

Item No.5 - Public Participation and Councillors Questions

Questions from Mrs Wilmot, Salisbury, and responses from Head of Public Protection (Food & Environment), John Carter.

- 1) When the Air Quality Strategy says that, for Salisbury, 'the majority of locations show a reduction in levels' (p.19) - could there be an explanation as to what is being compared here? (it is clearly not 2010 versus 2009).

Air quality is monitored at a number of locations around Salisbury city centre. Monitoring is carried out using both automatic real time equipment and diffusion tubes. The reduction mentioned in the strategy document refers to an overall trend reduction since peak levels were recorded in 2006. It is acknowledged that the 2010 levels have increased on the 2009 figures, but it is important to look at longer term trends in air quality as this approach can take better account of variations in weather conditions and traffic levels from year to year.

- 2) Should Salisbury be categorised as a 'success' in Air Quality terms when most of the measured locations in the city are still in excess of allowable nitrogen dioxide levels?

The long term downward trend in pollution can be seen as a success. However this is a fragile situation, and is highly dependent the amount, flow and distribution of traffic in the city, and the meteorological conditions throughout each year.

- 3) Is there any intention to implement the Salisbury Transport Plan 1 (STP1) measures outlined above (removal of city centre parking spaces and extension of city centre pedestrian area) in order to help meet Air Quality objectives?

The implementation of the measures included in the STP1 to improve air quality are largely reliant on the planning process which is used to deliver them. These processes involve an element of public involvement and they cannot be achieved without community engagement and support.