

**PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2018
from Mr Mike Walton of the Exeter Cycling Campaign**

To Councillor Rosie Denham as Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport

Given that the effects of local air pollution on health are undisputed and that these disproportionately affect our city's most vulnerable people leading to the premature death of more than 42 people every year we clearly need strong and bold action to improve our air quality.

It is appropriate therefore, and welcome, to see the draft AQAP being bolder in aspiring to make "the private car...seldom used for journeys within Exeter" and to "create sustainable car-free communities".

Given these AQAP aspirations will Councillors provide the active and vocal political support that will endorse the difficult decisions needed to make a reality of the AQAP strategy, in particular to:-

- **"Design and implement a filtered permeability plan and corridor improvements" (Measure #4)**
- **"Develop policies to make car travel unnecessary" (Measure #10)**
- **"Make it more more attractive and cost effective to access the city by public transport and active travel" (Measure #15)**
- **"Implement access restrictions/ charging" (Measure #16)**
- **"Maximise efficiency of existing highway network, but prioritising the most efficient transport modes: cycling and walking" (measure #24)**

**And will Councillors reject contrary statements in the AQAP such as
"Dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes will be improved, but these road users will notbe given priority at all junctions."**

Furthermore, given that road transport is the major contributor to nitrogen dioxide and a significant contributor to PM2.5 & PM10 particulates will Place Scrutiny insist that a date is set for when diesel vehicles will be banned from the city centre and identify development areas before July'18 which will be designated as car free developments.

The Chair, Councillor Sills read out the question from Mr Walton, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport, Councillor Rosie Denham responded to the question stating that Members had debated the issue and stated that the topic was the subject of a report on the meeting agenda. She explained that there was support for measures in the draft plan from Exeter Cycle Campaign and informed that she looked forward to working constructively with the group on development of the final plan. She commented that the engagement process welcomed views from the Exeter Cycle Campaign on why they felt this should be an immediate priority, and how it could be achieved.

Access restrictions to certain parts of the city for certain types of vehicles had not been ruled out in the draft plan, however restriction details had not been finalised, and would need to be based on robust evidence of cost and air quality benefits.

She felt that it would be inappropriate at this stage to present a potential strategy for access restrictions without the supporting evidence. She emphasised that because of the significance of access restrictions and charging for these, they would be subject to a separate consultation once the evidence base has been compiled and before they are implemented.

She stated that Exeter City Council welcomed suggestions from all interested parties on what could be included and the classes of vehicles to be addressed first. It was crucial that evidence for access restrictions would need local support when the detailed plans are developed.