

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

SALISBURY AREA BOARD 24th January 2019

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 (NO₂) and fine particulates (PM₁₀).
- 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, the city centre, Wilton Road (including part of Devizes Rd) and London Road are each the subject of an air quality management area.

3. Progress update

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

- a) Plans for a new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire (**see attached slides**), the main objectives being to influence a cultural shift into more multifunctional and stronger joint working, providing a high level framework, setting the scene and enforcing standards in the delivery of all other detailed plans, e.g. transport plans, neighbourhood plans, public health and wellbeing plans, local plans etc. The timetable for the agreement of the plan has yet to

be agreed but will be during 2019. Ahead of that will be the publication of a preliminary Design Guide to be released for public consultation in February 2019. This guide is intended to be agreed as supplementary planning guidance and therefore be sufficiently influential to ensure developers pay heed to its aims and objectives. The hope also is that a new supplementary planning guidance on air quality will be agreed. The group would like a local event to be organised, inviting representatives from neighbouring community areas once the Design Guide is confirmed to talk about how this will influence Salisbury's new Neighbourhood Plan.

- b) The group discussed its plan for the 24th January themed event aspect of the Salisbury Area Board meeting, when the community will be invited to discuss the issue of air pollution, asked for suggestions on how to enhance the local action plan and asked for new members of the community to get involved in this work.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That the board notes this progress update.

4.2 That the Community Engagement Manager organise an event in partnership with Salisbury City Council, following publication of Wiltshire Council's new Design Guide for the community (including representatives from neighbouring community areas) to discuss how the Design Guide will influence the Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan.