

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

In depth review topic:	Air Quality, Public Transport and Active Travel
Lead Committee:	HASC/Regen Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Rationale (key issues and/or reason for doing the review)	<p>The Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to select this topic for an in-depth scrutiny review at its meeting on 26 October 2023. Air Quality is of significant Public Health importance as it's the greatest environmental impactor on health in the UK. Between 28000 and 36000 deaths per year are attributed to poor air quality. The effects of air quality are felt across the life course from birth to death, negatively impact physical and mental health of individuals. Air quality is evidenced to greatly impact on and contributes to widened health inequality those who reside in areas of deprivation.</p> <p>A key theme of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan are Public Transport and Active Travel and Medway's Air Quality Action Plans (2015 and 2022) and Air Quality Communications Strategy recognise the contribution Sustainable Transport and Active Travel make to achieving the Council's air quality goals. Medway has developed strategies to drive forward its sustainable transport and active travel goals due to the associated links with climate change, congestion, air quality and the impact on the population.</p>
Recommended Terms of Reference	<p>Due to the breadth of the topic, it is proposed that the Task Group identifies three particular strands, one in relation to air quality, one in relation to public transport and active travel and one in relation to public health as this was a big driver in identifying this topic in the first instance. Focusing on these specific areas only will enable the task group to be more effective and add the most value from the review. It is therefore recommended that the three strands are:</p> <p>Air Quality – how the wider Council services contribute to air quality ambitions and reporting.</p> <p>Public Transport and Active Travel – the principles of low traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and the potential benefits to communities across Medway.</p> <p>Public Health – Asthma (which we know is exacerbated by poor air quality)</p>

<p>Potential Key lines of Enquiry:</p>	<p>Air Quality – how the wider Council services contribute to air quality ambitions and reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the effectiveness of internal reporting on progress against the Council’s air quality action plans. • How the environmental protection team are consulted and engaged on projects and policies across the Council which may have an impact on air quality. <p>Public Transport and Active Travel – the principles of low traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and the potential benefits to communities across Medway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consult with expert witnesses including other authorities that have implemented LTNs. • To explore evidence relating to the impact of LTNs on air quality and sustainable transport, emergency services, local businesses and other key stakeholders. • To consider the data required to support any implementation of LTN principles, links to wider local policy objectives and the requirements for consultation and engagement. <p>Public Health – Asthma (which we know is exacerbated by poor air quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of the impact of air quality in relation to asthma • To consult with expert witnesses such as primary care and nursing staff. • To identify examples of best practice or work done to support improved health outcomes in relation to asthma.
<p>Task Group Members:</p>	<p>Councillors Bowen, Brake, Crozer, Field, Filmer, McDonald and Prenter</p>
<p>Officer Support to include Democratic Services Officer:</p>	<p>Ian Gilmore- Head of Regulatory Services Stuart Steed – Environmental protection Officer Aeilish Geldenhuys – Public Health Consultant and Strategic Head of Service James Flower- Senior Public Health Manager Michael Edwards - Head of Transport and Parking Stephanie Davis – Democratic Services Officer</p>
<p>Indicative Timeline:</p>	<p>January 2024 – initial Task Group meeting to:</p>

	<p>i) Agree scope and key lines of enquiry for the review ii) Consider the national/local context and current position/performance in Medway iii) Consider the type, format and number of evidence sessions to be held and the witnesses to be included.</p> <p>April 2024 – Task Group meeting to revisit scope</p> <p>August 2024 – Proposed key stakeholder event. The aim on the event is to gather intelligence on the three following areas of focus and identify any gaps within the review’s scoping document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Air Quality : How to effectively support the Council in governance delivery of its action plans ➤ Health Asthma – Actions taking place to deliver its aspirations in tackling contributing factors such as air quality and transport ➤ Low Traffic neighbourhoods – This has not been looked at in Medway, exploration of the principles of this and what could be achieved. <p>Following this event, the task group will revisit its key lines of enquiry to ensure there are no changes required and will then begin to look at the three strands, one at a time.</p> <p>September 2024 - roundtable discussions to pick up any gaps identified from stakeholder event,</p> <p>September – November 2024 - Mini Witness events/meetings on each individual strand and field visit</p> <p>December 2024 - Task group discussion to bring tie the three strand together and to agree draft recommendations and report.</p> <p>16 January 2025 – Draft report to be considered by HASC O&S</p> <p>21 January 2025 – Draft report to be considered by Regen O&S</p> <p>11 February 2025 – Final Report to be considered by Cabinet</p>
<p>Methodology/ Approach: (what types of enquiries will be used to gather evidence and why)</p>	<p>Virtual discussions with Task Group Members will be preferable with face to face discussion as needed/ where this is not possible.</p> <p>Evidence sessions will be needed with officers and expert stakeholders to discuss issues and given the breadth of the review topic and the possible number of stakeholders</p>

	<p>involved, it is recommended to hold a larger stakeholder event at St Georges Centre with all involved at the beginning to gather information and also identify any gaps that need to be filled within the key lines of enquiry.</p> <p>Officers may be able to identify areas with examples of best practice which the Task Group may wish to then meet with/visit to learn about experiences.</p>
<p>Relevant Medway policy framework</p>	<p>Air Quality Action Plans (2015 and 2022)</p> <p>Medway Air Quality Communications Strategy</p> <p>Medway Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Council Plan 2023-2024</p> <p>Medway JSNA</p> <p>Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>Medway Local Transport Plan</p>
<p>Legal framework and national policy position</p>	<p>The UK has a longstanding framework to improve air quality and all authorities are bound by the local air quality management framework which requires them to review and assess the quality of the air in their area and having regard to a set of health-based air quality objectives. Where exceedances of air quality objectives are found the local authority has a statutory duty to declare and Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop and implement an Air Quality Action Plan which sets out the actions that will be taken to improve air quality in the AQMA.</p> <p>The duties of local authorities are set out in the Environment Act 1995 and the associated policy and technical guidance.</p>
<p>Performance regime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How is performance measured? ➤ What are current targets and current performance ➤ How does Medway compare with similar authorities, with their action plans 	<p>Performance measures include:</p> <p>Current performance measures for transport are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers using the primary cycle network. The total number of cycle movements for Q3 2023/24 is 111,752 with an average of 6,985 movements per cycle counter site recorded. This is a reduction on Q2 2023/24 figure of 146,808, but is keeping with previous patterns and trends, where cycle movements drop significantly during the autumn and winter months. • Average journey time along five identified routes in Medway (mins-per-mile measurement across the 8.00am to 9.00am Monday to Friday morning peak). The last tranche of data was received during Q1 23/24 and covered the calendar year 2022. The result for all four quarters in the 2022 calendar year was well below the 4 minutes per mile target, with the lowest figure, 2.64, recorded in Q2

	<p>Benchmarking against similar authorities has not been undertaken.</p> <p>Performance measures relating to the impact of air quality on health includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma data, although not a formal KPI within our Council Plan, this is data that PH hold and could be used to inform the Task Group. <p>Air Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Status Report which is a statutory requirement to submit to DEFRA annually, provides a matrix of performance and monitoring data relating to AQAP progress. This document is included in the bundle for background. • There is nothing currently, at a lower level for the Council for cross services input and accountability.
Diversity impact assessment needed	Yes
Evidence sources	Stakeholder event, datasets, any areas with examples of best practice identified
Project start date:	1 January 2024
Draft report deadline:	September 2024 (provisional)
Meeting frequency:	<p>This will be heavily determined by officer/partner availability as both have confirmed they have limited capacity to support the task group at this time.</p> <p>It will therefore be helpful if Task Group Members can be as flexible as possible.</p>

**For information relating to this review please contact
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