
MINUTES OF AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2021

1. Online street cleaning schedule

Liam Bergin advised the group that owing to technical difficulties he will be unable to proceed as intended and gave a brief overview of a new web based street cleaning schedule information page.

Order: Noted

2. Introduce Project Team

Martin Fitzpatrick introduced the members of the City Council Project support team to the subcommittee

- Owen McManus, Senior Engineer, Dublin City Council
- Laura Walsh, Senior Executive Engineer (Acting), Dublin City Council
- Patrick Flynn, Chief Technician, Dublin City Council.

Order: Noted

3. Recap on requirement to produce Air Quality Plan to address Nitrogen Dioxide

Martin Fitzpatrick outlined the context of the plan to the members to include

- The Dublin local authorities are required under the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 to prepare an air quality plan by the end of 2021 to address the exceedance of ambient nitrogen dioxide limit values in the Dublin agglomeration during 2019 as reported to the EU Commission.
- This air quality plan must identify the cause(s) and source(s) behind this reported exceedance and the actions required over time to bring ambient air quality back in line with EU limit values.
- One major element of the plan will involve modelling of current and predicted trends in air quality based on the actions and scenarios for compliance identified in the plan.

Order: Noted

4. Overview of process, tasks and timelines

Patrick Flynn advised members as set out below

- Plan needs to be in place by end of December 2021

- Meetings - These include weekly meetings of the Drafting Group and monthly Steering Group meetings and these will continue until the end of the project.
- NTA Traffic Modelling - This is underway and includes a range of traffic scenarios and is expected to be complete and issued to the EPA by 9th July, although some further work may be required
- It is anticipated that a draft plan will be ready by the end of August.
- Consultants have been engaged to complete of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment by end of August.
- The timelines are very tight

Members raised the following questions

- Is the plan specific to NO2 (NOM)
- Why is plan for the Dublin Region given the exceedance took place in the City Area (NOM)
- Are members of the project team DCC officials or consultants (NOM)

Martin Fitzpatrick responded.

- The plan is to address NO2
- Although the exceedance took place in the City Area, modelling suggest that
- The regulations classify Dublin as 1 area, hence the 4 Local Authorities' involvement
- EPA Modelling suggests that we need to be concerned about some areas outside of the City
- The plan will identify what needs to be done over the next number of years

5. Elements Public consultation phase

Patrick Flynn & Martin Fitzpatrick advised Members.

- There is both stakeholder (prescribed bodies) and public consultation. **(PF)**
- Links are being put in place with the prescribed bodies. **(PF)**
- A notice will be on all Dublin Local Authorities' Websites, Social Media. **(PF)**
- A notice of the Plan will be placed in the Irish Independent. **(PF)**
- The SPC will be consulted. **(PF)**
- It is not set down in statute that public consultation should take place on plan like this **(MF)**
- It is recognised that even though public consultation is not laid out in statute we need to carry out meaningful public consultation **(MF)**
- How we get public engagement on the implementation of the Plan is key **(MF)**

Members raised the following questions

- Many people don't not have access to social media, websites (elderly etc.) perhaps a leaflet drop could be done in the vicinity of where the exceedance occurred **(TC)**

Patrick Flynn responded

- Within the newspaper piece an address will be provided to send any comments / observations. A Leaflet drop will be considered

Order: Noted

6. Measures under consideration for inclusion in Plan

Martin Fitzpatrick outlined to Members

- The Department of Transport produced a report, “The Five City Demand Study” which looks at mobility, Climate Action, Air Quality and Urban Development. This looks at nitrogen oxide reduction levels
- 15 minute neighbourhoods
- Clean Air Strategy Implementation
- Air Quality enabling legislation
- Introduction of Low Emission Zones
- Fleet Change
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Strategy

Order: Noted

In attendance

Members

Councillor Michael Pidgeon

Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí

Trevor Clowry, PPN

Officials

Liam Bergin, Executive Manager

Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Laura Walsh, Senior Executive Engineer

Patrick Flynn, Chief Technician

Ciarán McGoldrick, Senior Staff Officer

Cllr Michael Pidgeon, Chair

15th July 2021