
Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 26 November 2019

Subject:

Council Motion - Clean Air Outside Our School

For Discussion

Report of:

Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer

Summary of the issue:

At the Council meeting on 6th November 2019, the following motion was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board:

“This Council notes that:

- Our residents, staff and children are exposed to unsafe levels of pollutants outside of schools at peak times in the morning and afternoon.
- Road transport is one of the biggest contributors to particulate matter and pollution in Oldham Borough.
- Epidemiological studies show that symptoms of bronchitis in asthmatic children increase in association with long-term exposure to pollutants, as well as stunting lung growth.
- Only a handful of schools across the country are trialling ‘No Vehicle Idling zones’ yet they bring many health benefits.
- Air pollution poses a serious threat to the health and development of young people. While many of the policy interventions to rectify this problem would have to come from central Government or the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, this Council can do more and needs to be proactive on this issue.
- That there should be No-Vehicle-Idling zones around schools across the Borough.

This Council resolves to:

- Review the work done by No-Vehicle-Idling nationally in other local authorities and work this into Oldham’s action plan for No-Vehicle-Idling Zones.
- Implement No-Vehicle-Idling Zones, around as many primary schools in the Borough as possible, by the end of 2022.
- Work closely with schools that are part of the scheme to inform parents and carers of the No-Vehicle-Idling Zones.
- Encourage local businesses to sponsor green walls on school buildings and tree planting near schools and the appropriate cabinet member include this in their action plan.”

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Board address the motion with the GM Clean Air Plan when received by the Board.