

# **“Air quality and Transport Strategy” – An outline proposal**

**Devizes Area Board, Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013**

## **Aim:**

To seek the agreement of Devizes area board to introduce new arrangements to help take forward the community air quality action plan and the Devizes Transport Strategy

## **Background Information:**

- At the end of 2012, a new Transport Strategy for Devizes was agreed. Its purpose was to demonstrate how the implications for transport as a consequence of proposals within the Core Strategy could be managed and any negative consequences mitigated. A key driver for the strategy is to reduce vehicle emissions in order to help generate a sustainable and healthy community. In early 2013, a task and finish group was set up to look at how some of the actions within the strategy could be achieved in the short and medium term.
- Alongside the Transport Strategy Task and Finish Group, the area board agreed to the setting up of the Devizes Air Quality Steering Group. Its objective was to work together with the common goal of seeking to improve the air quality in Devizes. This is through behavioural, strategic and infrastructural change to ensure that the levels of pollution are in line with national air quality objectives and that this work supports the principles of sustainable development. The key output for this group is a community air quality action plan
- The work of the task and finish group has completed the first phase and new arrangements are appropriate to continue delivering the strategy.
- The air quality steering group is currently chaired by Mandy Bradley who is the service director for public protection as well as the service director assigned to Devizes area board. However Mandy will shortly be leaving Wiltshire Council which necessitates at least some change in arrangement
- As well as the overlapping objectives of each group there is considerable overlap with the membership and some confusion over governance arrangements

**Proposal:**

- One new group to be set up to replace the Transport Strategy Task and Finish Group and the Air Quality Steering Group
- The objective will be to oversee and monitor the community air quality action plan as well as to deliver the Transport Strategy making recommendations to the area board when required
- It will be chaired by a Unitary Member of the Devizes area board who should be elected at this meeting (Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013) and be responsible for setting up the new group.
- Initial membership of the new group will include representatives of all those groups that are currently represented on the Task & Finish Group and the AQMG, together with Wiltshire Council officers as appropriate . The new group will be able to review membership (either of a permanent or temporary nature) as appropriate
- It will report directly to the area board and require it's approval for any recommendations it makes.
- It will build upon the existing work of the task and finish group as well as the air quality steering group
- These arrangements will come into place immediately. However the terms of reference for this group including membership will be brought to the area board at its meeting on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> for approval.

**Implications:**

- This proposal should have the following advantages:
  - I. Less resource intensive
  - II. Ensure that both agendas are fully joined up
  - III. Simplified governance arrangements

**Recommendation**

- That the proposal outlined in this report is adopted

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**Richard Rogers, Community Area Manager**