

**For information
On 26 July 2016**

**Air Quality Objectives Review Working Group
Air Science and Health Sub-group**

Terms of Reference and Work Plan

Purpose

This paper briefs Members of the terms of reference and work plan of the Air Science and Health (ASH) Sub-group.

Background

2. The Air Quality Objectives (AQO) are set out in the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) (Cap. 311). The current AQO took effect on 1 January 2014. Under Section 7(A) of the APCO, the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) is required to review the AQO at least once in every five years and submit to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) a report of the review. As such, we embarked on the review in May this year with a view to completing the review by the end of 2017 and facilitating SEN to submit the review report to ACE by mid-2018.

3. The AQO review aims to identify further practicable air quality improvement measures and examines the potential scope for tightening the AQO.

Terms of Reference of the Sub-group

4. In order to effectively engage stakeholders for the AQO review, we have set up an AQO Review Working Group (Working Group) comprising stakeholders from different sectors. The Working Group is chaired by the Under Secretary for the Environment and aims to examine the major air pollution sources (including navigation, road transport and public electricity generation), study the practicability for introducing new air quality improvement measures, and assess the potential scope of tightening the AQO. Four sub-groups are formed under the Working Group, namely the Marine Transportation Sub-group, Road

Transportation Sub-group, Energy and Power Generation Sub-group, and ASH Sub-group.

5. The terms of reference of the ASH Sub-group are as follows:
 - (a) To review the latest developments on air quality standards and the health effects of air pollution;
 - (b) To advise on the methodologies on air science and health assessments, including emission estimation, air quality assessment and projection, cost benefit analysis of air quality improvement measures and health impact assessment; and
 - (c) To advise on the assessment of air quality improvements and health benefits under different control scenarios.
6. The advice from the ASH Sub-group will primarily be used to assess the potential scope for tightening the AQO.

Work Plan

7. The Sub-groups on Energy and Power Generation, Road Transportation and Marine Transportation are expected to complete their proposals on prioritized lists of new practicable air quality improvement measures in the first quarter of 2017. A consultant commissioned by EPD will carry out assessments on air quality and health benefits of each of the proposed measures and also the estimated benefits under different control scenarios drawn up on the basis of consolidating the proposed improvement measures of different priority as proposed by the other three sub-groups. The ASH Sub-group will advise how to quantify the emission reduction potential of the proposed control measures and provide guidance to the consultant in respect of the approaches and methodologies in conducting the air quality and health benefits assessments.
8. The ASH Sub-group will consider the assessment report prepared by the consultant in the third quarter of 2017 and advise the AQO Review Working Group on the findings and conclusions of the assessment report.

9. The Work Plan of the ASH Sub-group is in the table below -

Work Plan	Timeline
First meeting: set out the scope of work of the ASH Sub-group and review Hong Kong's air quality trends and compliance status.	26 July 2016
Second meeting: review the anticipated 2020 air quality and AQO compliance situation; discuss the air quality and health benefits assessment methodologies to be adopted.	19 September 2016
Third meeting: discuss the approach in assessing the emission reduction of the potential air quality improvement measures identified by the other subgroups.	9 December 2016
Fourth meeting: based on the new air quality improvement measures identified by other subgroups, advise the consultant on the quantification of emission reductions as well as the methodologies in conducting the air quality and health benefits assessments.	February 2017
Fifth meeting: review and comment on the interim results of the air quality and health benefits assessments.	June 2017
Sixth meeting: consider the air quality and health benefits assessments report prepared by the consultant.	September 2017

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to note the terms of reference and the work plan of the ASH Sub-group.

Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department
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