



The impact of poor air quality on health in Birmingham

Health, Wellbeing & the Environment and Economy, Skills and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committees

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Key question:	Is there an evidential link between poor air quality and poor health, what are the main controllable sources of this in Birmingham, and what can be done to improve air quality with a view to improving health outcomes in Birmingham?



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Key lines of enquiry:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What evidence is there about air quality, emission sources, and levels of air pollution in Birmingham or in specific pollution hotspots? • How do these rates compare to other comparable major cities in the UK and Europe? • What are the main types of air pollution that affect people's health, where do they come from, what is that health impact, and who is most likely to suffer the effects? • Are there any trends which can be identified in relation to air quality and public health in the city? • For each air pollution related health problem, what is the likely nature and scale of impact on the City's health care system, and what are the likely social and economic costs of this? • Birmingham has been ordered by the Government to impose charges in 'clean air zones' to cut pollution. What types of vehicle, driving mode, location and fuel system most contribute to the health impacts of road traffic, and what would be the most effective ways of implementing and operating a 'clean air zone' so as to minimise these burdens? • What are the potential barriers to clean air zones being implemented widely in the city? • Are there other measures which can be taken such as for example the planting of urban trees to absorb airborne pollutants and improve air quality and are there any plans in relation to these?
Anticipated outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear understanding of the impact of poor air quality on people's health in Birmingham and the main sources of emissions causing this problem; and a set of recommendations that will support the widespread implementation of ways to improve air quality and reduce associated morbidity and mortality in the city.
Key witnesses to include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Phillips, Birmingham Director of Public Health (links between poor air quality and public health implications, evidence from air quality team) • Public Health England (Air quality steering group) • Professor John Thornes, University of Birmingham (re work on levels of pollution at New Street Station and elsewhere in city who advocates installing permanent monitoring system) • Asthma UK • Dr Christopher Chiswell, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Birmingham Children's Hospital (banning smoking from streets adjacent to BCH, interested to hear about how will this be enforced.) • Representative from Primary Care • Representative from Hospital Trust (Re hospital admissions for asthma/COPD etc) • Respiratory consultant • Jackie Homan, BCC Sustainability and Climate Change Manager, (Reducing CO2 emissions, Green Commission work on Carbon Roadmap and implementation plan, Green City Vision) • Anne Shaw, BCC AD Transport and Connectivity • Transport West Midlands



Background information to include:	Air pollution in the UK 2015, DEFRA September 2016	
Inquiry Plan:	Nov 2016 17 Jan 2017 Jan/Feb 2017 Feb 2017 Mar 2017 4 April 2017	TOR agreed Evidence gathering Report drafting Report agreed by Committee Members Report to Cabinet, 8 Day Rule Final Report submitted to City Council