

Report to: Licensing and Environmental Health Committee, 11 December 2023

Report of: Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services

Subject: Real Time Air Quality Monitors – Update Report

1. Recommendation

That Committee -

1.1 Note the contents of the report and in particular the intended locations for siting the monitors.

2. Background

2.1 The monitoring of air quality across Worcester City as of 2022 consisted of a network of 37 non-automatic (i.e. passive) diffusion tubes for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) situated in the main urban centre around transport networks.

2.2 There is limited current or historic monitoring of Particulate Matter in Worcester City, or across the County. The Defra AURN (national monitoring network) expansion project team are installing a PM_{2.5} monitor in Worcester, anticipated to be in place by end of 2023.

2.3 On behalf of District Councils across the County, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) successfully bid for funding from a DEFRA Air Quality Grant Scheme 2022 for the enhanced real-time air quality monitoring network consisting of 26 real time Air Quality Monitors across the county - 10 specifically for Worcester City measuring NO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. WRS was awarded the bid in February 2023 and have procured a supplier to deliver the 3-year project – see <https://www.earthsense.co.uk/zephyr> for more information.

2.3 The aim of the project is to provide an enhanced air quality monitoring network across Worcestershire, with 10 monitors sited in Worcester City which were match funded by the Council.

3. Information

3.1 The monitoring locations proposed were selected using a range of data to monitor air pollutants from a variety of different sources. Using existing data (see item 2.1), the knowledge of average annual levels of NO₂ are only known using the annualised information available whereas the Air Quality Monitors will provide a real-time analysis of air pollutants.

3.2 The proposed locations have been selected to monitor pollution sources from a wide variety of sources, including: Transport, Industry, Domestic Solid Fuel Burning, Agriculture and to monitor background/reference levels of pollution.

- 3.3 The rationale for referencing pollutants, wider than NO₂ comes from increasing scientific evidence including the Chief Medical Officer Report (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-medical-officers-annual-report-2022-air-pollution>)
- 3.4 The location of monitors have been identified using the locations of known pollution sources, locations of sensitive receptors, public health data such as fuel poverty indices and identification of community groups to effect behaviour change.
- 3.5 Discussions have taken place between WRS and City Council Officers, with colleagues from Public Health at Worcestershire County Council, and the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing & Environmental Health Committee and Group Leaders have also been briefed on the intended locations.
- 3.6 The intended locations are listed below and on the map in Appendix 1:
- London Road, Worcester WR5 2JG
- Dolday, Worcester WR1 3NG
- Barbourne Road, Worcester WR1 1JA
- Sidbury, Worcester WR5 2DH
- Newtown Road, Worcester WR5 1SX
- Wyld's Lane, Worcester WR5 1DX
- Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EB
- St Johns, Worcester WR2 4LE
- Hastings Drive, Worcester WR4 0LJ
- Acacia Close, Worcester WR4 9TP
- 3.7 Work is currently underway to try and arrange for the physical siting of the new monitors as early in 2024 as possible, including working with Worcestershire Highways around permissions and power supply in respect of erecting on existing street furniture such as lampposts.
- 3.8 The air quality monitoring data will be published in a near real-time format on a website using MyAir technology from Earthsense, see <https://www.earthsense.co.uk/myair-test>. The website is currently in development by Earthsense and will be launched with the monitor installations.

Ward(s): **All wards**

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Background Papers: **None**

Appendix 1

Map to show intended Real Time Air Quality Monitoring Locations in Worcester City

