



# Bristol Scrutiny 2017/18

## (DRAFT) Scoping of Scrutiny Topic

Title

Air Quality and Pollution Working Group (TBC)

### 1. Reasons for Undertaking this Work

Main reasons for undertaking the piece of work (and any Background information if relevant)

Air Pollution is a long standing problem in Bristol, and all UK cities. In Bristol an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2001 because of breaches in the legal standards of Nitrogen Dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is limited under UK and EU law because of the impacts it has on human health. Approximately 100,000 people live within the AQMA and it includes the whole central business and shopping districts, major hospitals and dozens of schools and so many more people are exposed to the air [pollution](#).

The Mayor has established Working Group on Air Pollution, which will work closely with the Congestion Task Force. The Working Group, which includes Cabinet Member Cllr Hance, has received advice from Council Officers and external experts on air pollution, transport and public health matters. This allows for an integrated approach to planning improvements in air quality which will be set out in an Air Quality Action Plan closely linked with emerging transport plans and will also feed into the findings of the congestion task group.

The Council is the lead authority for the feasibility study on a Clean Air Zone and has secured a £498,600 grant funding from DEFRA. The feasibility study is being carried out by external consultants. The study will examine the current situation, future scenarios and model a range of options for a Clean Air Zone(s). The project needs to be completed by March 2018 as a part of the grant conditions, with implementation of a CAZ in 2019.

There is strong cross-party support for improving air quality but members also recognise that difficult decisions may need to be made on a number of related issues.

Scrutiny Members are conscious not to duplicate the existing work but wish to

constructively scrutinise and contribute to the work currently taking place.

Key question that you are seeking to answer

(as above and below).

Main objectives/main areas of investigation

To engage with relevant officers and the Cabinet Member for task-based meetings, centred around the emerging timetable as detailed above and below. The Scrutiny Group will have detailed discussions on evolving plans and be able to challenge and / or to be a sounding-board on emerging reports and policy development.

Draft timetable of the key stages and engagement:  
August 2017 – All Member briefing. Followed by scrutiny working group engagement with Officers prior to August Cabinet Report ‘Clean Air Action Plan and Clean Air Zone Feasibility Study’ – scrutiny working group to feed-into and / or challenge report.

Sept / Oct 2017: examine non clean air zone (CAZ) issues, such as trees, wood-burners, planning policy & diesel generators, freight consolidation centre, traffic management and infrastructure, static emissions from factories in Avonmouth

End Jan 2018: Scrutiny Working Group to be taken through the consultant’s report – views sought (prior to Cabinet)

March / April: Consultants Final report on preferred option and policy development

Other areas Lead Members have expressed an interest in:

- better public engagement, awareness raising, and an improved communications strategy for the difficult decisions that may need to be taken, that would affect the public
- assessing the potential economic impacts on different communities

Draft Terms of Reference and possible outcomes

TBC by the Group Members

## 2. Member Involvement

Members involved

CLLrs Gill Kirk, Charlie Bolton, Tom Brook, Jude English

Key Executive Member

Cabinet Member - Cllr Fi Hance

Other Executive  
Member Portfolios  
covered, if any

**3. Officer Support**

Lead Directorate  
Officer(s)

Alex Minshull - Sustainable City and Climate Change Service Manager  
Kathy Derick - Environment Team Manager

Scrutiny Advisor

Johanna Holmes

List of possible internal  
and external  
witnesses/contributors  
and key information  
required

**Time Frame**

	Draft timetable above

Decision-making/path  
for recommendations:

The group will regularly report back to OSMB

**Costs**

Specific costs identified

None identified

Date: .....

