

## WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

SALISBURY AREA BOARD  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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### **SALISBURY'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1. To receive an update from the Salisbury Air Quality Management Group.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Local authorities have a duty to monitor air quality within their areas having regard to national air quality objectives and standards and report this information to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on an annual basis. There are seven pollutants which we are required to consider under European and UK Law, these include lead, benzene and sulphur dioxide. Air quality in Wiltshire is predominantly good with the majority of the county having clean, unpolluted air. There are however a small number of locations (including Salisbury) where the combination of traffic, road layout and geography has resulted in exceedences of the annual average for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and fine particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>).
- 2.2 Community involvement in air quality has been key to producing the Wiltshire Air Quality Action Plan. As part of this process Area Boards with an air quality management area have been tasked through whatever means they feel suitable to produce a plan of actions to help with the improvement of air quality in their area which is community lead. The plans form part of the Wiltshire wide air quality action plan. The community action plans and projects are continuously evolving; therefore each group has their own page to detail their work. - See more at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/env-health-air-quality#sthash.kyDF5kS9.dpuf>
- 2.3 In Salisbury, Wilton Road, Devizes Road and London Road are each the subject of an air quality management area.

#### **3. Progress update**

3.1. At the meeting in September, the main issues discussed were:

- a) The group's rolling action plan (**see attached**). The plan includes some practical short term aims and projects, including tree planting, the development of a mobile phone App to indicate poor air quality hot spots in the city, further development of the co-car initiative, promoting walking and cycling opportunities, and much longer term aims which are reliant upon the refresh of other plans such as the Salisbury Transport Strategy,

Wiltshire Core Strategy and the development of Salisbury's neighbourhood plan

- b) We noted that the Salisbury Transport Strategy will be reviewed and updated in the coming months.
- c) We expressed a request to develop a strategy for tree planting in Salisbury. Trees have been planted in the past, some of which are growing well. This will be debated at the next meeting in January 2018.
- d) The BID is planning an incentivised offer to encourage more businesses to use the Co-Car scheme.
- e) Proposals were being developed for new electric buses for the city
- f) We expressed concern about how planning decisions for new residential developments, despite being open to representations, nonetheless often appeared not to pay heed to the local community's desire for improved connectivity between existing and new sites, i.e. cycle routes, pedestrian routes. We reasserted our previous request for more effective master-planning and neighbourhood planning for Salisbury.
- g) We are keen to establish clarity and exercise influence regarding a green infrastructure strategy/policy for Salisbury, believing that this would have many benefits for air quality in the area.
- h) We have in the past discussed the links between poor air quality and local mortality rates. A London authority was developing a tool that would help to extrapolate such data so that a meaningful response could be made. We will discuss this at one of our future meetings, to see if the tool might be adapted for use in Salisbury.
- i) We also began to discuss what the group's policy might be on use of S106 funds from local development sites which are directly related to mitigating the negative impact on air quality from those developments. Currently we have just over £1400 available from the Wilton Rd, Old Manor Hospital development site. The area board will be asked to agree this policy in due course.
- j) We looked at an initiative proving successful in a number of other countries – "Cyclovia", where parts of routes in cities were closed to vehicular traffic on a certain day or half day, whether once a year or more often to promote and facilitate alternative ways of enjoying the city and to reduce reliance upon cars. The group agreed it was worth investigating in more detail how this might be implemented in Salisbury.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 That the board notes this progress update.