

Briefing notes on Issues included in the Forward Plan Issue 4 2004/05

SERVICE AREA: Environmental Services (Environmental Health)

Report ref	Report title
	Air Quality Action Plan
<p>Summary / Nature of Decision to be taken/Intended Outcome</p> <p>Brent has been carrying out review and assessment of air quality under The Environment Act 1995. Stage 3 of this process determined that there are areas within the borough where air quality objectives for annual NO₂ and the daily mean PM₁₀ are likely to be exceeded by their target years. Where air quality objectives are predicted to be exceeded, local authorities are legally required to declare air quality management areas (AQMA's), covering at least the AQMA's. In April 2002 Brent declared large parts of the Borough AQMA's. Following the declaration, further assessment was carried out (stage 4). The Stage 4 assessment also refined the knowledge of sources of pollution so that the Air Quality action Plan (AQAP) could be properly targeted.</p> <p>In early 2003, a draft AQAP was produced and in the first instance forwarded to both the GLA and DEFRA (Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs) for their initial evaluation. DEFRA comments were received promptly but GLA comments were not received until July 2004. This was the main reason for the initial delays in the report being forwarded for approval to the Executive.</p> <p>The concerns of both the GLA and DEFRA have been the robustness of Brent's Transport policies in bringing about the air quality improvements required and how these can be quantified.</p> <p>Environmental Health has been working with both the Transportation Unit and Planning Service to review these policies. The Unitary Development Plan 2004, the Borough Spending Plan and the Transport Implementation Plan have been reviewed so that the policies are robust enough to bring about air quality improvements. These changes as well as other recommendations made by the ALG are going to be incorporated in the revised AQAP.</p> <p>The most recent delay has been due to vast amount of our time and energy focussed on Quintain Development as well as working with 50% of the team due to staff recruitment difficulties. Environmental Health will endeavour to deliver the final AQAP by November/December 2004.</p>	

Timescale for decision:

Report originally scheduled to go to Executive on 11th October 2004 but report has since been pulled.

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