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ACE Paper 2/2020

For information on 6 January 2020

Proposal for Updating the Air Quality Objectives

Background Note

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to the “Proposal for Updating the Air Quality Objectives” (*ACE Paper 1/2020*) prepared by the Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) meeting on 6 January 2020.

BACKGROUND

2. Section 7A of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap 311) requires the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) to review the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) at least once in the five years beginning on 1 January 2014 (i.e. by 31 December 2018) and thereafter in each successive 5-year period. It also provides that SEN should submit to the ACE a report of the review as soon as reasonably practicable after the review is carried out.

3. At the ACE meeting held on 4 March 2019, the Environmental Protection Department reported the outcome of the review of AQOs. Members were in general supportive to the proposed tightening the AQOs, and had during the meeting raised enquiries with regard to the improvement of air quality, and the associated health and economic benefits resulting from the proposal.

4. A three-month public consultation was launched on the review findings from 12 July to 11 October 2019. Subject to the support of the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the ACE, an amendment bill will be submitted to the Legislative Council to further tighten the AQOs.

5. The ACE had been consulted on a number of occasions on the review of AQOs. For Members' easy reference, a table setting out the relevant papers and minutes of meetings is appended below –

Discussions	Relevant documents
The 214 th ACE Meeting on 11 April 2016 to discuss the paper on “Work Plan for the Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 7/2016 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting
Information paper issued in June 2017 in respect of the Progress of the Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 12/2017 ● ACE Paper 12/2017 (Appendix)
The 235 th ACE Meeting on 4 March 2019 to discuss the paper on “Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 1/2019 ● ACE Paper 1/2019 (Appendix 1) ● ACE Paper 1/2019 (Appendix 2) ● ACE Paper 2/2019 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting

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