

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW BOARD

31ST MARCH 2009

AIR QUALITY – LOW EMISSION ZONES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor P. J. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects Head of Planning and Environment Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the last Board Meeting held on 3rd March 2009, it was agreed that Mr. David Balme from Worcestershire County Council's Highways should be invited to the next ordinary meeting of the Board to discuss the progress of implementing recommendation 1 put forward by the Air Quality Task Group. Mr. D. Balme has also supplied some written information attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members' views are requested and the information provided should be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In February 2009, the Overview Board undertook a review to find out what progress had been made over the past 12 months in relation to the recommendations from the Air Quality Task Group investigation which were approved by the Cabinet in January 2008.
- 3.2 At that meeting, the Chairman of the Board (who had also been the Chairman of the Air Quality Task Group) had a particular concern regarding the first recommendation which related to the District Council giving consideration to applying to the County Council for certain roads to be made low emission zone roads. It was reported by the Board Chairman that Mr. D. Balme from County Council's Highways, who had attended Task Group Meetings, had stated that this was an option. Therefore, it was questioned why this had not been moved forward.
- 3.3 Due to the Chairman's concerns, the Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects, Mr. P. Street, was requested to provide Members with a progress update the following month.

3.4 On the 3rd March 2009, Mr. Street informed the Board that he had been in contact with Mr. Balme who had researched the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in London. Mr. Balme believed that the next stage was for a meeting to be arranged with key stakeholders to explore the issues of implementing an LEZ in Bromsgrove District. At that time, Members were reminded that a high level technical meeting between key interested parties had been proposed and had since been arranged. Such a meeting is due to place March/April 2009.

3.5 As requested at the meeting held at the beginning of this month, Mr. Balme was invited and will be in attendance at the Board meeting on 31st March 2009, together with Mr. Street, to answer any questions from Members. Mr. Balme has also provided some information which can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. However, the implementation cost, charges and future management of LEZ would need to be considered as part of the investigations to assist the Council in deciding whether or not an LEZ should be implemented within Bromsgrove District.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report. However, as part of the investigations into Low Emission Zones (LEZ), all legal implications would need to be identified and considered before any action is taken.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 The report links to the Council's objectives Environment and Improvement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 All risks associated with LEZ will need to be identified and considered as part of the investigations into recommendation 1 referred to in this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 All customer implications associated with LEZ will need to be identified and considered as part of the investigations into recommendation 1 referred to in this report

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment would need to be undertaken if, after investigating and considering the option, the Council took the decision to implement an LEZ.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 All value for money implications associated with LEZ will need to be identified and considered as part of the investigations into recommendation 1 referred to in this report

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

As part of the investigations, any other implications would need to be identified and taken into consideration.

Procurement Issues – None
Personnel Implications – None
Governance/Performance Management - None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - None
Policy - None
Environmental - the topic “air quality” is environmental so there are environmental implications.

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	Yes
Executive Director - Services	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No

Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Information provided by Mr. D. Balme (Worcestershire County Council's Highways) on LEZ

Appendix 2 - Recommendation 1 and Cabinet Response.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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