

Air Quality Steering Group Minutes – Meeting 1

16th March 2016 at 14:30

Winchester City Council Offices

Present:

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|------------------------|--|
| • Cllr Frank Pearson | WCC Portfolio Holder |
| • Cllr Dominic Hiscock | WCC Ward Cllr |
| • Chris Holloway | WinACC |
| • Dan Massey | WCC Strategic Transport |
| • Hannah Baker | HCC Strategic Highways |
| • Phil Tidridge | WCC Scientific Officer Environmental Health |
| • David Ingram | WCC Head of Environmental Health and Licensing (Chair) |

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Current Position

Phil gave an overview of the current position with regards air quality (PM10 and NOx), in Winchester.

- Confirmed that whilst we have 'Undeclared' on PM10's with DEFRA, it should be noted that recent trend analysis shows that PM10's are rising, probably due to an increase in the use of diesels;
- NOx stubbornly remains above the 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ annual mean;
- In some areas this level has been monitored as high as 70 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ annual mean, leading the Bureau Veritas report to conclude that in three areas namely, Romsey Road, Chesil Street and St Georges Street the hourly mean is likely to be exceeded.
- Whilst St Georges Street already benefits from a static monitoring station, this has raised questions as to the need to undertake accurate static monitoring in the predicted worst of the remaining two locations i.e. Chesil Street.

3. Terms of Reference

The group then discussed the proposed Terms of Reference for agreement, with suggested amendments in blue. The proposed Terms of Reference are that the Air Quality Steering Group is to:

Review and update the current 2006 Winchester City Air Quality Action Plan, and present the updated plan for cabinet approval by the end of 2016. In order to achieve this, the group will:

- a) **Assess the findings of the October 2015 Bureau Veritas Report and determine what additional data sets / monitoring standards are required to best inform the Steering Group on air quality measures going forward.**
- b) **Assess the current government guidance on air quality and Low Emission Strategies.**

Cllr Pearson wanted this to include a reference to the RCPH document on the health effects of poor internal air quality. This was discussed and it was agreed that whilst poor internal air quality was a parallel consideration, its control was contingent on various internal domestic factors, such as central heating and cooking methods, which fell outside the controls of the Council and the immediate scope of ambient external air quality affected by traffic sources.

- c) **Liaise with other regional authorities on matters of air quality;**
- d) **Identify other related regional and local strategies/plans that have a bearing on air quality in Winchester.**

The group agreed that this include the emerging City Transport Strategy. Dominic made mention of the planning guidance on air quality and whether this should be reflected in the Local Plan Part 2. In response Phil made mention of the Sussex guidance as a point of reference.

- e) **Consult with and seek the views of the relevant partners and stakeholders on matters affecting air quality in Winchester's Air Quality Management Area;**

- f) **To identify resource requirements in the delivery of the plan.**

- g) **Identify prescriptive actions, including priority and delivery time scales, to be ratified and adopted by Winchester City Council and other influential stakeholders.**

Chris wanted the ToR to include the identification of external funding opportunities to assist with the delivery of the Action Plan.

- h) **To keep a watching brief on external funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of the identified actions.**

In addition, Frank wanted the ToR to include the identification of other causal health impacts from internal air quality influences. However as per above this was thought to stay outside the initial expectations of the ToR, but it was agreed that there was no reason why this could not be picked up as an additional body of work once the Air Quality Action Plan update was completed.

*— Air Quality Grant Scheme
Grant £23494
Deadline 23rd Nov
Who(?)
David / Phil*

4. Time Scales

DI stated that the initial objective was to be in a position to present an updated AQAP to Council by the end of the calendar year. There was some scepticism within the group as to whether this would be achievable, given that many of the objectives were contingent on other strategies. It was agreed to hold fast to the end of the year as being the objective although simultaneously acknowledging there may be some slippage into the first quarter of 2017.

5. Membership of the group

It was agreed that in addition to the existing members that the group also invite:

- **Mike Slinn** in recognition of his work on traffic management through the WDSP Traffic Group;
- **Phil Gagg** was suggested by Chris in her stead and on behalf of WinACC, as he is more of an expert on air quality;
- **Cllr James Byrnes** in recognition that many of the actions affect traffic management which in turn interplays with economic prosperity.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

It was agreed that Dave be the Chair of the group, but as there was no secretarial resource available that this be shared amongst the group membership.

7. Determination of Topic Areas

The following were identified by the group as distinct areas that would necessitate additional work by sub groups to be presented to the group, in order to inform the updated AQAP.

In identifying the topic areas the following points were discussed:

- How we will consult the relevant stakeholders;
- Identifying how we will validate the success of the plan through monitoring of actions and pollutants;
- Identifying the relevant 'levers' for each of the topic areas;
- Highway configuration and the management of through traffic is a key influence on air quality;

From this the following key influences on air quality were identified as the topic areas for detailed consideration.

Topic Area	Leads
1. Clean Air Zones and workplace levies	Phil T and Dave
2. Low Emission Strategies and a regional focus	Dave and Phil T
3. Parking Strategies	Dan Massey and Phil G
4. Highways and infrastructure improvements	Hannah and Sam
5. Transport WTAP and Public Realm	Hannah, Sam and Phil G
6. Future monitoring, validation and miscellaneous	Dave

8. Setting out the meeting programme

It was agreed that each set of leads would do the research and consultation as required before presenting their findings back to the group at the allotted time. We would aim for sufficient time (est six week period) in between each topic area to allow for the relevant investment of work and the invitation of the relevant consultees to attend the respective meeting.

Frank mentioned that it was the role of the two Cllrs present to consider all the relevant various aspect of each topic and present them to each of their respective political groups.

It was noted that the leads would need to identify and invite the relevant consultees to their topic meeting when they would present their facts to them and the steering group.

All findings would be presented on the WCC Air Quality Web Pages in order to provide the opportunity for wider public consultation,

Proposed schedule of meetings

Topic Area	Dates
1. Clean Air Zones and workplace levies	25 th May
2. Low Emission Strategies and a regional focus	6 th July
3. Parking Strategies	7 th September
4. Highways and infrastructure improvements	12 th October
5. Transport WTAP and Public Realm	16 th November
6. Future monitoring, validation and miscellaneous	14 th December

Note all meetings are at 14:00 at the Winchester City Council Offices unless otherwise stated.

9. What now?

Dave to commence an updated analysis of previous ISG recommendations and forward to the group.