

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY PANEL – AIR QUALITY		
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF EVIDENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 DECEMBER 2014		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

For the fifth meeting of the Air Quality Inquiry the Panel will consider comments from Dr Alan Whitehead MP, Dr Beth Conlan, Business Manager at Ricardo—AEA and Dr James Cooper, Head of National Air Quality at Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). They have been invited to comment on key issues the Panel's final report may seek to address.

Guests invited have considerable knowledge on air quality and environmental issues from a local, national and International perspective. Southampton City Council's Scientific Service – Team Leader, will also be in attendance.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by Dr Alan Whitehead MP, Dr Beth Conlan (Ricardo—AEA) and Dr James Cooper (Defra) as evidence in the review.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. In May 2014 the World Health Organisation (WHO) released a report, which

named Southampton as one of the worst cities in the UK to be breaching air pollution safety guidelines (specifically for PM 10 – particulate matter).

4. Southampton City Council established a Panel to undertake an inquiry into Air Quality. The purpose of the Panel has been to seek to identify what additional steps can be taken, if necessary, to improve air quality in Southampton. The inquiry's Terms of Reference (ToR) have been attached as Appendix 1.
5. The Panel has met on four different occasions with a final report scheduled for 22 January 2015. The Panel has received evidence from the following:-
 - Public Health
 - Port of Southampton - Associated British Ports and DP World
 - Sustainable Distribution Centre – Meechers Global Logistics
 - Bus companies – First Bus Hampshire and Go South Coast
 - Post Graduate Student - University of Southampton
 - Western Docks Consultative Forum
 - SCC departments – incl. Regulatory Services, Transport, Planning Policy, Fleet, Licensing and Sustainability
 - Residents survey -298 responses
 - Solent Transport
6. Key issues that the final report may seek to address include the following: -
 1. Ambition and vision - Ultra-Low City Status?
 2. Low Emission Zones and Low Emission Strategy
 3. Joined up working across the council
 4. Strengthening the Planning function
 5. Communications on Air Quality
7. The Panel have an opportunity to discuss potential areas of recommendations with Dr Alan Whitehead MP and Dr Beth Conlan (Ricardo—AEA). Both guests invited may also use the opportunity to highlight other areas the Panel should be considering as it looks to develop its recommendations the end of January 2015.
8. Dr Alan Whitehead MP – Southampton Test, is a member of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, which has recently released their Action for Air Quality report. He is also a member of the Energy and Climate Change Committee, and member of the all-party parliamentary renewable and sustainable energy and sustainable resources groups.
9. Dr Beth Conlan, Business Manager at Ricardo-AEA, a leading provider of analysis, advice and data on economically sustainable solutions for the most pressing global energy and environmental challenges. Dr Conlan has advised the European Commission on air quality and has worked with Defra in the review of local air quality management. She has also worked with Defra and the Health Protection Agency on communicating air quality issues to health protection professionals within local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

10. Head of National Air Quality at Defra Dr James Cooper is not available to attend the meeting. However he has been asked to provide comments in advance of the meeting which will be made available to the Panel.
11. The guests invited to present information at the meeting will take questions from the Panel relating to the evidence provided. Copies of any presentations will be made available to the Panel.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

12. N/A

Property/Other

13. N/A.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

14. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

15. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Air Quality Inquiry – Terms of Reference
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Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document
to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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