

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Head of Public Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	21 st May 2019	
Title	AIR QUALITY MONITORING		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current work that officers are undertaking with County Council to determine the impacts on local air quality from the proposed highway improvement works at the Bowling Green Rd/London Road/St Mary's Road junction.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 As has been previously reported to Members, local authorities are required to review and assess air quality on a regular basis and compare the results to national air quality objectives. We currently measure nitrogen dioxide across the Borough. Raised levels of nitrogen dioxide are considered to be a contributory factor in respiratory ill health. Monitoring at Bowling Green Rd/London Road/St Mary's Road junction has the highest level of nitrogen dioxide recorded in the Borough.
- 2.2 There are two factors which are likely to account for this, firstly the volume of traffic and associated congestion at the junction and also the proximity of housing to the road.
- 2.3 The County Council has proposed to undertake junction improvement works to alleviate the congestion at the junction. We have been working with them to determine, in advance of any work, future traffic flows and likely impact of these traffic flow changes on air quality both at the junction and in the nearer vicinity. It is important to be assured that we are improving air quality in general and not just displacing the existing issue.
- 2.4 On site surveys will need to be undertaken, this information will be assessed, and we are planning to be able to report the findings later in the year. When we have these results we would like to report back to this Committee.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 Air pollution potentially impacts on and is contributed by all residents, and businesses in the Borough. Widespread engagement will be essential in improving air quality.

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3.2 Research has shown that new technologies can make a big contribution to reducing the scale of the impact of air pollution but these improvements can be offset by the growth in traffic.

3.3 In the Borough with our growing population traffic is likely to increase. Considering nationally two thirds of journeys are under 5 miles, and Kettering is likely to mirror the national trend.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The need to reduce air pollution and improve health falls under the Council's obligations under the Public Health Indicator Framework (PHOF). The monitoring and modelling work being undertaken will help to ensure that traffic management is effective. Any improvements to air pollution will also improve health.

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The additional monitoring and modelling work will be funded from existing budgets and section 106 monies, however, any future resource implications can only be assessed when any modelling work is completed.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no implications for human resources.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 We are legally required to declare an AQMA if air pollution has exceeded the limit set in legislation, or is likely to.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report, and the progress being made.

Background Papers: None
Title
Date
Contact Officer