

SUBJECT:	Iver Air Quality Action Planning - Update
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WARD/S AFFECTED	Iver Heath; Iver Village and Richings Park;

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a brief update on the way in which the Air Quality Action Plan for Iver is being developed, to report on the initial source apportionment work that had now been completed and to consider any implications of the new National Clean Air Strategy 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the proposed way forward and the completion of source apportionment work in line with statutory guidance and also note the new National Clean Air Strategy and potential implications for Councils.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) covering the Iver parish area was declared in 2018. This report provides an update on the next stage which is the development of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).
- 3.2. The action plan development, like the designation process, falls into a statutory regime that requires stakeholder engagement and final approval from the Secretary of State.
- 3.3. An officer group has been set up to look at current existing policies and procedures that may or may not support the new action plan and to identify potential existing initiatives or projects that may have a positive effect on the air quality in Iver. It is important to establish this before opening out the process to other parties to ensure the Councils are aware of their own limitations, opportunities and supporting strategic goals. Local Members from District, Parish and County level will be absolutely critical in making improvements and identifying actions to take forward as the Council moves forward.

- 3.4.** Although the AQMA extends across the whole of the Iver Parish, the AQAP may potentially have some elements targeting different improvements depending upon the exceedance levels being measured.
- 3.5.** However actions will also be included to cover the whole Parish area to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to tackle the air quality problem.
- 3.6.** One of the key steps in developing an action plan is to undertake work on the source apportionment assessment. This has now been carried out at three locations in this area and concluded the following:
- The main local source of Nitrogen Dioxide on both Thorney Mill Lane North and South were HGVs
 - The main local sources of Nitrogen Dioxide on Iver High Street are HGVs and Diesel Cars. This is illustrated in the three pie charts in appendix 1.
- 3.7.** Whilst this may have seemed self-evident as one can visually see HGVs in Iver, it is an important step in action planning when you have to later substantiate measures to external stakeholders such as transport authorities or freight companies etc.
- 3.8.** Officers are likely to suggest in discussions with external partners the opportunities to engage with local schools and residents, working with partners to try and improve the flow of traffic, consider available options for limiting polluting vehicles, the routing of freight, associated signage improvements, the influence of parking enforcement and the promotion of green travel plans. It will also consider the supporting work highlighted below and how this may impact on any proposed measures.
- 3.9.** The following **draft indicative schedule** reflects the need for stakeholder engagement.

Goal:					
This project is the development of a comprehensive air quality action plan for the Iver AQMA					
Outcome:					
Development of the Plan will enable stakeholders to develop a range of co-ordinated activities to facilitate the delivery of actions that will improve air quality					
Long-term Indicator: Action Plan delivered by August 2019					
Month	Measure(s) of Success	Primary organiser	Key external stakeholders	Target Completion	Resources required
February/March 2019	Officer meeting(s) held to discuss current policies and strategies and propose some potential actions	SBDC	BCC	March 4th	Officer/ Stakeholder availability/ Room
Mar-19	Put together a draft list of actions	SBDC	To be determined based on actions determined	March 28th	Officer/ Stakeholder availability/ Room
March/April 2019	Extended Steering group meeting to discuss draft list and possible others	SBDC	Iver Parish Council + those determined above	April 30th	Officer/ Stakeholder availability/ Room/ Refreshments
Jun-19	Work with BCC to analyse actions and calculate possible reduction in NO2	SBDC	BCC	June 5th	Officer/ Stakeholder availability/ Room
Jul-19	Consultation process established and undertaken	SBDC	Iver Parish Council + those determined above	Date TBC in April	Check with Communications team/ Web etc.
Aug-19	Publication of action plan as developed by stakeholders.	SBDC	Iver Parish Council + those determined above	Date TBC in April	Check with Communications team/ Web etc.

3.10. The current diffusion tube monitoring network will be used to measure any changes in air quality as a result of improvement actions once the plan has been agreed.

Supporting Work on Air Quality:

3.11. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and Development Management (DM) - Officers have continued to provide consultee responses to the relevant agency on NSIPs and local planning applications predominantly the following:

- Western Railway Link to Heathrow (Responded to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application)
- Heathrow Third Runway (attending HSPG meetings and responding to the EIA scoping opinion)

3.12. In terms of air quality, officers are primarily concerned with Surface Access Traffic in particular the addition of HGVs to the area during the construction phase. Officers have also highlighted the need for better public transport connectivity between the airport and South Bucks.

3.13. Public Health Outcomes Framework - As well as their Local Air Quality Management Review and Assessments local authorities are expected to work towards reducing emissions and concentrations of PM_{2.5} in their local area as practicable. (PM stands for particulate matter with the 2.5 indicating ultrafine particles)

In doing so they are not required to carry out any additional local review and assessment (including monitoring) but make use of national monitoring. In 2018 an Air Quality workshop was held and several County Council and District Council departments were represented as well as members from each Council to discuss the current air quality situation in Bucks and how best to take it forward.

The key recommendations to explore were:

- Work together to deliver improvements.
- Set up a multiagency task and finish work group to develop a Buckinghamshire Wide Low Emission Strategy to tackle air quality across the County.
- Update website information and publish the list of current and forthcoming initiatives.

3.14. A multi-agency officer working group has been set up to put together a proposal for the Low Emission Strategy (LES). LESs aim to deliver cost effective

and practical interventions supported by robust impact assessment, particularly in the areas of accelerating the adoption of low emission transport fuels and technology and use of emission based assessment to support policy and action. They have been assessed as having a high impact on the reduction of NO₂ and PM₁₀ emissions as well as reducing PM_{2.5} in the LAQM Action Toolbox found in LAQM TG (16).

3.15. The group have looked at several Low Emission Strategies already published to establish good practice. A project proposal outlining the aims of the strategy as well as its scope will be circulated to key stakeholders.

3.16. Working with Iver Village Junior School (IVJS) - IVJS have an excellent Eco Schools committee which has been very active in raising awareness of environmental issues within the school. They have recently taken on air pollution as a topic and did some excellent work on Clean Air Day. In 2018 the council carried out some personal monitoring with the committee and have also now positioned a diffusion tube outside the school. More work with the school is planned.

3.17. Air Quality Grant Scheme – The Defra air quality grant scheme opened in October 2019 with no announcement from Defra. This year, Defra were looking for applications on projects designed to support:

- local authorities to develop and/or implement measures to improve local air quality (Lot 1)
- innovation through trialing of low cost sensors (Lot 2)

3.18. An application was made under Lot 1 to carry out a feasibility study for a CAZ in Iver. A joint application was made by SBDC with Spelthorne BC as part of the Heathrow Air Quality Working group to trial sensors around Heathrow and further afield. Defra should announce the results by the end of this month, (however this may be delayed).

3.19. Heathrow Air Quality Working Group – This is separate to the consultation process for the third runway DCO and its focus is on the current air quality issues arising from the airport. Heathrow airport would like to work with a number of schools in the area on Clean Air Day in June. Officers continue to scrutinize potential environmental impacts as part of corporate responses to consultations.

Clean Air Strategy 2019 and impact on action Planning:

3.20. Clean Air Strategy 2019 – An executive summary is available on the Defra website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019>. There is a focus on the reduction of national emission of pollutants that will in

turn reduce background levels. It outlines the government's ambition, commitments and aims to improve air quality both nationally and locally involving public communications, behaviour change and improving consumer choices.

3.21. The strategy looks at a range of actions to reduce emissions/pollution, including: Transport, The home, Farming, Industry, Clean growth and innovation

3.22. Key actions mentioned that may support the Iver Action Plan include:

- Provide a personal "air quality messaging system"
- Run a campaign on domestic burning and indoor air quality
- Tackle indoor air quality and VOCs
- Encouragement for cleaner vehicles and a switch to public transport.
- Action to encourage the use of the cleanest mode of transport for freight and passengers.
- Legislate to prohibit sale of the most polluting fuels
- Make changes to existing smoke control legislation to make it easier to enforce
- Give new powers to local authorities to take action in areas of high pollution
- Work across government to look at opportunities to align work on air quality, clean growth and fuel poverty in future policy design

3.23. The government will publish a national air pollution control programme in April 2019 to set out how the actions above and others in the strategy will be delivered and enable the UK to meet statutory commitments. Updates will therefore be fed into the action planning process to support the improvement of air quality.

4. Consultation

4.1. Consultation on the development of the air quality action plan will take place in line with Statutory Guidance. Iver Parish Council is expected to play an essential and key part in this process.

4.2. Consultation on the Low Emission Strategy will be carried out as outlined in the type 1 project management Handbook.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1. Financial

No specific financial implications with this report. Individual action plan measures will each be subject to assessment as per statutory guidance.

5.2. Legal

The AQAP must be in place within 1 year of declaring an AQMA

- 5.3.** Air pollution is both an environmental and health issue and the report considers the most effective way of following statutory guidance in order to highlight the air quality issues in the Iver area and provide evidence on the need to mitigate.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Two of the shared three headline objectives are:

- Working towards safe and healthier local communities
- Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.

7. Next Steps

Work with other councils and agencies to develop an Air Quality Action Plan for Iver and Low Emission Strategy for Buckinghamshire whilst limiting impact from NSIPs and local development.

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement to make available background papers relied on to prepare a report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services). Hyperlinks to papers published online should be used where possible. Where there are no background papers, insert None.
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