Air Quality Statement

Following early engagement with BMBC's LA Planning Dept (Mr. C. Shields) it was agreed that a full 'Air Quality Impact Assessment' in relation this reserved matters application, the extension and redevelopment of the Metropolitan Centre, was not required and that the following statement in support of the application would suffice.

The implications of a development on air quality is closely linked to its impact on traffic movements and as stated in the Transport Statement (13.10) it is our belief that the impact of the reserved matters application is limited in this respect. Due to the demolition of the MSCP and other elements of the existing building, the completed scheme will not deliver a significant change in gross internal floor area, although an element of 'leisure use' is introduced.

Therefore it is understood that the development of the Metropolitan Centre as defined by the RM application, will not significantly impact vehicle movements within town centre and therefore will not be detrimental to the current air quality. However as described in the Transport Statement (13.10), it is understood that the demolition of the multistorey car park will displace traffic movements around the Town Centre as utilisation of other town centre car parks becomes increased. The impact upon town centre traffic flow and consequently air quality is not anticipated to be significant due to existing capacity. However this will be explored further in the additional TA identified in the Transport Statement (13.10) and any interim mitigations identified can be implemented until the implications of all proposed development is understood and completed. It is also understood that as the development sites which constitute 'new development' are brought forward via a new Full Planning application, their impact on both traffic movements and air quality will require more detailed assessments. Also the first site to be developed, the former CEAG site as the Market Gate Car Park (Planning ref: 15/0362), provides mitigation in the form of two electric vehicle charging points. The points provide free access to electric charging for car park customers in order to promote the use of electric vehicles within the borough. It is also our belief that the Market Gate Car Park which is currently underutilised will, following the demolition of the MSCP, see an increase in use.

Air quality in the vicinity of the site has now been monitored for some time as other buildings have been demolished and will continue throughout the construction phases. Mitigation and the control of dust during all demolition phases has been in accordance with the requirements of the statutory Section 81 Notice.