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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.

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2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. 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.

1. 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 stage 1 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.

2. 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.

1. 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.

1. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date. Adjoining Local Authorities
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