

**Meeting:** Environment Sub-committee

**Date:** 10 January 2018

**Title:** Work Programme 2018

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**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To invite the Sub-committee to give consideration to the inclusion of an in-depth study into air quality in to the 2017/18 work programme.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That members consider whether they wish to add a study into air quality into the Sub-committee's work programme

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 As part of its previously agreed work programme the Sub-committee currently has a Sub-group carrying out a piece of work in relation to solar PV and battery storage. This work will shortly be concluded and Members may therefore wish to give consideration to undertaking a further piece of work before the end of the municipal year.
- 3.2 It has been suggested that discussions around air quality in North Tyneside tend to focus on the pollutants emitted from motor vehicles, particularly those with diesel engines. Indeed at the last meeting of the Sub-committee reference was made to the issue of Nitrogen Dioxide pollution on the Coast Road and the steps being taken to reduce the pollution at this location.
- 3.3 It has therefore been suggested that members may wish to examine whether there are other harmful pollutants which affect air quality in North Tyneside from, for example, industrial or commercial processes and identify the steps which can be taken to minimise their impact on the communities of the Borough.
- 3.4 The remit of the Environment Sub-committee covers the environment, energy use, climate change, flood risk management and waste management and an examination of air quality would fit comfortably within that remit.
- 3.5 In determining if any topics should be selected for in-depth investigation, the following criteria should be considered when prioritising:
- Is it timely?
  - Will it duplicate any other work on-going within the Council or the Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
  - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

- Is the topic of interest or concern to members of the public and is there an opportunity for the public to contribute to the review?
- Is an overview and scrutiny investigation the most appropriate route for addressing the issue?

- 3.6 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group per committee/sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.
- 3.7 If Members agree that they wish to carry out an in-depth study it would be useful to agree a scope and terms of reference for the study.

#### **4. Background Information**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- The Environment Sub-committee Work Programme 2017/18
- North Tyneside Scrutiny Guide – March 2017
- North Tyneside Constitution