

**A REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND ECONOMY,  
SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES  
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017  
THE IMPACT OF POOR AIR QUALITY ON HEALTH  
EXECUTIVE COMMENTARY**

We would like to thank the members of both Health and Social Care and Economy and the Skills and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this report and the recommendations set out, which clearly set out the health implications of poor air quality.

In Birmingham alone analysis suggests that air pollution is responsible for around 900 premature deaths every year and affects the health of our most vulnerable people, resulting in reduced life outcomes for people of all ages. Air pollution has a cradle to grave impact and action to improve air quality will contribute to improving the life journey of many of our children and citizens.

This report successfully describes how poor air quality affects the health and wellbeing of all who live in Birmingham. It rightly draws attention to the impact of poor air quality on early death but it helpfully shows that the effects of poor air pollution can be seen in all ages – from the unborn child to those who are more senior.

The principle cause of poor air quality is now the internal combustion engine, especially those fuelled by diesel. The report has taken into account the recently published document from Government “UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations” which contains important guidance and directions relating to compliance in this area. The City Council did respond to the draft report and made several observations on how the report could be improved; and the need for appropriate levels of funding available to local authorities to develop and implement innovative local strategies set out in the draft Plan.

Poor air quality is a cross cutting issue which is clearly set out in the report and in the recommendations which are distributed across portfolios and regulatory functions. There is so much that needs to be done collectively with our partners, businesses and across the wider West Midlands with the West Midlands Combined Authority and the West Midlands Mayor who has spoken on this issue a number of times.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton  
Cabinet Member Health and Social Care