

Appendix 1 - Air Quality strategy, Action Plan Summary

THEME		ACTIVITY
EDUCATION		
Support all primary schools within the borough to carry out diffusion tube monitoring in their playgrounds, twinned with an education programme.	SHORT TERM	22 schools have signed up to diffusion tube monitoring taking place on their premises during the academic year 2019/20. Unfortunately, the monitoring ceased during the school closures but has resumed with schools returning in September 2020. However, as 12 months continuous data is required, this information will be delayed.
'On the Move' - A behaviour change programme working with children transitioning to secondary school to use greener forms of transport on their new school journeys.	SHORT TERM	19 schools had signed up to receive the two Year 6 lessons during the summer term 2020. Due to school closures these were unable to be delivered however as Year 6 did return in some capacity during the final weeks of the school year, a version of the lessons was emailed to all schools that had signed up so that it could be delivered by teachers. Booklets and leaflets were not sent out to schools due to difficulties with schools accepting them and being able to distribute them.
Recognise the efforts schools make to address air quality through the Greener Solihull Schools Award. Encourage schools to use 'Air Quality' as part of their challenge section.	SHORT TERM	3 schools chose to address air quality as part of their award application this year.
Extend pilot sessions of a Year 4 Air Quality awareness lesson & look into developing an educational package, resources for teachers and on line resources.	SHORT TERM	The extension of a year 4 Air Quality awareness lesson was stalled due to school closures however 8 schools have received lessons during the academic year 2019/2020.
School Streets Car Exclusions – Continue scheme at existing three schools and explore expansion of the scheme to other interested suitable schools.	SHORT TERM/ MEDIUM TERM	Three additional schools were due to become School Streets schools in April but due to school closures this was postponed. However, the expansion of the scheme successfully took place in September at St Andrew's Catholic Primary, Widney Juniors and Marston Green Juniors.

<p>ModeShift STARS – To work with all schools to get them engaged and signed up to this national sustainable travel award, promoting and bringing together all sustainable travel initiatives delivered in schools.</p>	<p>MEDIUM TERM</p>	<p>As part of the governments Emergency Active Travel Funding secured by Transport for West Midlands on behalf of the constituent authorities including Solihull, we were allocated a dedicated School Travel Demand Officer from Mott MacDonald for two months during September and October.</p> <p>The Officer concentrated on our secondary schools, solving issues related to the return to school but also working with secondary schools to sign them up with ModeShift STARS to develop their own Green Travel Plans.</p> <p>Due to its success, TfWM have now agreed to continue to fund this initiative, meaning we will continue to have a dedicated Officer working with Secondary Schools for two days a week for the rest of this academic year.</p>
<p>Consider anti-idling policies outside primary schools.</p>	<p>MEDIUM TERM</p>	<p>Due to COVID 19 closing schools shortly after the launch, this initiative stopped abruptly in March. However, as we had had a good interest from schools, the original initiative has been altered to make it COVID safe so, rather than Officers talking to parents in their cars, schools have now been supplied with a railing banner and lamppost posters to display outside the school gates. Also, rather than handing out the leaflets, schools are being supplied with a version that can be emailed out to all parents. The banners and posters were delivered to six schools in time to take part in Clean Air Day at the beginning of October. Balsall Common Primary has also signed up to the scheme following concerns expressed by local residents.</p>
<p>TRANSPORT</p>		
<p>Work with partners to promote more electric charging points at workplaces and car parks.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM</p>	<p>Completion of comprehensive Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) led review of potential Electric Vehicle charge point locations across Borough completed, providing a long list of 220 potential sites. Process of internal review underway prior to securing funding to design programme of installation. Work being undertaken alongside TfWM to ensure regional strategic and operational alignment.</p>

		<p>17 dual-socket charge points to be installed through January & February 2021 as part of On-street Residential Charge point scheme (ORCS) funding, including within further SMBC car parks.</p> <p>Business engagement in relation to transition to electric fleet commenced with Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group business event alongside experts from Energy Savings Trust. Private business workplace charging infrastructure review under way.</p> <p>Electric vehicle related resident engagement to commence in December 2020.</p>
<p>Support businesses in the borough to develop travel plans which include car sharing schemes and modal shift initiatives – including agile working practices.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM</p>	<p>Working with businesses has been difficult during the COVID pandemic with a majority of staff working from home.</p> <p>We are still engaging with businesses to create Green Travel Plans although it is proving difficult to carry out the required employee travel surveys. For this reason, a focus has now been turned to the retail businesses that have now returned to work.</p> <p>Due to COVID restrictions all events and promotions have been put on hold however some Dr Bike sessions have continued to be delivered.</p> <p>The Cycling and Walking Campaign has been launched and is accessible via the Road Safety Website. We continue to look into and trial ECargo and EBikes.'</p>
<p>Consider traffic flows when replacing roundabouts/islands with traffic lights to avoid vehicles sitting stationary for long periods.</p>	<p>SHORT TERM</p>	<p>This consideration is now embedded in the Council's transport planning processes and when new proposals come forward, all junction control options are considered which will include a capacity assessment and the associated impact on vehicle emissions.</p> <p>Some new tools have been developed this year and the regional PRISM traffic model for the WM region has been updated. This is now managed by colleagues at TfWM and provides a more robust traffic modelling tool that can be used in the future to help assess likely impact of future developments around the Borough.</p>

<p>Provide and promote a choice of cycle routes, including routes that avoid highly polluted roads.</p>	<p>MEDIUM TERM</p>	<p>In autumn 2020, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (and accompanying Cycling and Walking Strategy) went out to public consultation. The LCWIP has identified a long term Solihull Cycling Network Plan and six Core Walking Zones. The Infrastructure Plan has identified highway corridors where improved or new cycle provision is required. The Infrastructure Plan has also identified six locations where pedestrian improvements have the potential to significantly increase pedestrian footfall. Following the adoption of the Infrastructure Plan, detailed design of two cycle routes from the Cycling Network Plan will commence.</p> <p>During December 2020, it was announced that Solihull has received its full allocation for the Active Travel Fund Programme (ATF). The Solihull ATF consists of three pop up cycle lanes including improved cycle links from Dickens Heath and Knowle to Solihull Town Centre. The Solihull ATF will also see new cycle storage provision across the Borough. It is anticipated that the ATF schemes will be delivered during 2021.</p>
<p>Birmingham Clean Air Zone</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>Implementation of the Birmingham Clean Air zone has been put back to June 2021. There is a risk that this could displace non-compliant vehicles to other parts of the region including Solihull. The impact of the new restrictions will be monitored and an evidence led approach may then need to be developed to offset any negative impact.</p>
<p>PLANNING</p>		
<p>Update the relevant policies in the Local Plan Review to reflect and deliver the Solihull Clean Air Strategy.</p>	<p>SHORT/MEDIUM TERM</p>	<p>Draft Submission Plan consultation has been carried out (30th Oct – 14th Dec 2020). Local Plan includes strengthened Policy P14(iv) on Air Quality, and policy on EV charging infrastructure.</p>
<p>Produce guidance within forthcoming Health Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to shape the design and location</p>	<p>SHORT/MEDIUM TERM</p>	<p>The Health Supplementary Planning Document has been drafted and will be made available for consultation by July 2021 (subject to review of consultation feedback)</p>

of new development. The guidance will seek to minimise or mitigate adverse impacts on air quality, as well as enabling improvements to air quality, where appropriate.		A Health topic paper has been produced as part of the Local plan consultation (The topic paper includes a section on air quality)
ENVIRONMENT		
Assess and better understand the impact of air pollution on our natural environment/biodiversity and the role of the local authority in reducing harmful impacts.	SHORT TERM	The impact of pollution on the natural environment will be considered during the Development of the Natural Capital Investment Strategy Roadmap which has now has started. Extra resource has been secured via 'intern' programme.
Explore the opportunities for mitigating climate change locally.	SHORT TERM	The process for developing our Net Zero Action Plan with consultants Anthesis is in progress. A number of officer workshops have already taken place plus a member workshop.
Raise awareness of the impacts of indoor air pollution to enable residents to make informed choices to protect themselves, their families and their neighbours.	SHORT TERM	A Communications Plan has been developed and presented to the group at the last Steering Group meeting, however due to the COVID 19 situation the plan has not been implemented and requires a review to re-assess priorities for the remainder of the year and beyond.
Explore options for Particulate Pollution Capture by the appropriate installation of green infrastructure (e.g. green walls, living walls, hedges).	MEDIUM TERM	<p>The Council's 250k tree planting project as a result of a Council directive following the Climate Change Emergency – Statement of Intent pledge is very much in development. The focus for this year – taking account of COVID 19 related restrictions - is to plant the first 25k trees during the forthcoming planting season (Nov – March). Going forward, once the forthcoming planting season is complete, we will focus more on developing our wider strategic response with this initiative.'</p> <p>Initial discussions with Birmingham University to explore joint initiatives started in February, however due to the impact of COVID, no further progress has been made.</p>

		Work on the Natural Capital Investment Strategy Roadmap has begun. Extra resources have been secured via 'intern' programme.
PUBLIC MESSAGING		
Communicate what the Council is doing/will be doing to tackle air pollution through a variety of mediums.	SHORT TERM	Since March this year, the focus for public messaging has primarily been COVID 19 related. This demand has had a significant impact upon our ability to deliver the Air Quality Communications Plan for 2020. A review of our communications plan will be undertaken over the next month in order to ensure that we are able to communicate key activities and messages throughout 2021.
Roll out public awareness initiatives such as car-free days beyond national Clean Air Day to raise awareness of air pollution throughout the year.	SHORT TERM	Due to the impact of COVID 19, the 'Clean Air 2020' programme will be reconfigured and delivered next year. The programme of initiatives and campaigns will retain its focus on both indoor and outdoor air pollution working with schools and businesses to encourage both individual and community behaviour change. The campaigns will align to those being run by DEFRA/Public Health England to ensure clear, consistent messaging.
Promote agile working for council staff with an emphasis on the benefits to reducing impact on and exposure to air pollution.	SHORT TERM	COVID 19 and the necessity for remote working have had a significant impact upon working practices and modes of travel. 2020 has seen an unprecedented number of council staff working from home. Active travel and agile working are integral components of the councils plan for smarter working and will be promoted throughout the forthcoming year as services to transition to a new 'normal'
PROCUREMENT		
Incorporate new policies to be embedded into our terms and conditions.	SHORT TERM	Social value and environmental performance have been incorporated via new policies.
Include vehicle emissions and delivery schedules as a prompt for services areas when developing specifications.	SHORT TERM	This has led to social value being applied to procurements in order to obtain commitments on carbon reduction. The Council's stationery contract is an example of where significant steps have been taken to reduce the frequency of deliveries.

Develop a social value monitoring system and seek funding from the WMCA to develop this.	MEDIUM TERM	The Social Value Portal has been successfully launched.
Support Council services in developing their tender specifications in line with the Clean Air Strategy.	MEDIUM TERM	The Council's Clean Air Strategy is scheduled as a condition of tender and, where applicable, evaluation criteria included. Developing the tender specification in line with the Clean Air Strategy will be on a case-by-case basis dependent upon the service being procured.
Support facilities management in developing the new transport strategy with a view to becoming carbon neutral.	LONG TERM	<p>The transport team's strategy statement is included in the Council's tender documents as follows: <i>"The Council has a vision to eliminate or minimise air pollution and accordingly, if applicable, is interested in exploring all possible environmentally friendly vehicle options as part of this tender exercise and will be looking to forge a partnership with the successful tenderer to receive on-going advice and support in this matter.</i></p> <p><i>The Contractor shall comply with the Council's Clean Air Strategy, which is to conserve energy, reduce waste and minimise the release of greenhouse gases and other substances that are damaging to health and the environment. The contractor shall therefore ensure that the most modern, up to date and cost effective Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) are provided from the outset of the contract in order to facilitate and accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon and cleaner vehicles in line with the Government's Low Carbon fuels Strategy for Transport."</i></p>