
ESSEX AIR QUALITY CHARTER

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update Members regarding the work of the Essex Air Quality Consortium and propose Rochford District Council's commitment to the Essex Air Quality Charter.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Essex Air Quality Consortium was set up in 1995 to address local and strategic air quality issues across the county. Its members comprise the districts and boroughs in Essex and the unitary authorities of Southend Council and Thurrock Council, the University of Essex, the Environment Agency, BAA Stansted, the Essex Strategic Health Authority and Essex County Council. The Consortium has been progressing work to help Essex Authorities meet the objectives of the Government's Air Quality Strategy.
- 2.2 This year the Consortium has established a number of schemes, including setting up an Essex Air Quality Monitoring Network, a Consortium web-site and employing a single consultant to carry out the next round of reviews and assessments. To highlight the work and the new monitoring network an Air Quality launch was held during the recent "hike and bike to work week".
- 2.3 In order to demonstrate the commitment to improving air quality through partnership, the continuation of the Consortium and maintenance of the newly set up monitoring network, the Consortium has established the Essex Air Quality Charter. The Charter confirms the Essex Authorities' commitment to *"support the continued work of the Essex Air Quality Consortium and commitment to improving air quality in Essex, and to achieving a better environment and quality of life."*
- 2.4 All the authorities are being invited to sign the Charter.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Government's Air Quality strategy aims to ensure that polluting emissions and ambient air quality throughout the country do not cause harm to human health.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to carry out reviews of air quality within the District.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The joint approach to carrying out air quality reviews and initiatives in partnership with Essex Authorities has reduced the resources required to complete this work.
- 5.2. Signing the Charter will not have any direct resource implications.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the Essex Air Quality Charter is signed to confirm Rochford District Council's continued support for the work of the Essex Air Quality Consortium and their commitment to improving air quality in Essex, and to achieving a better environment and quality of life.

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Background Papers

None.

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