

## Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

<b>Report Title</b>	Air quality and health in Gloucestershire
<b>Item for decision or information?</b>	Item for decision
<b>Sponsor</b>	Sarah Scott
<b>Author</b>	Dave Mc Conalogue, Consultant in Public Health Philip Williams, Lead Commissioner Community Infrastructure Sarah Scott, Director of Public Health
<b>Organisation</b>	Gloucestershire County Council, Public Health Team
<b>Key Issues:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air quality and health is an important issue for Gloucestershire, in terms of its impact on prevalence of disease, life expectancy and impact on demand for health and social care services</li> <li>- A health and system impact assessment was carried out to examine air quality and health in Gloucestershire. The outputs from this helped to inform recommendations from a Members' Task Group</li> <li>- The Members' Task Group recommendations include the development of a Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy, and a robust governance process led by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>- Public Sector organisations have a key role in identifying actions to reduce the impact of their organisations on air quality and its impact on their staff, clients and the public</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations to Board:</b>	
<p>Members of the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the Health and System Impact Assessment for Air Quality and Health in Gloucestershire, and the Member's Task Group recommendations</li> <li>- Approve the governance process for development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy.</li> <li>- Identify the role of their organisations in supporting improvements in air quality and reducing its impact on their staff and members of the public</li> </ul>	
<b>Financial/Resource Implications:</b> None identified	

## 1. Purpose

This report describes the process and outcomes from a Members' Task Group, convened by the GCC Environment Scrutiny Committee, which utilised a Health and System Impact Assessment to consider air quality and health in Gloucestershire. The report highlights the pathway for developing an approach to improving air quality and health in Gloucestershire, and the proposed role of the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board in directing the development and implementation of an air quality and health strategy. The report also requests the engagement of members of the Board and their organisations to help support actions to improve air quality and to reduce its impact on the health of the population of Gloucestershire.

## 2. Background

Particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxides (NO) are the two key pollutants that affect air quality at the local level. At any level of exposure they can have a negative impact on health from both short term and longer term exposures. They contribute to the prevalence of disease, life expectancy, demand on health and social care services and economic productivity. It is also a source of health inequality, where the most deprived and those who pollute the least, have the highest exposure and the worst outcomes in terms of health and life expectancy.

In October 2018 a Members' Task Group was set up to consider air quality and health in Gloucestershire. The group was supported by Gloucestershire County Council Officers from Public Health, Community Infrastructure and Democratic Services. The group agreed to complete a Health and System Impact Assessment on air quality and health to inform recommendations on how to respond to air quality and its impact on health in Gloucestershire. The Health and System Impact Assessment covered the following areas (see appendix A and B):

- Evidence review on the relationship between air quality and health
- Data and epidemiology on air quality and health in Gloucestershire
- Review of evidence based interventions to improve air quality and/or mitigate its impact on health

These elements were presented at a multi-stakeholder group workshop, which was attended by 55 delegates including participation from: Active Gloucestershire; NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group; District Councils; Gloucestershire County Council; Gloucestershire wildlife trust; Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership; Public Health England; Highways England; Stagecoach; and University of Gloucestershire. The workshop delegates considered the opportunities, challenges, and priorities for action around air quality and health in Gloucestershire.

The Health and System Impact Assessment (including workshop outputs) was discussed by the Member's Task Group. The group recognised the impact of poor air quality on the health of people living in Gloucestershire, the impact this has on health and social care services, and its contribution to premature mortality. The group also recognised the role that individual organisations in both the Public and Private sector have on air quality. It was felt important that Public Sector organisations should lead by example in how they manage their contracts and fleets to reduce emissions and mitigate exposure for their workforce.

The task group agreed a set of recommendations to support improvements on air quality and health in Gloucestershire (appendix C):

- Development of a Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy

- Development of a Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership to develop and drive the strategy
- Establish a robust governance process for the strategy, led by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, with oversight and scrutiny provided by both the Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Improvements to air quality monitoring
- Improving information to the public on air quality and its impact on health within Gloucestershire
- Inclusion of air quality and health as a consideration in District and County Council planning and transport policies, and the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan
- Actions to promote the uptake of electric vehicles
- Promotion of uptake of active travel
- Review of licencing of Public Transport and Public Sector fleet management to promote uptake of cleaner vehicles and reduction in emissions

The recommendations of the Member's Task Group were supported by the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and by Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet.

### 3. Implementing air quality and health recommendations

The recommendations of the Member's Task Group which were informed by the Health and System Impact Assessment for Air Quality and Health in Gloucestershire are being taken forward by the Gloucestershire air quality and health partnership. This group is a pan-Gloucestershire partnership made up of organisations and professions from Local Authorities, NHS, community organisations, and the private sector. The partnership has responsibility for the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire air quality and health strategy.

The partnership was set up in October 2018. The immediate objectives of the partnership are to:

- Direct the establishment of three groups to develop action plans on: electric vehicles and clean fleet; active travel; and air quality monitoring and behaviour change
- Organise an air quality and health strategy development workshop: This took place in October and was attended by over 60 delegates from a range of Public Sector, community groups, and private sector. The outputs from this workshop are being analysed to inform the Gloucestershire air quality and health strategy
- Develop a Gloucestershire strategy for air quality and health
- Direct and monitor the implementation of the Gloucestershire air quality and health strategy

### 4. Role of Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

The Member's Task Group highlighted the importance of a robust governance process, with strong leadership provided by health bodies and the wider public sector. It was acknowledged that the key outcome from exposure to poor levels of air quality is the development of chronic health conditions and acute episodes of care.

The members also highlighted the impact of healthcare organisations, in addition to Local Authorities, on air quality and their role in improving this.

It is proposed that as an important issue for the health of Gloucestershire, and its impact on health and social care organisations, that the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board lead the governance process for the development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy.

The members of the Board also have an important role in identifying actions for their organisations to improve air quality in Gloucestershire, and to help protect their patients, clients and members of the public from exposure to poor air quality.

The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership will coordinate the development and implementation of the strategy, and agree the establishment of workgroups to drive forward specific elements of the strategy. The Partnership will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.

## 5. Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board

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

- Review the Health and System Impact Assessment for Air Quality and Health in Gloucestershire, and the Member's Task Group recommendations
- Approve the governance process for development and implementation of the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy.
- Identify the role of their organisations in supporting improvements in air quality and reducing its impact on their staff and members of the public

### Authors

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