

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel Briefing Note

15 October 2020

Pollution Strategy Development

This briefing note sets out the scope for the development of a pollution policy in order to begin early engagement with the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel. The Climate and Environmental Emergency Action plan as agreed in November 2019 included a commitment for the Council to produce a Pollution Strategy, setting out its approach to wider environmental pollution issues beyond the Air Quality Plan adopted in January 2020.

The current plan is that over the coming months detailed proposals will be produced and brought back to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel in February 2021 for consideration.

The proposed Pollution Policy is intended to set out the Council's approach to the main Environmental Protection areas, these include:

- Noise
- Dust
- Light
- Vibration
- Smoke
- Impacts to Land (including Soil), Water and Air
- Impact on Human and Ecological receptors

The policy will be developed by:

- Taking into account what level of issue there are on each of the above
- Considering the interdependency with wider strategies, specifically:
 - Climate and Environmental Emergency Strategy
 - Air Quality Strategy (Borough Wide)
 - Tree Policy (under development)
 - Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Waste Policy
- Ensuring effective delivery of Council Services for Environmental Protection and work to mitigate any Environmental Decline.
- Setting SMART targets for improvement in levels of pollutants, reduction in pollutant impacts.

Timescales

- P&P for scoping on 15 October 2020
- P&P Environment Sub Working Group engagement November to February
- P&P for policy consideration 11 February 2021

- Cabinet for final consideration 22 February 2021

Considerations for Members of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel

- Does the scope as set out in this document cover all of the Councils activities regarding Pollution?
- Are there particular areas which at this time appear to be priorities for the Council around pollution management?
- What information would be useful in understanding pollution matters in the Borough?
- Are there particular groups who we should consider engaging with during the development of this policy?
- Which members of the panel would wish to be on the working group?