



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
21 June 2018  
Agenda Item 6

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected:N/A

## **Monitoring of Air Quality - Response from the West Sussex Director of Public Health**

### **Report by the Director for Digital and Resources**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This report provides the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with the detail of the response from the West Sussex Director of Public Health to the request from the Executive Members for Health & Wellbeing (Adur) and Environment (Worthing), seeking appropriate resources to help the Councils tackle the public health problems associated with poor air quality.

##### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the response from the West Sussex Director of Public Health be noted.

### **3. Context**

3.1 At the meeting of JOSC on 15 February 2018, JOSC received a report which provided the Committee with information on the responsibilities of the Councils for local air quality management , working in partnership with a range of other agencies and bodies and the outputs of the processes. As part of the consideration of the item, JOSC requested that the relevant Executive Members write to the Director of Public Health for West Sussex seeking appropriate resources to help the Councils tackle the public health issues associated with poor air quality.

3.2 The Executive Members for Environment (Worthing) and Health and Wellbeing (Adur) wrote to the Director of Public Health on 21 March and her response was received on 19 May 2018. A copy of the response from the Director of Public Health is attached as Appendix A to the report.

3.3 The letter from the Director of Public Health confirmed that West Sussex County Council is committed to working with the Council's partners to achieve sustainable solutions to improving air quality across West Sussex and improving the health and wellbeing for all the residents of West Sussex. The letter also confirmed that the County Council is working across the key areas - traffic management, street design, low emissions policies, planning policies, promotion of active travel, parking policy and management and public transport. Improving air quality would require an incremental approach across a wide range of key areas. The County Council are working across those areas to raise awareness with a particular focus on interventions that would bring co-benefits to health. A number of the interventions were highlighted in the response. The County Council indicated that it was committed to raising the awareness of air quality issues and would be working together with the District and Borough Councils to improve health and wellbeing for the residents of West Sussex. The response also advised on other co-ordinated work which the County Council was working on, including work with Sussex-air such as 'air alert'.

3.4 The County Council is in the process of finalising its Air Quality Strategy and at the time of writing the final copy was being awaited. As mentioned in the letter, the County Council held a Members half-day dedicated to Air Quality in April. This was attended by County Councillors across West Sussex and included presentations by Sussex air, West Sussex Highways, West Sussex Public Health and a local perspective from Chichester District Council.

3.5 Locally West Sussex Public Health have been invited to attend the next meeting of the Adur & Worthing Air Quality Action Planning group in June. Officers are also

actively engaged with them through Sussex-air and are currently working on a small schools intervention programme funded by Defra.

#### **4. Engagement and Communication**

4.1 The JOSCS Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen have been consulted on this report and also the Director for Communities and other Officers have also been consulted.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications to consider as part of this report.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Councils have the powers to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.

6.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a Local Authority to do anything that individuals generally may do (subject to any current restrictions or limitations prescribed in existing legislation).

6.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### **Background Papers**

None.

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

No direct impact on economic development but improved air quality can lead to improved economic development.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

Matter considered and no issues identified.

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Councillor David Simmons and  
Councillor Diane Guest  
Adur & Worthing Councils

9 May 2018

Dear Councillor Simmons and Councillor Diane Guest

Thank you for your letter in relation to Air Quality in Adur and Worthing. West Sussex County Council is committed to working with our partners to achieve sustainable solutions to improving air quality across West Sussex and improving the health and wellbeing for all the residents of West Sussex.

Improving air quality requires an approach across a range of key areas: traffic management, street design, low emissions policies, planning policies, promotion of active travel, parking policy and management, public transport. Improving air quality will require an incremental approach across a wide range of key areas. As a council we are working across these areas to raise awareness in relation to the agenda, with a particular focus on interventions that bring co-benefits to health so we can see the biggest gains achieved such as:

- The WSCC Walking and Cycling Strategy aims to encourage more active travel, both for utility and leisure use. The recent additional funding to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans in district and boroughs will identify further actions that can be taken and WSCC are core partners in this work. The Public Health Department attends the Arun and Worthing Cycling and Walking Strategy Group.
- WSCC has recently received additional funding from Department for Transport Bikeability which will increase the number of children who will be able to access this cycle training. The Level 1 and 2 training is designed to ensure children gain practical skills and understanding of how to cycle on today's roads. This aims to encourage behaviour change from an early age.
- Living Streets are delivering projects across the county to encourage walking to schools and work places, and are piloting a "Crumbs Trail" using technology to encourage walking through a combination of a treasure hunt and a local history quiz.
- Public Health physical activity campaigns through "One You" provide tools that support walking, such as their Active Ten app, which is ideal for shorter journeys.
- Air Alert, a service that sends free messages directly to vulnerable people informing them about air pollution in their area.

To achieve sustained incremental improvements we need to assess the supporting evidence/interventions and provide a practical framework and plan for local authorities and the numerous stakeholders to engage with. The County Council

has undertaken a gap analysis for West Sussex against the National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidelines for Air pollution: Outdoor air quality and health; this work and the findings are underpinning the county wide- strategy that is currently being developed with the expected completion date of early summer. We had an initial consultation with our partners in the District and Borough Councils, and they will have further opportunity to input into the plan. In addition a public health needs assessment is underway to support the plan.

As a County Council we support the Sussex Air Partnership. The role of this partnership is to provide a forum to share technical expertise, to assist in providing a coordinated approach to deal with air quality issues, to respond to consultations on behalf of members as and when required and to strive to improve air quality. In addition on the 25<sup>th</sup> April we have members half day dedicated to air quality to raise awareness and discuss the issues.

Thank you for the invitation to attend your meeting on air quality unfortunately due to a previous commitment I am unable to attend; however I understand that the sources of air pollution are complex and recognise above all else that a whole system approach involving all key partners is required, the meeting will be well attended by a number of officers from West Sussex County Council who will provide me with comprehensive feedback.

WSSCC will look forwards to working together with the District and Borough councils to improve health and wellbeing for residents of West Sussex.

Yours sincerely



Anna Raleigh  
Director of Public Health