

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Fletcher to be seconded by Councillor Maines	
Key Decision		Item No. 11
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: 14 January 2014

“The Council notes with concern statistics released on 3rd September 2013 which placed Lewisham as the 12th worst borough affected by air pollution. Air pollution is exceeding the legal limit on 88% of Lewisham’s roads, and this exceeds the average for the city, which is 78%.

Recent findings have linked exposure to air pollution to a range of diseases and health problems such as lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Lewisham appeared 14 times as one of the worst three boroughs in London for the top ten causes of death between 2010 and 2012 – and the diseases at the top of this list have been linked with exposure to air pollution. Particularly, in 2011, Lewisham was one of the worst three boroughs in London for deaths from lung cancer in males, and in both 2010 and 2012 it was one of the worst three for cerebrovascular diseases, such as stroke, in women.

The Council notes that nitrogen dioxide contributes to respiratory problems, particularly with regards to aggravating asthma and causing problems such as colds, flu and bronchitis. Children with asthma are particularly put at risk by these levels of pollution. Emergency hospital admissions in Lewisham for asthma for those aged under 19 are significantly higher than the UK average.

Council therefore agrees to examine carefully which roads are the worst affected and take action to remedy this. Once target roads have been identified the following actions need to be considered to bring down pollution:

- a) Encouraging cycling and providing facilities on these roads, such as cycle lanes, which make cycling both safer and easier. This Council feels that more attention needs to be paid to the cycling safety, and there is also a need for a targeted strategy to increase the uptake of cycling to increase public health, ease congestion and tackle air pollution. This Council pledges to launch a consultation to engage with local cyclists to examine their needs and concerns in order to improve cycling facilities and cycling safety.
- b) Encouraging children local to their school to walk rather than take a bus or be driven by parents
- c) Encouraging residents not to use their cars for short trips but instead to walk
- d) Planting greenery at the sides of these roads to combat the pollution levels”