

Report Title:	<b>Resident Scrutiny Suggestion – Air Pollution Monitoring</b>
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Meeting and Date:	People Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 19 January 2023
Responsible Officer(s):	Feliciano Cirimele, Environmental Protection Officer Obi Oranu, Environmental Health Service Manager Tracy Hendren, Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Wards affected:	All

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

- The report outlines a suggested topic submitted by a resident for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Topics can be suggested by residents and then considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration (criteria outlined in paragraph 1.1.) Residents are able to access the criteria on the [council's website](#).
- Details of the resident who has submitted this topic have been anonymised.
- The suggested topic received as follows: “Introduction of the monitoring in all RBWM Area Quality Management Areas (AQMA) of ‘R polluting’ particulates, to include PM2.5 and other particulate sizes. This would be in the public interest and would enable the Council to help prevent significant health risks.”
- It is recommended that this topic is considered by the People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

### **1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the People Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the report and agrees the Council will continue the current monitoring regime and report back to Members with 2022 results, but also commits to 3 additional monitoring stations for Monitoring PM10 and PM2.5 to provide data for the council to base air quality monitoring and actions moving forward. The Council are investigating the proposal to use low-cost sensor equipment to determine the current prevalence and potential sources of PM10 and PM2.5 within the 5 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and then install high-cost air quality monitoring units in 2 locations that merit it.

### **Low-cost sensor equipment**

Estimated capital costs:

Sensor equipment: £3,000 (suggest 5 to cover the current 5 Air Quality

Management Areas as referenced in the petition: £15,000 for 5)

Installation of equipment – secure to fixtures/fittings and electrical connection:  
£750 (£3,750 for 5)

Estimated revenue costs:

Annual servicing and data validation: £2,500 per sensor (£12,500 for 5).

### **High-cost air monitoring units**

Estimated capital costs:

Air monitoring unit: £30,000 (£60,000 for 2 units). NB: these are not mobile units.

Installation of units - highways and electrical connection: £2,500 (£5,000 for 2 units)

Estimated revenue costs:

Annual servicing and data validation: £6,000 (£12,000 for 2 units).

## **2. CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT FOR SUGGESTED TOPICS RECEIVED BY RESIDENTS**

2.1 Residents should only submit topics that relate to **a service, event or issue** which affects the social, environmental or economic wellbeing of a group or community of people in the Borough.

2.2 What makes a good scrutiny topic?

- **Scope** – is it an issue of concern to our local communities and other associated organisations?
- **Significance** – could a review of this issue improve the Council's (or other organisations) processes or performance and make a positive difference to the lives of our residents?
- **Appropriate** – is this review timely and does it avoid duplicating other work?

2.3 Items that will not be considered include:

- Individual service complaints for which there is a corporate complaints procedure (please click [here](#) for more details)
- Topics outside of the remit of the council or where the council has no powers or influence to change an outcome
- Issues which scrutiny has considered in the last 12 months
- Areas relating to quasi-judicial functions e.g. planning, licensing and standards

### 3. INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SUGGESTED TOPIC

#### **Scope:**

There are currently 5 AQMAs within the Council area. These were declared for the concentrations of road traffic emissions exceeding the annual mean for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), which has a limit of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (the concentration of an air pollutant is given in micrograms (one-millionth of a gram) per cubic meter air or µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

Since the AQMA declarations – in Windsor and Maidenhead in 2005, Bray/M4 in 2009 and Imperial/St Leonards Road junction and Wraysbury/M25 in 2014 respectively, air quality has markedly improved and concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> across all areas are now below the objective level of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

PM<sub>10</sub> are monitored at Frascati Way, MAIDENHEAD. The recorded annual mean concentration decreased from 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2016 to 19 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2021. These levels are well below the national air quality objective of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. During the same period the respective PM<sub>2.5</sub> estimated annual mean concentration decreased from 17.5 to 13.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. These levels are well below the current national legal limit of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Significance:**

The local decline of PM<sub>2.5</sub> as detailed above is also reflected at national level. The decline in concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at roadside monitoring sites approximately follows the trends seen for the decline of PM<sub>10</sub>, this is because PM<sub>2.5</sub> is a subset of PM<sub>10</sub>.

PM<sub>10</sub> is monitored at a site in Frascati Way, MAIDENHEAD. The site is on the A308, one of the main arterial roads in the borough. It is also close to Maidenhead Town Centre where major construction works are underway, which is monitored as an area likely to see the highest levels of PM<sub>10</sub> in the borough.

There are currently no concerns for both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceeding the air quality objectives, this is based on the low-level concentrations measured at Frascati Way and predictions across the five AQMAs.

#### **Appropriate:**

Currently, PM<sub>2.5</sub> is not incorporated into Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regulations and the responsibility for achieving and assessing PM<sub>2.5</sub> targets sits with national government. There is currently no statutory requirement to review and assess PM<sub>2.5</sub> for LAQM purposes.

Whilst responsibility for meeting the PM<sub>2.5</sub> target sits with national government local authorities have a role to play in delivering reductions in PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The council's priority is to continue to reduce emissions from local sources by taking a number of steps to address PM<sub>2.5</sub> including traffic management, promoting workplace, school and personalised travel planning, improving facilities for cycling and walking, promoting bus services, the implementation

of a scheme for Maidenhead station interchange and the provision of electric vehicle charge points.

#### 4. CORPORATE PRIORITY AREAS

4.1 When assessing a topic it is important to understand whether this item would fall under one of the key objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2021-2026, which has the overarching vision of 'Creating a sustainable borough of opportunity and innovation'. It has been assessed that this topic would fall under the following objectives and priorities:

- **Inspiring Places:** Supporting the borough's future prosperity and sustainability.
- Taking action to tackle climate change and its consequences and improving our natural environment.
- Promote awareness of a sustainable and biodiverse environment across all of our decision-making.

#### 5. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held
Feliciano Cirimele	Environmental Protection Officer
Obi Oranu	Environmental Health Service Manager
Tracy Hendren	Head of Housing Environmental Health and Trading Standards

#### REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For the Panel to consider if further scrutiny is required.	No	No

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