

**MEMBER QUESTION TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 14
September 2017**

Response to be made by Councillor Denham Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy & Transport

Question from Councillor Musgrave

I have a question for the portfolio holder; do you agree with me, that air quality is a serious issue in some parts of our city and needs urgent attention?

Response

Councillor Denham referred to the Council officers who were working actively to engage with those organisations, from a wide city perspective, which would help to deliver a transformation in travel habits, and emissions of air pollution within the city. They had her full support for this work, because she recognised the impact that poor air quality could have on the health of the population of Exeter and in particular on groups which were already relatively disadvantaged. Although this work was new to her Portfolio and there had been a delay in publishing the draft Air Quality Action Plan due to changes in national policy and guidance, the matter remained a priority.

She referred to positive work carried out over the last few years with action at a local level, including the introduction by Exeter City Council of standards for hackney carriage emissions which were tighter than those set out in the Government's Clean Air Zone Framework and currently 5% of the fleet were Ultra Low Emission vehicles (ULEV), and this would increase in 2018.

Since 2009 the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide had generally fallen, despite an increase in Exeter's travel to work and travel to shop population. The Council's commitment to monitoring air quality was demonstrated by the current open invitation to tender for the replacement of the fixed Air Quality Monitoring stations, including new PM2.5 analysers. It was important to make sure that the data was accurate as the impact on health was acknowledged.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Musgrave asked a supplementary question, if Councillor Denham was able to extend the cross party working and in particular an invitation to him.

Response

Councillor Denham responded that she would be happy to work with Councillor Musgrave, and also extended an invitation to any Member who would be interested.