

Briefing title Update on Environment Scrutiny Challenge Session held on 30/03/2021

Prepared for Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, Councillor Kabir Hussain

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Briefing

As part of the 2020/21 Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC) work programme, the committee held an Environment Scrutiny Challenge Session on 30 March 2021, focussing on: “examining the Council’s Air Quality Commitments and impacts on residents’ health outcomes”.

The scope of the scrutiny challenge session was:

- To examine air pollution issues in the borough, and the Council’s progress towards its air quality commitments including the Anti-idling Policy, Open Space Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan, Net Zero Carbon Plan (commitments relating to air quality), Transport Strategy, Parking Policy, and the Liveable Streets Programme).
- To assess if there are any outstanding issues that haven’t been addressed.
- To assess the impact on health implications for residents such as asthma and other health conditions linked to air pollution.
- To assess the Council’s long-term plans for air quality improvement, including funding/budget proposals.

Desired outcome for the challenge session was to establish the extent to which the Council has been effective in meeting its plans to improve air quality and corresponding health outcomes of residents in the borough.

Core questions asked at the session were:

1. What are the main causes of air pollution in the borough, and what are the correlating health implications for residents?
2. Are there any specific resident groups that are especially impacted by air pollution in the borough?
3. What commitments have the Council made towards improving air quality in the borough (such as in relation to the Anti-idling Policy, Open Space Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan, Net Zero Carbon Plan (commitments relating to air quality), Transport Strategy, Parking Policy, and the Liveable Streets Programme)? And what progress has been made towards these?

4. To what extent do these air quality plans and commitments address the air quality issues in the borough?
5. Are there any issues/ gaps that haven't fully been addressed?
6. What efforts/plans has the Council made towards increasing the number of Green Walls and Roofs in the borough, especially in schools?
7. How effective has the Council's air quality plans been on improving health outcomes of residents, especially children and young people?
8. What are the Council's air quality plans for the future and what are the funding/budget implications for this?

9 recommendations came out of the challenge session for services to take forward and deliver.

At the OSC scheduled for 27 March 2023 an update will be provided on the delivery of the action plans developed based on the recommendations which came out of the session.