

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	6th March 2024
Subject:	Draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Draft AQAP Measures		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Cabinet on the progress of the draft Air quality Action Plan (AQAP).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** :

- a) To note the progress of the draft Air Quality Action plan.
- b) To endorse the Air Quality Action Plan going out for public consultation.

3.0 Background and Key Issue

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to produce an Air Quality Action Plan under the Environment Act 1995. There is also a duty to consult with partners and the public on the proposed action plan.

3.2 The draft plan has been developed with stakeholders during 2023. It will go through a short (4 Week) consultation with our partners and the public.

3.3 The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) outlines the actions that Gloucester City Council will take to support delivery between 2024-2028 to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution; thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the city of Gloucester.

3.4 The AQAP has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part, and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

3.5 This AQAP will be reviewed every five years at the latest and progress on measures set out within this Plan will be reported on annually within Gloucester City Council's air quality Annual Status Report (ASR) to DEFRA.

3.6 As a City Council, we are the monitoring authority and, due to the responsibilities held by the County Council in a two tier area, we rely on stakeholders / partners to implement many of the relevant measures. We do not hold the funding or ultimate decision making for these measures to be implemented, however the Joint Core Strategy and City plan contain policies relevant to air quality.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 The environment is a key consideration for delivering social value and air quality is a key component of that.

4.2 As there is no procurement directly related to this report there will be no direct social value delivery achieved or measurable as a result.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 The AQAP seeks to improve the health of residents of Gloucester through ensuring that the emission levels within the city are below maximum levels as set by DEFRA.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 None. It is a statutory requirement to have an Air Quality Action Plan.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 In accordance with part 4 of the Environmental Act 1995 as required by DEFRA.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 This AQAP will be subject to an annual review, appraisal of progress and reporting to DEFRA. Progress each year will be reported in the Annual Status Reports (ASRs) produced by Gloucester City Council, as part of our statutory Local Air Quality Management duties.

8.2 The City Council will continue to support stakeholders as the monitoring authority.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 There are currently no additional financial impacts arising from this report other than those already included in the Council budget.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 As detailed in paragraph 3, above. The Plan has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 There is a potential reputational risk if The Council choose to do nothing or discontinue our monitoring programme.

11.2 Through working in partnership, opportunities will arise to support the improvements to air quality in the City in the future and we will be able to support that.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 There are no negative impacts on people with protected characteristics resulting from this report.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 None

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 NONE

Background Documents: Draft AQAP – Shared Measures

APPENDIX 1

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
1	Continue to explore improvements within all AQMAs; highways infrastructure based. Feasibility to be completed in terms of options available.	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Less congestion and reduction in NO ₂ concentration in AQMAs.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Possible to present a number of options to the community to gain feedback. Improvements based upon; cycle lanes, one-way system, lane closure.
2	Vehicle restrictions to be enforced on the B4073	Traffic Management	Other	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Reduction in NO ₂ concentration along Painswick Road.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Explore restricting the size of vehicles travelling down Barton Street. If this is used as a cut through rather than travelling on Metz Way it would stop larger, more polluting vehicles travelling through the AQMA.
3	Development of cycle lanes, both temporary and permanent.	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle network	City Council / County Council/ Cheltenham BC	Completed	Completed for London Road/ Cycle Spine ongoing	Number of users.	-	Ongoing	Completed/ TBC	Using the London road example identify additional areas where lane closure may be feasible. Running several trials to check feasibility and uptake. A permanent cycle route from Gloucester to Cheltenham is under construction.
4	Collaborating with bus operators (Stagecoach).	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	City Council / County Council	Ongoing	Ongoing	Engagement with bus operators.	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	1) Upgrades to fleet; vehicle replacement and retrofitting. 2) Routing of buses; efficiency of service and least polluting vehicles in high NO ₂

											concentration areas. Also the option to apply to refuse fleet if the council believe this to be a viable option.
5	Develop and enforce a City wide anti-idling campaign.	Traffic Management	Anti-idling enforcement	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Increased awareness.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Reducing vehicle idling at identified points within the city; taxi ranks, train station, bus stops and outside schools.
6	Implementation of a fleet recognition scheme.	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Fleet efficiency and recognition schemes	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Number of users.	-	Ongoing	TBC	A scheme such as ECO Stars can be aimed at bus, coach, HGVs and taxis within the City. A scheme should raise awareness among operators of commercial vehicles of the important role they can play in helping to improve local air quality, through improved fleet environmental performance.
7	Procurement of low emission vehicles	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Company Vehicle Procurement - Prioritising uptake of low emission vehicles	City Council / County Council	Complete	In progress	Number of users.	-	Ongoing	On Hold	Inclusive of a salary sacrifice scheme to promote LEV take-up within council staff - tax breaks etc. In progress- Tusker soon to be launched.
8	Scooter/cycle rental.	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Prootion of cycling	City Council / County Council / Cheltenham Borough Council	Continued	Continued	Number of users.	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Trial of e-scooters and E cargo bikes currently being undertaken within Gloucester and Cheltenham. Liaise with county upon results of trial and feasibility to develop into a permanent travel option. Understood that trial went well and there is the possibility of transferring to a cycle scheme.
9	Provide supplementary planning	Policy Guidance and Development	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Engagement between EHOs and developers.	-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Guidance to be refined from discussions around requirement for

	guidance to developers.	Control									baseline monitoring / modelling, etc. Appropriate planning guidance from County Council fed down to City Council requirements.
10	Installation of electric charging points within Council car parks throughout the city.	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Other	City Council / County Council / Office for Zero Emission Vehicles	Under Consideration	TBC	Number of charging points.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Draft policy in Local Plan - every household where it is feasible. Expand upon this to install within existing car parks, subsidise EV parking. Paper re EV Charging points going to March Cabinet 2024.
11	Travel planning / Behavioural Change Campaigns	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Intensive active travel campaign & infrastructure	City Council / County Council	Ongoing	TBC	Number of plans implemented.	-	Ongoing	Open Ended	The measures that have been discussed within 3 and 4 should be moulded into a suite of works that can be developed and implemented over a set timeline. Would include Travel Plans / Journey Planning Promotion of sustainable / active travel Cycle to work schemes Family cycling schemes Working from home. Travel plans can be tailored to: Schools Job seekers Businesses Specific to geographical areas
12	Public Awareness / Information Accessibility	Public Information	Via the Internet	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Increased awareness.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Dovetailed with the measure above, the amount and the quality of information available to the general public should be increased. Emphasis on information on sustainable travel

											options. Air quality information database - central landing website that links to relevant information.
13	Schools Initiatives	Promoting Travel Alternatives	School Travel Plans	City Council / County Council	TBC	TBC	Number of schools involved.	-	Ongoing	TBC	Specifically related to the schools within Gloucester. Again, a list of sub-measures should be detailed that can be developed and implemented over a set timeline. To consider: Anti-idling School streets / street closures Ongoing educational events Cycle and walking route planning