

Additional Material for Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group

1 The two studies of air quality at Silverdale made comparisons of findings with the WHO Air Quality Guidelines. The choice of multiple criteria across the range of pollutants; gases, particulates and other substances emitted are complicated. I found interpretation those results was inherently very difficult (practically impossible for observers without any scientific training).

There is a role for an independent scientific intermediary to advise the borough on the data collection and interpretation method and methodology taken during an Air Quality Monitoring episode particularly in a consultation over the variation to a landfill licence.

There is a role for public health education to enable residents to better understand the terminology of WHO Guidelines. Guides to the WHO Air Quality Guidance should be produced so that an air quality publication can be accessible to the non-specialist.

2 Furthermore, WHO guidelines are not absolute standards but depend on current scientific understanding. The review published in 2006 Further research may change the criteria for maximum toxicity levels.

I would suggest that the monitoring of scientific research takes place to ensure that any new risks from air pollution from the environment is quickly assessed and responded to expeditiously.

Reference

WHO Air quality guidelines for particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide
Global update 2005 Summary of risk assessment WHO_SDE_PHE_OEH_06.02_eng.pdf

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4 February 2020