

 CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL www.carlisle.gov.uk			
REPORT TO EXECUTIVE			
PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT			
Date of Meeting:		7th July 2003	
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Inside Policy Framework			

Title: LOCAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

Report of: Head of Environmental Protection Services

Report reference: EPS.41/2003

Summary: The report provides the final addition to the updating and screening assessment report for Local Air Quality

Recommendations: Members are recommended to consider the report and agree that it be forwarded to Council for approval.

Contact Officer: Richard Speirs

Ext: 7325

1. 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 A previous report to Executive, EPS28/03, Copy attached as Appendix 1, broadly summarised the requirement for all Local Authorities to provide an up to date re-assessment of their Local Air Quality. The report identified that for virtually all the specified pollutants Carlisle was not at risk of breaching the 2005 set limits. Further work however was required to ascertain the position with regard to nitrous oxides which are the most common pollutant associated with traffic. The additional work required for this pollutant has now been completed and can be

added to the overall assessment of air quality.

1.2 The findings for nitrous oxides do, at this stage, indicate that certain, limited, locations of greatest traffic flow may be at risk of exceeding guidance levels for 2005. There remains a need therefore to continue to monitor air quality over forthcoming years to ensure that the Council is aware of any deterioration in air quality and if so to consider what action will be necessary to control any exceedance of control levels. A copy of the completed report will be placed in the Member's Library for information.

3. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date. Detailed in attached report EPS28/03
2. Consultation proposed.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are recommended to consider the report and agree that it be forwarded to Council for approval.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure compliance with Council constitution and comply with Government requirement to produce an Air Quality Assessment

3. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Staff resources will continue to be required both to monitor pollution levels and also to prepare subsequent statutory annual assessment reports.
- Financial – Funding within existing budgets will continue to be required to operate the automatic air quality station and the provision and analysis of static samples.
- Legal – The Council is under a legal obligation to ensure that levels of pollution do not exceed Government guidelines and that annual assessment reports are provided for Government Scrutiny.
- Corporate – Nil

- Risk Management – The risks associated with failing to meet Government targets for Local Air Quality monitoring are included on the Council's Risk Register.
- Equality Issues – Nil
- Environmental – It is an important statutory function for local authorities to monitor their local air quality to ensure that the quality of the local environment is maintained.
- Crime and Disorder –

APPENDIX 1

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Date of Meeting:

28 APRIL 2003

Public

Key Decision:

Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside Policy Framework

**Title: UPDATING AND SCREENING ASSESSMENT REPORT
ON AIR QUALITY IN THE CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL
AREA**

Report of: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Report reference: EPS 28/03

Summary: The report provides required information on Local Air Quality for Carlisle.

Recommendations: That members accept the Update and Screening Assessment Report and approve it for submission to DEFRA in accordance with the Government's requirements.

Contact Officer: Richard Spiers

Ext: 7325

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

Introduction

1.1 The National Air Quality Strategy establishes the framework for air quality

improvements. Measures agreed at the national and international level form the basis on which the strategy was founded. It is recognised that despite the introduction of measures aimed at overall improvements to air quality poor air quality will remain and that these may have to be targeted using local methods.

2. The Environment Act 1995 laid down a foundation for a nationwide system of local air quality management. It requires Local Authorities to periodically review and assess the current and predicted air quality within their geographical areas against national pollution objectives specified in the air quality regulations. Where assessed levels of pollution are likely to exceed those objectives an Air Quality Management Area must be declared and an action plan devised to address the problem.

2 Review and Assessment

2.1 The first round of the review and assessment consisted of a three stage

process and was completed by the Authority in 2000.

At stage1 levels of Benzene, 1.3 Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead and Sulphur Dioxide were all expected to meet the Air Quality objectives laid down in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 and no further assessment was needed. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and fine particles from road traffic sources were assessed at both stage

1 and stage 2 as being at risk of exceeding the objectives in the Air Quality Regulations.

This necessitated progression to a stage 3 detailed assessment specifically concentrating on those two pollutants. It concluded that whilst there was some exceedance of the annual objective for Nitrogen Dioxide at some inner city roadside locations the projections for year 2005 indicated that all of these sites would fall below the specified objective level.

There was therefore no necessity to declare an air quality management area at that time following the stage 1 review which was conducted over a 2½ year period.

3 Revised Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance

3.1 The Council is required to take account of the Government's Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance and Technical Guidance when meeting their obligations in respect of Local Air Quality Management. Two new guidance notes have been published setting out the requirements for the next round of the review and assessment process.

2. The Guidance introduces a new two phased approach to reviews and assessment; the first stage is an updating and screening assessment, the second stage is a detailed assessment.
3. The first screening assessment deadline is the 31st May 2003, and requires all Local Authorities to carryout an audit of air quality to establish whether assumptions and predictions made during the first round were still valid.

4 Screening and Assessment Report

4.1 The screening and assessment process has been carried out in accordance with the Government guidance and a copy of the report has been placed in the Executive Room for Members' attention.

2. The conclusion of the assessment is that the objectives for each of the specified pollutants will be met within the required time period.
3. However there remains a necessity to carryout further screening with regard to Nitrogen Dioxide levels within the urban areas of Carlisle before a final conclusion can be made as to whether a further detailed assessment will be required during the forthcoming 12 month period.
4. The findings and conclusion of this additional screening exercise will be reported to the Executive at a later date.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation to Date. Adjoining Local Authorities

5.2 Consultation proposed. Consultees as specified in draft report

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That Members accept the Updating and Screening Assessment Report and approve it for submission to DEFRA in accordance with the Government's requirements.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To ensure compliance with Government timetable for submission of Reports.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Nil
- Financial – Nil
- Legal – Nil
- Corporate – The Authority is required to complete and report on the assessment.
- Risk Management – Failing to meet the Government timetable would be a reputation risk to the Council.
- Equality Issues – Nil
- Environmental – Assessment of local air quality is an important part of the Council's objectives to maintain a healthy environment.
- Crime and Disorder – Nil