

Cabinet Response to Recommendation 1 of the Air Quality Task Group Scrutiny Report

Introduction

Further to the meetings of the Cabinet on 9th January 2008 and the Scrutiny Steering Board on 5th February 2008, the Cabinet, at its meeting on 5th March 2008, re-considered its response to the first recommendation contained within the Air Quality Task Group Scrutiny Report in relation to Low Emission Zones. The Chairman of the Task Group, Councillor P. M. McDonald, was present to respond to any issues raised on this matter.

Further response to Recommendation 1

Please find below further response to the first recommendation contained within the scrutiny report.

Recommendation 1 - Low Emission Zones

This Council considers applying to Worcestershire County Council for certain roads to be made low emission zone roads therefore limiting access to certain types of vehicles which reduce air quality. Specifically, the Task Group believe the following roads/areas should be low emission due to high NO₂ levels:

- Approximately a 2 mile radius around Bromsgrove town centre
- A38 Bypass in Rubery
- All roads in Rubery with a weight restriction
- A456 in Hagley
- A491 in Hagley

The Cabinet resolved that the relevant Portfolio Holder, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Air Quality Task Group (should the Task Group Chairman so wish), take this matter forward with the appropriate officers of the County Council and that the Portfolio Holder keep the Scrutiny Steering Board (SSB) updated, via the SSB's Recommendation Tracker Report, as to any progress regarding implementation of a Low Emission Zone Scheme in the roads/areas detailed in the original recommendation.

It was noted that whilst further information had been received on the Low Emission Zone scheme which was being implemented in London, this was not an issue which the authority, as a District Council, could have a direct impact on and that this therefore needed to be progressed by the County Council.

Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M. B. E.
Portfolio Holder for Planning