

**JOINT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP
IMPACT OF AIR QUALITY AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS ON HEALTH – ACTION PLAN**

16 August 2011

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION / Service Response	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That, in order to build on the significant improvements made to date, the Council's work to improve air quality is continued through ongoing monitoring, enforcement and education. There should also be a particular emphasis placed on the authority acting as a community leader and continuing to develop examples of good practice, such as use of electric vehicles or promotion of their use. Development of the One Planet Living framework provides the ideal opportunity for progress in this area.</p>	<p>The One Planet Living Action Plan provides a long-term framework and communication tool to help local people live more sustainable lifestyles.</p> <p>The need to make budget savings will mean that less resources will be allocated to air quality enforcement and education work in the future. Two of the three air quality monitoring stations are under review. The Environmental Protection Team who lead on air quality have lost 10 fte posts which is 20% of the staffing resources. The Environmental Sustainability Team have reduced from 5 fte posts to 2009 to 1.5 fte in December 2011. However, there is a commitment to work closely with the community on One Planet Living to keep air quality as good as possible.</p>	<p>Jeff Duffield and Middlesbrough Environment City</p>	<p>Existing staff budgets</p>	<p>Annual service plans reporting.</p> <p>The One Planet Living Action Plan is scheduled to go to the Executive on 19th July 2011</p>
<p>2. That links between improving air</p>	<p>The One Planet Living Action Plan has</p>			

<p>quality and improving health (for example promoting reduced car usage and encouraging more cycling and walking) continue to be developed, including partner working with relevant health bodies. This should aim to ensure that any gap created by the demise of the Healthy Towns Programme can be addressed.</p>	<p>priority actions around sustainable transport, promoting health, working towards zero carbon emissions. The Healthy Town programme was underpinned by a £4.1 million grant from the Department of Health, which has now ended. Most of the 40 projects were time limited and have closed down. However, some of the activities have been mainstreamed at reduced levels with support from NHS Middlesbrough.</p>	<p>Jeff Duffield and Middlesbrough Environment City</p>	<p>Existing staff budgets</p>	<p>Annual service plans reporting.</p> <p>The One Planet Living Action Plan is scheduled to go to the Executive on 19th July 2011</p>
<p>3. That further publicity is undertaken, including highlighting the working group's findings, to continue to dispel the misconception that Middlesbrough has poor air quality.</p>	<p>Promotional work will continue and when opportunities arise the benefits of local clean air will be promoted.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson</p>	<p>Existing staff budgets</p>	<p>One campaign per year</p> <p>Report progress by 31/3/12</p>
<p>4. That indoor air quality issues around the use of gas cookers are publicised, including what can be done by people to minimise any health risks.</p>	<p>Unvented gas cookers and tobacco smoking in the home are significant sources of pollution. A small team of public health officers are jointly funded by the Council and NHS Middlesbrough. Indoor air quality will feature in their future work programme</p>	<p>Wayne Flowers</p>	<p>Existing staff budgets</p>	<p>Report progress by 31/3/12</p>
<p>5. That NHS Middlesbrough is requested to undertake work to assess respiratory health trends in primary school children, particularly in respect of the possible effects of vehicle emissions.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been forwarded to NHS Middlesbrough</p>	<p>NHS Middlesbrough</p>		

