

Scrutiny Panel Meeting – 4 January 2011

Item 4 – Health Inequalities & Improvement

Supplementary Information relating to Paragraph 4 of LINK Report

Reference is made at paragraph 4 to a meeting held on 22 March 2010. Amongst a range of issues addressed was air quality in the Borough. It was acknowledged that one of the largest causes of this problem was the proximity of M6 and M5 motorways. LINK representatives requested that the Council work with other Black Country local authorities and the Local Government Association to have these motorways closed.

It was explained that such a suggestion was not practical and therefore the Council could not commit scarce public resources to such a campaign. It was explained that closure was impractical due to the impact upon the local and national economy and also potentially counter-productive as drivers sought other routes that would cause congestion, potentially greater pollution and road accidents.

The Council declared the whole of its Borough an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and an action plan was prepared in relation to the national air quality objectives. This was approved by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and then the Cabinet in December 2008. Progress reports have been submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Panel and a further progress report is being prepared.

The Council's pollution control service recently provided LINK with detailed information on a wide range of environmental impact issues, including transportation initiatives, contaminated land strategies, air quality assessments, planning matters as well as joint working with NHS Walsall on public health issues.

Paul Sheehan
Chief Executive
23 December 2010