

## Appendix C: Consideration of comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comment from the committee	Reasons from the committee	Executive Member/ officer comment	Recommended action
Form a joint member group, with representatives from East Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council to oversee progress on the AQAP.	A joint group could help overcome any obstacles encountered when trying to deliver the AQAP.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees this could be useful and would support his aim of working closer with key partners to deliver this AQAP.	This is an enabling action, rather than a direct action for inclusion in the action plan, however reference to this has been included in the AQAP.
Reference was made to ensuring the council makes best use of the funding opportunities available to it, such as section 106 monies from developments.	This will assist in delivering projects which the council might not otherwise be able to finance.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability believes this is very important but as reference to section 106 monies is already in the report, under the section which explores our air quality priorities, there is no need to amend the report at this stage.	No amendment required.
Explore the extent to which it might be possible for the	This will help lessen the impact of development on	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability	No amendment required.

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council to include enforceable air quality-related conditions on planning applications.	air quality and improve air quality for existing residents who are currently disturbed by large polluting HGVs near their homes.	believes this is an important point to explore, to ensure the council is doing all it can in light of the limitations placed on it by national legislation. This action is already included in the AQAP as action 2.3, therefore no further amendments are needed.	
Can the council engage more with the local MPs to overcome obstacles it faces when trying to improve air quality?	Some of the obstacles the council faces are legislative and therefore gaining the support of the local MPs would be imperative for making change at a national level.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees this could be useful and would support his aim of working closer with key partners to deliver this AQAP.	This is an enabling action, rather than a direct action for inclusion in the action plan, however reference to this has been included in the AQAP.
Do we have sufficient staffing resources to implement and monitor the AQAP?	Potentially without sufficient resources the action plan will not be delivered.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees having sufficient resources to deliver this is important. He notes that	This is an enabling action, rather than a direct action for inclusion in the action plan and will be picked up

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		staffing resources for this area of work have not changed since his appointment. He is keen to review this with officers at the appropriate time.	outside this approval process.
How do we engage people, tackle skepticism and move things forward?	The outcome of the consultation suggests a small but significant number of people either do not believe air quality is a problem or are unwilling to make changes to their routine to bring about improvements to air quality.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees with this assessment and is keen to work with key partners to review best practice and work with the HCC behavioural change team to identify the best way to approach this. Working with partners to facilitate behavioural change is already a key aspect of many of the actions within the action plan.	No amendment required.

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<p>The review of school travel plans needs to include schools from across the whole town, not just those in or near the AQMAs.</p>	<p>People travelling to schools outside the AQMA may still travel through an AQMA to get to their destination.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees with this assessment.</p>	<p>Action 1.6 has been updated to include all schools.</p>
<p>The council should adopt a “safe system” approach to road safety, such as having default 20mph speed limits, which could also improve air quality.</p>	<p>Evidence from schemes in Wales, London and Edinburgh has indicated improvements in air quality through these schemes.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability believes this is something that should be explored to identify if there are benefits to be had through the introduction of such schemes.</p>	<p>Action 1.8 in the AQAP has been updated to reflect this suggestion with the following wording added:  “Explore the co-benefits to air quality of 20mph zones and other safe system approaches to road safety.”</p>
<p>The AQAP needs to include a focus on pollution <i>in</i> vehicles.</p>	<p>This might help dissuade people from driving through an AQMA.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees this is important which is why the AQAP explicitly mentions this group of individuals and actions around roadside</p>	<p>No amendment required.</p>

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		signs have already been included in the AQAP.	
It was mentioned that the council's work through the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) had not been included in the AQAP.		The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability is happy to include this work to further bolster the work undertaken by the council already mentioned in the report.	The list of work previously undertaken by the council (section 1.4) has been updated to include reference to the work of the HCCSP.
It was suggested that the AQAP should include reference to the national move from fossil fuel vehicles to electric vehicles as mandated by statute.	This national move will improve air quality.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability acknowledges this change in the national legislation, however this will not have any significant impact on particulate matter and at present there is no indication the rollout of electric vehicles will be uniform across East Hertfordshire and therefore the potential impact on the	Section 3, which covers the national legislative framework for tackling air quality has been updated to reflect this requirement on vehicle manufacturers.

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		AQMA is unknown. We are best to proceed with the actions highlighted in the AQAP to bring about an improvement in air quality.	
Comments were made on the dates of the actions contained within Appendix I of the AQAP.	It was felt some were too far off.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability notes the concerns of the committee and will ask officers to review the dates.	AQAP dates reviewed.
There is an increase in domestic wood burning, should the AQAP address this?	The pollution from domestic wood burning will contribute to the particulate pollution in the air.	The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees this could be a problem within East Hertfordshire and would like to explore what options are available to the council to reduce the impacts of pollutants from domestic wood burning.	A new action (4.4) has been added to the AQAP to review the use of smoke control areas in East Hertfordshire.

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<p>A question was asked around whether we can use NHS data on respiratory illnesses to encourage engagement with air quality initiatives.</p>	<p>This could help drive behavioral change by using data to show the number of people affected locally.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability believes this would be something which can be explored though the new forum mentioned above with HCC colleagues.</p>	<p>No amendment required.</p>
<p>Can on street parking for bicycles be increased, particularly around flats, businesses and local tourist hot-spots?</p>	<p>Increasing secure bicycle storage will encourage people to buy and use bicycles, reducing air pollution.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability agrees this is a good idea, however secure storage would have to come at the cost of reduced parking spaces. With this in mind, he would be keen to include questions around this in the upcoming parking consultation.</p>	<p>Action 3.6 of the AQAP has been updates to explicitly include this action.</p> <p>Questions to be added to the forthcoming parking consultation.</p>