

Westbury Area Board – 7 June 2018

Minute 7/12 April 2018 – Air Quality - Update

The Area Board received an update report from the Head of Public Protection about air quality in Westbury and how this is monitored, following a request from a ward Councillor.

Members noted that concerns had been raised about the recent increase in the use of wood burners and how this could be contributing towards reduced air quality. Reference was also made about the need to monitor fine particulate matter below 2.5 microns as this has been implicated under new research to have an impact on bad health.

The report confirmed that there was no evidence to support this theory. It was noted that the main contributor towards poor air quality in Westbury remained road traffic emissions along the A350 and this would only be alleviated following the construction of a bypass around Westbury.

Resolved: The report on air quality in Westbury be noted and the Head of Public Protection to confirm if particulate matter below 2.5 microns is monitored.

Response from Head of Public Protection

The council has not monitored PM2.5 under the Local Air Quality Monitoring regime in the Westbury area. However, we are proposing to install an indicative particulate monitor in the area shortly to assess background levels.

Additional questions and answers:

- The cost of installing the particulate monitor and the monitoring itself;
Response: The council has previously purchased a monitor, so costs will be limited to officer time for installation and analysis.
- The location that the monitor will be installed;
Response: The specific location has not yet been determined, but it will be to the north east of the proposed location.
- When the monitoring equipment will be installed and for how long;
Response: The installation date will be in June 2018, for a period of 1 month to provide background levels.
- How many monitors will be installed – I guess it will be one as your email states ‘an indicative particulate monitor’.
Response: Two. Diffusion tubes will monitor NO2 and a particulate monitor.