

**ITEM XX
A REVIEW OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS**

Annex 3 – Responses to questions about the Parking and Air Quality Working Group

Overview:

Created: September 2018

The Working Group has met 7 times since it was created in 2018

30/10/18

11/02/19

08/08/19

06/11/19

06/02/20

28/09/20

03/02/21

The Group usually meets in advance of the formal meetings of the GJC.

Membership last reviewed: 01/07/20

Summary of progress of the WG – work achieved & work planned:

All air quality reporting should be to the GJC and that the annual DEFRA report should be brought to GJC for information. The Working Group received updates regarding partnership arrangements and funding opportunities.

Officers recommended that as an alternative to an air quality strategy the Working Group produce an air quality priorities plan which could be recommended to Guildford Joint Committee for endorsement. It was proposed a set of air quality priorities featuring the categories set out at Annex 4. The priorities were agreed by the GJC in 2019. The priorities have not been reviewed by the GJC since adoption. Updates on the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are delivered as a regular agenda item. More recently the Group has received information regarding the impact of Covid on AQ in the town and AQMAs.

The recommendations of the GBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of on-street parking was taken up . It was recommended that the Working Group advise the GJC to undertake recommendations 1, 5 and 11, the additional GJC recommendation and 15 issues from the non-CPZ list in the first instance.

O&S REF	WG REF	O&S RECOMMENDATION
A	1	Parking controls in Area A, B, D and northern section of Area C, be extended to operate 8.30am to 9pm, 7 days a week
E	5	The limit on permits in Area D of the Controlled Parking Zone be increased, in the first instance by 10%
K	11	To accompany the extended controls into evenings and Sundays, the annual household limit on visitor scratch cards be doubled
Recommendation: To review the retrospective exclusion of new residential developments of 6 dwellings or more, in the controlled parking zone areas A		
15 issues from the non-CPZ list		

Updates on prioritised CPZ and non-CPZ requests considered prior to delivery at formal meetings of the Working Group. The Working Group received updates on electric vehicle charging points in the town and the SCC electric vehicle charging strategy. The Working Group reviewed the SCC - County wide Parking Strategy in 2019 and made recommendations to the GJC.

The last review is reaching its conclusion (implementation in September 2021) and the scope of the present review was finalised at the March 2021 GJC, following agreement at the February 2021 P&AQWG. The items referred to in the table have either been progressed or are in the process of being implemented as part of the last review, and do not relate to the scope of the present review, which was determined in March 2021. Therefore, the only parking related matters that the Parking team would report on, prior to the start of the next review (which is likely to commence in mid-2022), would be progress relating to the present review.

There is no ongoing work plan for the Working Group.

Respondents' comments

Question:	Comments from 5 respondents:
1. Does the Working Group meet frequently enough to cover business?	Yes, current business Yes Over the last 12-18 months I have only been providing updates on air quality work. No recommendations to joint committee have originated from the working group. Yes
2. Are you clear on the purpose and the remit of the Working Group?	Yes

Question:	Comments from 5 respondents:
	<p>Yes</p> <p>After the original piece of work to review all the air quality strategies that I conducted with William Bryans from SCC I am not sure of the value the working group is adding to the air quality work.</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>3. Do you think the Working Group is fulfilling its remit?</p>	<p>No . Pollution is a big issue where most local authorities struggle to deal with the realities. We are no different. Officers need to elevate problem identification and solution finding for the working group.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>As above, the working group has not made any recommendations on air quality since the above item.</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>4. Do you think the Working Group reports back to the Joint Committee often enough with recommendations and advice?</p>	<p>Yes for current approach but not if role is elevated to consider the big issues.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>In relation to air quality the working group is only receiving officer updates and is not making any recommendations or advice.</p> <p>The only thing I would suggest is that the timing of the Working Group meetings between the GJC meetings often makes it difficult to act upon the decisions of the P&AQWG in time for the next meeting of the GJC, given the latter's deadlines for reports, and also account for the need for Senior Leader Team / Portfolio Holder buy in.</p>
<p>5. How often does the Joint Committee act on the advice of the Working Group?</p>	<p>Not sure as Covid has changed the role of the Joint committee since I joined.</p> <p>Often</p> <p>The last report mentioned above was some time ago.</p>

Question:	Comments from 5 respondents:
	<p>In terms of Parking, the recommendations put forward to the GJC are often formulated as a direct result of the consideration of the issues by the P&AQWG</p>
<p>6. Is Parking and Air Quality still the right combination for a Joint Committee Working Group?</p>	<p>Possibly</p> <p>Yes – given the need to avoid more meetings and taking up more time of Officers and Members</p> <p>The combination still works for a working group but I think in relation to air quality the group needs to refresh the value it adds in regard to air quality.</p> <p>Transport initiatives, EVCP, Parking and Air Quality are very often inter-linked, and it would make sense to pool them together, accepting that merging it with the Transportation / Infrastructure group would lead to large agendas / longer meetings / larger membership</p>
<p>7. Is the Working Group building effective partnership working between the two councils?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Officers within my team already have good working relationship with officers at SCC both highways and transport planning.</p> <p>GBC and SCC have worked in partnership in relation to on-street parking for well over 20 years, and the GJC and P&AQWG has built upon that, particularly in respect to the assistance the Parking team has provided for various SCC projects.</p>
<p>8. Attached is the existing terms of reference please can you comment on the following aspects and anything else you feel is important?</p>	<p>My main piece of feedback is that I think this working group should be split into two separate groups and each one to meet quarterly, or have the flexibility to add in an extra meeting IF urgent decisions need to be made.</p> <p>Air quality – in my view – is going to grow as an issue across our borough so we need to make sure there is adequate discussion amongst officers and councillors. The same comments relate to Parking – keeping them together with Air Quality will dilute the focus they deserve.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership (too many/too few) 	<p>Fine</p> <p>About right</p>

Question:	Comments from 5 respondents:
	<p>Happy with membership</p> <p>OK</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role 	<p>Needs expanding</p> <p>OK</p> <p>See comment above re: combining with Transport and Infrastructure Working Group.</p> <p>Role is defined but I think the working group need some substantive work for it to conduct rather than just have AQ updates which are also reported to O & S and lead member.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remit 	<p>Needs expanding</p> <p>OK</p> <p>Remit to make recommendations is fine but as above a more meaningful work programme is needed which involved recommendation and/or scrutiny. The working group and joint committee do not have a budget for air quality or any resources so it restricts the working group's ability to take forward any work programmes.</p> <p>See comment above re: combining with Transport and Infrastructure Working Group.</p>

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