

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY DECISION MEETING

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety Decision Meeting held on Thursday, 13 August 2015 at 10am in the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Robert New
Yahiya Chowdhury
Julie Swan

14. Apologies for Absence

No apologies had been sent.

15. Declaration of Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

16. Assessment of Air Quality

Richard Lee, Environmental Health Manager introduced the report and in response to questions, clarified the following points:

- Predictions of air quality levels were evident across the city. In the London Road corridor this may, in part, due to HGVs being required to use alternative routes when accessing the IFP. Other HGV prohibitions were in place in others areas close to sensitive receptors (such as along Anchorage Road).
- DEFRA had been informed about the 55 measures that the council is trying to implement across the city in order to tackle air quality issues and reduce congestion. All are multi-functional; as well as reducing air pollution they have a positive impact on other aspects including pedestrian safety and parking. Although these will contribute to improving air quality levels, the primary reason for the downward trends in levels of pollutant is likely to be because abatement technologies have improved within vehicular exhaust systems.
- Air quality levels are published on the council's website three times a day.
- The figures shown in the report relate to annual averages.
- Monitoring is essential to ensure that the predictions are accurate.
- Despite the conclusions of the 'optimisation of road traffic management control systems' PCC transport engineers are trying to adopt positive measures within the report when possible.
- Local Authorities are held to account if they exceed air quality levels. Significant fines can theoretically be levied where breaches of the EU limit Values are occurring.

Councillor Chowdhury commented that more should be done to improve cycle facilities and safety.

Councillor Swan asked whether it would be possible to encourage people to use low emission cars with incentives such as cheaper parking.

Councillor New explained that:

- Whilst he shared Councillor Swan's aspiration, he did not feel that that would be an appropriate course of action for the council.
- He was pleasantly surprised with the air quality results shown in the report and noted that annual monitoring is essential.
- London Road and Fratton Road used to have more than 1,000 lorries a day travelling through it and Anchorage Park residents complained that they were not able to use their gardens in the summer because of fumes and noise. Since the HGVs had been diverted, air quality, noise and the smell have improved.
- Penny Mordant is trying to work with the university bicycle to set up a bicycle hire scheme.
- He commended officers for their hard work and great results.

Councillor Winnington noted that there is an opportunity to connect in with the cycle forums. When he referred to a query he had received from a resident from Baffins Ward, Councillor New explained a response would be given through the normal process and not at this meeting.

DECISIONS

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety:

- 1. Acknowledged the conclusions reached in respect to ORTMCS and how changes in the management of traffic control systems could improve air quality. Appendix 1;**
- 2. Acknowledged the conclusions reached in respect to the Detailed Assessment of air quality in Portsmouth and approves its submission to DEFRA. Appendix 2;**
- 3. Acknowledged the need to continue to review and assess the quality of air in Portsmouth in accordance with statutory requirements and adequately resource our ability to validate the modelled conclusions of ORTMCS with monitored data.**

The meeting concluded at 10.40am.

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Councillor Robert New