this matter, the Board also acknowledged the cross-cutting nature of this area of work and therefore extended invitations to the City Development and Adult Social Services, Public Health and NHS Scrutiny Boards to contribute to this inquiry too.
3. The terms of reference for this inquiry were formally agreed by the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board in September 2016. In accordance with these, a number of evidence gathering sessions were held, most of which were undertaken as working group meetings to provide greater flexibility in accommodating a wide range of contributors to the inquiry. All Scrutiny Board members were invited to attend each working group meeting, including those representing the other two contributing Scrutiny Boards. The last evidence gathering session took place on 15th March 2017.
4. The Scrutiny Board is now in a position to report on its findings. However, in doing so, the Board remains mindful of the complexities surrounding this matter and also the on-going need to respond appropriately to evolving national policies associated with air quality. Linked to this, the Board acknowledges the recent publication and consultation surrounding the draft UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide ([Link to the UK Air Quality Plan - May 2017](#)). The Board also notes the recent publication by Defra of

the Clean Air Zone Framework, setting out principles for setting up Clean Air Zones in England ([Link to the CAZ Framework - May 2017](#)). Due to the timing of their publication, both documents have not formed part of the evidence base within the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry this year.

5. In recognition of the significant amount of work that is still required both locally and nationally, the Board's report is reflective of the preliminary findings of Scrutiny, based on evidence considered within a specific timeframe. As such, the Board advocates on-going Scrutiny involvement in this area of work by successor Scrutiny Boards and has set out within its report what further considerations are needed in moving forward and establishing appropriate local solutions for improving air quality in Leeds.
6. The Board's draft report will follow and be made available in readiness for today's meeting when Board Members will be asked to formally consider and agree its report.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its recent inquiry into improving air quality in Leeds.

Background documents¹

8. None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.