

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 February 2018

Agenda item:

Wards: All Wards

Subject: Air Quality in Merton – Final report and recommendations of the scrutiny task group review.

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Daniel Holden, Task Group Chair.

Contact Officer: Stella Akintan; stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix A) arising from the scrutiny review of Air Quality in Merton.
- B. That Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers working with relevant local partner organisations and Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet.
- C. That Cabinet decides whether it wishes to formally approve this action plan prior to it being submitted to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- D. To present the scrutiny review report on Air Quality in Merton for endorsement and seek approval to implement the review recommendations through an action plan being drawn up.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 In July 2016 the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of air quality in Merton. Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health, particularly amongst vulnerable groups such as the elderly, young children and those with existing respiratory conditions.
- 2.2 This review focussed on the Merton Air Quality Action Plan and measures to improve air quality at construction sites, which has a significant impact across the borough. The findings and recommendations of the review are set out in Appendix A.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.
- 3.2 Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

3.3 Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 In carrying out its review, the task group questioned senior council officers and considered best practice from other local authorities.

4.2 TIMETABLE

4.3 The final report was approved by the Panel on 16 September 2017 where it was agreed to present the report to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None for the purposes of this covering report. It is envisaged that the recommendations in the attached report will not have any major resource implications. However, any specific resource implications will be identified and presented to Cabinet prior to agreeing an action plan for implementing the report's recommendations.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None for the purposes of this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None for the purposes of this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None for the purposes of this report.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

11.1 Appendix 1 – Task group report on “Air Quality in Merton”

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS