

Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

Report Title	Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy
Item for decision or information?	Item for decision
Sponsor	Sarah Scott
Author	Dave Mc Conalogue Philip Williams Sarah Scott
Organisation	Gloucestershire County Council, Public Health Team
Key Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A Members’ Task Group on Air Quality and Health made a series of recommendations including the development of a Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy, and a robust governance process led by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board – Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board agreed that it would serve as the focal point of governance for the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy. – The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy has been developed by the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Group for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board. – The members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have a key role supporting the delivery of the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy through their organisations. Members are asked to consider the commitments their organisations can make to contribute to implementing the strategy. 	
Recommendations to Board:	
<p>Members of the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy for implementation through the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Group. 2. Identify specific actions in their role as Board members and organisation leads to support improvements in air quality and reducing its impact on their staff and members of the public. 	
Financial/Resource Implications:	
<p>Funding requirements for implementation of the strategy will be reviewed by the Partnership Group. The Partnership will prioritise funding needs and agree approach to identifying funding opportunities.</p>	

1. Purpose

This report briefly summarises the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health strategy development process and the key strategic areas for delivery as described in the strategy document. The Board members are asked to approve the strategy for implementation in Gloucestershire, and to consider how their organisation can make specific commitments to support its implementation.

2. Background

Exposure to poor air quality has a negative impact on health from both short term and longer term exposure. It impacts on the development and exacerbation of respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and cancers amongst other illnesses. It also has an impact on demand for health and social care services and contributes to reductions in productivity. Moreover, it is a source of inequality in Gloucestershire, where those who pollute the least have the highest levels of exposure and the poorest outcomes.

In November 2018 a 'Deep Dive' into air quality and health in Gloucestershire was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This work was informed by the Gloucestershire Health and System Impact Assessment, and the work of the Members' Task Group on air quality and health. The Board agreed that air quality was an important issue for the health of the population of Gloucestershire. The Board also agreed to act as the overarching point of governance for the development and implementation of a Gloucestershire Strategy for Air Quality and Health.

This paper provides a brief summary of the development and content of the draft Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy.

3. Development of the Air Quality and Health Strategy

The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy development has been led by the Air Quality and Health Partnership which is a multiagency group set up to coordinate the development and delivery of the strategy. The strategy has been informed by a range of private and public sector organisations and professionals, and through a systematic review of the evidence regarding the relationship between air quality and health and positive actions to improve air quality and reduce its impact on health. The key sources which have informed the strategy include:-

- Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health System Impact Assessment

The Health and System Impact Assessment (HSIA) was a systematic approach to the consideration of data and evidence regarding air quality and health in Gloucestershire, which informed the recommendations of the Members' Task Group on Air Quality and Health. The HSIA also included strong participation from a range of stakeholders across Gloucestershire through a workshop involving 55 delegates.

- Members' Task group on air quality and health

The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Members' Task group was a cross party group, supported by County Council officers. The group agreed a set of recommendations, which covered: air quality monitoring; establishment of Air Quality and Health Partnership; development of an air quality and health strategy for Gloucestershire; digital air quality information sharing; consideration of air quality and health in planning and transport policy; strengthening of the local transport plan regarding air quality and health; uptake of electric vehicles; uptake of active travel; and cleaner vehicle fleets.

- Air quality and health strategy development workshop

The Partnership group set up a multi-agency, multi-professional workshop to identify and prioritise initiatives for inclusion in the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy. The workshop was attended by more than 60 delegates from private and public bodies.

- Partnership and work stream delivery groups

The partnership and its work stream delivery groups reviewed the strategic themes and agreed amendments across partners.

4. Key strategic areas for delivery

The strategy draws together a number of key strategic areas for delivery which were identified through the strategy development process. The key strategic areas for delivery are:

- Public engagement
- Air quality monitoring and information
- Active travel
- Planning and policy
- Ultra low emission vehicles
- Cleaner fleets and public transport.

Detailed actions to support the delivery of the key strategic areas are contained in the main strategy document.

5. The role of members of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The members of the Board have a key role in promoting the implementation of the strategy as an important tool to help improve the health of the population of Gloucestershire. The Board also have a position as Health and Wellbeing leaders to support the delivery of the strategy to meet commitments in national policy which are specifically impacted by air quality: The Clean Air Strategy; The UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide; and the NHS Long Term Plan (which sets target for at least 90% of NHS fleet to use low-emissions engines by 2028).

Additionally, Board members can lead actions in their own organisations to directly contribute to the delivery of the strategy by reviewing opportunities to: reduce the pollution attributed to their own fleet and the fleet of the services they contract with; enable employees to engage in active means of travel during their commute to work and in their work based travel; and to support clients and patients to reduce their levels of pollution when they use their services.

5. Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board

Members of the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:-

1. Approve the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy for implementation through the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Group.
2. Identify specific actions in their role as Board members and organisation leads to support improvements in air quality and reducing its impact on their staff and members of the public.

Authors:

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