

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 20 March 2019



LEAD OFFICERS: Justine Fuller Regulatory Services Manager, GBC and William Bryans Transport Studies Team Manager, SCC

SUBJECT: Parking and Air Quality Working Group – air quality update and priorities

AREA(S) AFFECTED: Borough-wide

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

At the Guildford Joint Committee meeting of 19 September 2018 a new Parking & Air Quality Working Group was established with the remit to develop an overarching air quality policy/strategy and review individual air quality management / action plans relating to the borough.

The report outlines the activity of the working group and seeks approval of recommended outputs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Guildford Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree the development of an Air Quality Priorities Plan in place of establishing an overarching policy/strategy;
- (ii) agree the Air Quality Priorities Plan for 2019-20;
- (iii) identify any activities from the Air Quality Priorities Plan to be progressed first.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Although the Parking & Air Quality Working Group were requested to develop an overarching air quality policy/strategy, the Group considered that due to the number of existing policy and strategy documents already in place an overarching document would not be of great benefit. Instead, the Group are proposing an Air Quality Priorities Plan. Should this be endorsed by the Committee, then itemised activities can be progressed.

1. INTRODUCTION:

- 1.1 At the Guildford Joint Committee meeting of 19 September 2018 a new Parking & Air Quality Working Group was established with the remit to develop an overarching air quality policy/strategy and review individual air quality management / action plans relating to the borough, as set out in Annex A of the report on the Representation of New Working Groups (Item 15).
- 1.2 The new Working Group met for the first time on 30th October 2018, and tasked officers with reviewing current air quality strategies and policies across both Surrey County Council (SCC) and Guildford Borough Council (GBC) with the purpose of developing an overarching strategy.
- 1.3 The outcome of this work was presented to the Working Group at its meeting held on 11th February 2019.

2. CURRENT POSITION:

- 2.1 Statutory duties for air quality are set out in the Local Air Quality Management framework and lie with GBC. This includes duties to monitor air quality and declare Air Quality Management Areas.
- 2.2 Across both organisations there are multiple policies and strategies that contribute to improving air quality across Guildford outside the main statutory framework: these can be seen in Appendix 1. In the majority of the documents the air quality targets or considerations are clear, however in some documents they are not as obvious. For example, the Guildford Borough Economic Strategy 2013-2031 does not mention air quality, but addressing congestion is a target, including road improvements and more cycling, which would lead to improvement in air quality if achieved. SCC policies and strategies also encompass all 11 Districts and Boroughs, and this adds another layer of complexity and consideration when considering future options.
- 2.3 All existing policies and strategies, with one exception, are owned by one organisation with scrutiny and monitoring taking place by the originating organisation. The Surrey Air Alliance (SAA) work plan is a document jointly owned by all 11 Surrey Districts and Borough Councils and SCC. The SAA group reports to the Surrey Environmental Health Managers' group and updates are provided to the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board by Public Health colleagues from SCC. The SAA are currently jointly delivering air quality modelling for Surrey and a DEFRA funded schools education projects in AQMA areas.
- 2.4 In addition to the above there are other examples of successful joint working between the two organisations in relation to air quality. These include:
 - delivering an Outline Business Case to meet the Ministerial Direction relating to predicted exceedance of air quality limits on the Blackwater Valley Road (A331).
 - SCC assisting with data provision and being a member of the Compton Air Quality Management Area steering group.
 - SCC providing data from traffic models for air quality and / or environmental assessments related to GBC's submission draft Local Plan.
 - SCC providing data from traffic models for air quality monitoring purposes.

- 2.5 As a result of this assessment, the Working Group Members agreed that developing an overarching strategy would not be beneficial when there is already much work set out in existing strategic documents. Instead, the Working Group suggested that an air quality priorities plan could be recommended to the Guildford Joint Committee.

3. AIR QUALITY PRIORITIES PLAN:

- 3.1 The suggested air quality priorities plan is set out in Appendix B, drawing relevant priorities from existing strategies. The Working Group stated that these priorities should include, but not be exclusive to, the council's statutory requirements and must reflect the interests of the Joint Committee: for example, the relationship between local schools and transport matters.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The items set out in Appendix B will all need resources to take forward, including Officer time. Some elements will require a capital funding to implement, although others might be able to be progressed using revenue funding.
- 4.2 It is proposed that should the Committee recommend progressing some or all of the actions associated costs will be investigated further by the Working Group. These will be set out in a further report to the Committee.

5. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The potential implications of the proposed action has been considered in relation to the following Council priorities and policies.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications
Equality and Diversity	No significant implications
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	Significant implications
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Significant implications
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications
Public Health	Significant implications
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications

- 5.2 Implementation of measures to improve air quality will have both positive effects on public health, especially to those in the immediate vicinity of certain actions, and lead to a reduction in carbon emissions.

- 5.3 Those measures involving school travel plans and the possible DEFRA schools project will have a positive effect on local school communities, and assist in reinforcing behavioural change in the wider area.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 6.1 As an alternative to developing an overarching air quality policy/strategy, the Parking & Air Quality Working Group are proposing an Air Quality Priorities Plan.
- 6.2 The Joint Committee are asked to endorse this approach and identify any elements that should be progressed first.

7. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 7.1 If the Committee approves the priorities, the Working Group will commence developing the priorities, identifying potential proposals and associated costs. The results of this work will be presented in a further report to the Committee.

Contact Officer:

Justine Fuller, Regulatory Services Manager, Guildford Borough Council.
(01483 444370 or Justine.fuller@guildford.gov.uk)

William Bryans, Transport Studies Team Manager, Surrey County Council.
(020 8541 7222 or william.bryans@surreycc.gov.uk)

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Air Quality Policies and Strategies across Surrey
- Appendix B – Air Quality Priorities Plan

Appendix A:

Air Quality Policies and Strategies across Surrey

Surrey County Council

- Surrey Transport Plan Climate Change Strategy
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/transport-plan/surrey-transport-plan-strategies/climate-change-strategy>
- Surrey Transport Plan Air Quality Strategy
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/90254/Air-Quality-Strat-15th-Update-rebranded.pdf
- Surrey Transport Plan Low Emissions Strategy.
This strategy was approved by SCC Cabinet on 27th November.
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/transport-plan/surrey-transport-plan-strategies/low-emissions-transport-strategy>
- Surrey Transport Plan Electric Vehicle Strategy.
This strategy was approved by SCC Cabinet on 27th November.
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/transport-plan/surrey-transport-plan-strategies/electric-vehicle-strategy>
- Surrey Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Priority 2 is improving air quality.
https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/162246/Surrey-Joint-HWB-Strategy-2018-Reduced-size.pdf

Surrey County Council and Surrey District and Borough Councils

- Surrey Air Alliance (non-statutory)
Action plan – Surrey wide modelling, grant bids for joint projects
- Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership (non-statutory)
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/energy-sustainability/partnership>

Guildford Borough Council

- Local Air Quality Management (statutory)
<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/public-health/roleforlas.html>
 - Air Quality monitoring
 - Declare Air Quality Management Area where identify exceedances of air quality limits
 - Annual Status Report 2018 (statutory)
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/19807/Air-quality-monitoring>
 - Guildford Air Quality Strategy (non-statutory)
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<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/19807/Air-quality-monitoring>

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Guildford Health and Wellbeing Board 2017-2022 - air quality is a priority
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing>
 - Local Plan
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/16116>
 - Guildford Borough Transport Strategy 2017
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24636&p=0>
 - Guildford Town Centre Regeneration Strategy 2017
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26731&p=0>
 - Corporate Plan 2018-2023 – improve air quality
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/corporateplan>
 - Guildford Borough Economic Strategy 2013-2031
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/economicstrategy>
 - Effingham Neighbourhood plan
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/effingham>
 - Rural Economic Strategy 2017-2022
<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/ruraleconomy>
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Appendix B:

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE AIR QUALITY PRIORITIES 2019-20 (TBC¹)

CATEGORY	POLICY ORIGIN	NAME	FUNDING	OFFICER CONTACT	REVIEW DATE	OTHER PARTNERS	ACTIONS FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO PROGRESS/MONITOR
Education – Communications strategy on Behavioural Change	Guildford Air Quality Strategy	Air Quality behaviour change/modal shift	TBC	GBC: Communications Manager, Carolyn Patterson SCC: TBC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce a communications strategy on behaviour change that provides continuous messaging to include activity on ‘national clean air day’
Education – communication on wood burning stoves	DEFRA – National clean air strategy	Wood burning stoves	TBC – printing and postage cost to be costed	GBC: Regulatory Services Manager, Justine Fuller GBC: TBC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce educational materials on wood burning stoves to circulate with GBC Council Tax bills in 2020 and through other media channels
Education – school travel	SCC Guildford Air Quality Strategy	School Travel	TBC Defra (grant) for SAA project	GBC: Regulatory Services, Justine Fuller SCC: Rebecca Harrison, Safer Travel Team Leader		Schools Surrey Air Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Travel Plans - SCC Communication strategy for school travel – SCC and GBC School Watch – GBC Surrey Air Alliance DEFRA bid for school project in AQMA areas School assembly and workshop - Pilot project at GBC

¹ The recommendations of the Parking and Air Quality Working Group to be advisory until adopted by the full Joint Committee

CATEGORY	POLICY ORIGIN	NAME	FUNDING	OFFICER CONTACT	REVIEW DATE	OTHER PARTNERS	ACTIONS FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO PROGRESS/MONITOR
Regulatory		Bonfires review	Within current resource	GBC: Regulatory Services, Justine Fuller			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore bonfire legislation and opportunities for regulatory enforcement
Statutory	LAQM	LAQM and AQMA's	Within current resource	GBC: Regulatory Services, Justine Fuller		SCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Annual Status Report and local monitoring results • Review progress with declare, production and implementation of action plans for AQMAs
Education – Communications strategy on Behavioural Change	Guildford Air Quality Strategy	Anti-idling campaign and action	TBC	GBC: TBC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To install anti-idling-signage • Campaign to educate and promote anti-idling (level-crossing, schools and town centres) • To explore the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notice for idling
Transport/Infrastructure		Adoption of bus lanes with enforcement cameras	TBC	SCC: SCC Area Highway Manager, Frank Apicella			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Joint Committee agreed recommendations to prioritise buses in the town centre
Transport/Infrastructure	Guildford Borough Transport Strategy 2017	Cycle Scheme	Highways England grant funding	GBC: Principal Transport Planner, Donald Yell			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep under review

CATEGORY	POLICY ORIGIN	NAME	FUNDING	OFFICER CONTACT	REVIEW DATE	OTHER PARTNERS	ACTIONS FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO PROGRESS/MONITOR
Education – work place travel	Guildford Air Quality Strategy	Easit Guildford	GBC-funded for one year to establish network	GBC: Regulatory Services, Justine Fuller	March 2020	Local businesses Experience Guildford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review implementation of green travel network – Easit Guildford
Transport/Infrastructure	Surrey Transport Plan Electric Vehicle Strategy	Electric vehicle charging	TBC	SCC: TBC GBC: TBC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the installation of an electric charging vehicle charging network

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