

	<u>Agenda Item: 7</u>
Report to:	BIRMINGHAM HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD
Date:	18th June 2019
TITLE:	AIR QUALITY UPDATE REPORT
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Duncan Vernon , Acting Assistant Director Public Health

Report Type:	Discussion
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1. Purpose:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the recent Clean Air Strategy consultation and priority areas to improve air quality in the city.

2. Implications:

BHWB Strategy Priorities	Health Inequalities	✓
	Childhood Obesity	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		
Joint Commissioning and Service Integration		
Maximising transfer of Public Health functions		
Financial		
Patient and Public Involvement		
Early Intervention		
Prevention		✓
Homelessness		

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note:

- Current action to improve air quality in the city and set the strategic direction

3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to discuss:

- The priority areas set out in the draft Clean Air Strategy, and opportunities to connect with and enhance the actions taken by other organisations to improve air quality

4. Background

Air quality and health

4.1 There are several types of pollutant in outdoor air, but because of their concentration in the air in Birmingham and known harm to health, the two most important locally are Nitrogen Dioxide and fine particulate matter.

- **Particulate matter (PM)** is made of tiny particles in the air that can be breathed in. Smaller particles go through the lungs and into the blood stream.
- **Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)** is a gas that is created during combustion. In higher concentrations it can enflame the lungs.

4.2 In Birmingham, it has been estimated that air pollution contributes to 900 deaths, where an individual has died earlier than they would have if there was no man-made air pollution.

4.3 Children are particularly at risk of harm, and evidence shows how air pollution is linked to infant deaths, low birth weight births, the development and exacerbation of asthma as well as delayed mental and physical development.

4.4 In adulthood, air pollution can increase the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke and lung cancer, and there is developing evidence linking it to COPD, diabetes and dementia.

4.5 In Birmingham, some of the areas with the poorest air quality close to and around the city centre are also some of the more deprived. In this way, poor air quality contributes towards health inequalities in Birmingham.

Birmingham City Council Response and Clean Air Strategy

4.6 The BrumBreathes air quality programme is the overarching Council programme

to direct air quality interventions with the aim being to deliver health improvements to citizens, workers and visitors to Birmingham, all within the context of sustainable growth. A specific project within the AQ Policy Environment sub-programme is that of the Clean Air Strategy.

4.7 The purpose of the Clean Air Strategy is to overarch all clean air related workstreams across all City Council Directorates to ensure air quality considerations are contained within decision making processes, and to provide a roadmap to deliver cleaner air across all communities in Birmingham to and ultimately beyond 2030. In terms of timeline this aligns with the Government's national Clean Air Strategy.

4.8 An important aspect of the Clean Air Strategy is that of partnership working. The desire is to have a Strategy which is owned by the City of Birmingham as opposed to Birmingham City Council, although we will likely have a strong leadership role to play.

4.9 The Clean Air Strategy was consulted on between February and April 2019 and is attached to this report, alongside the presentation from the Public Health Green Paper consultation on air quality, to give further background.

5. Discussion

5.1 The Clean Air Strategy for the City of Birmingham outlines broad priorities for the city and from these develop a series of pledges. The priorities are

1. A reduction in the number of dirty journeys by reducing the most polluting vehicles whilst improving the infrastructure for electric and low emission vehicles to support cleaner vehicle journeys
2. Improving the wider transport network to support smoother and faster journeys, whilst increasing the range of cleaner and environmentally/health-friendly journey options available to travellers e.g. cycling networks, walking schemes
3. Continuing to invest in our public transport network to produce services which the city can be proud of and which encourage more people to shift from private vehicle journeys
4. Ensuring that reducing emissions and exposure to air pollution are key considerations for decision making when planning development of buildings and public space
5. Embedding behaviour change as a golden thread that runs through and supports all of our conversations with residents of Birmingham, As we make physical changes to the infrastructure and transport of the city to make it easier to travel in ways that don't contribute to poor air quality, it is important that we support citizens to respond.
6. Building support for the agenda at a local, regional and national level.

6. Future development

6.1 The University of Birmingham are currently analysing responses over the summer. Following this, the necessary amendments will be made to the Clean Air Strategy and it will be put to Cabinet with an action plan.

7. Compliance Issues

7.1 Strategy Implications

The Clean Air Strategy and resulting action plan will impact on the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priority around health inequalities.

7.2 Homelessness Implications: - Report authors must note in this policy section, any positive or negative implications of the recommendations for homelessness in the City, in relation to meeting the requirements of the Homelessness Prevention Strategy.

No direct impacts on homelessness prevention, although the city centre has a large population of rough sleepers in areas of poor air quality.

7.3 Governance & Delivery

The final strategy will be put to Cabinet for approval and then resulting action plan likely overseen under the existing Brum Breathes programme.

7.4 Management Responsibility

Management responsibility for the Clean Air Strategy is Environmental Health, within the Brum Breathes governance framework.

7.5 Diversity & Inclusion

Previous research in Birmingham has identified that BAME groups in the city are exposed to poorer air quality.

Small audits of patient experience of air pollution at UHB have highlighted that some people with long term respiratory conditions avoid the city centre due to high pollution levels.

Signatures

Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board (Councillor Paulette Hamilton)	
Date:	