

**PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 13 June 2019  
from Mr Mike Walton**

**Question** (Mr Walton was not in attendance at the meeting)

We note from Teignbridge District Council Executive meeting of 5th March that the GESP is now delayed by almost two years (with the Plan now not anticipated to be adopted until April 2022).

Given that five of the seventeen measures in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) state that the GESP is the means for delivery, and that there is an urgent need to improve the city's air quality, what steps are being taken by the Council to ensure that these AQAP measures are progressed expeditiously?

**Response by Councillor Sutton Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate and Culture**

Councillor Sutton thanked Mr Walton for the question and she stated that the delays to the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) were a source of frustration to Members and also the officer teams, but given the changes in the administration of the neighbouring authorities of East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge District Councils, it was inevitable that there would have been some delay. She was aware that this question did relate to Teignbridge District Council Executive in March and before the Elections and the recent Elections results not going to help is of course out of our control and so democracy would of course takes its course.

She said that her response was that the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan would contribute to a number of measures in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), so any delays in the development and implementation of the GESP could affect implementation of the AQAP as well. And that is to be regretted and many of us are unhappy about that, but progress with the implementation of all the Action Plan measures is currently being assessed as part of the Annual Status Report. This will be reported to the Place Scrutiny Committee by the end of the year. Changes to the Action Plan can be made and reported on by the same mechanism. This will allow us to amend the AQAP, or to introduce suitable mitigation, if alterations to the GESP timetable or changes to any other programmes make it necessary to do so.

So we are mindful of the challenges and we all want the GESP to work but when the results of the work going on the legal status and this will come back to this Committee and you will have the opportunity to question that and to debate it as see fit.