

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- Carlisle City Council

Date of Meeting:- 29 April 2008

Agenda Item No:-

Public

Title:- LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT: DETAILED ASSESSMENT REPORT

Report of:- Director of Community Services

Report reference:- CS 23/08

Summary:-

The report presents a local air quality Detailed Assessment Report.

The Detailed Assessment Report was considered by Executive on 17 March 2008 and referred to Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 March and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 April 2008 for consideration and comment. Minute excerpts are appended.

Executive will again consider the Detailed Assessment Report at the meeting to be held on 21 April 2008 and the recommendation of the Committee will be forwarded to Council.

Recommendation:-

That Council consider the recommendation of Executive regarding the Detailed Assessment Report.

Contact Officer: DJ Ingham
Environmental Quality Manager

Ext 7328

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Date of Meeting: 21 April 2008

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside Policy Framework

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT: DETAILED ASSESSMENT REPORT

Title: Local Air Quality Management: Detailed Assessment Report
Report of: Director of Community Services
Report reference: CS 21/08

Summary:

The report presents the Detailed Assessment Report. The Detailed Assessment Report was considered by Executive on 17 March 2008 and referred to Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 March 2008 and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 April 2008 for consideration and comment. Minute excerpts are appended.

The report provides information on the detailed assessment of local air quality and identifies four separate locations within Carlisle which exceed benchmark guidelines and concludes that it will be necessary for the Council to declare four additional Air Quality Management Areas.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

Recommendations:

Members are asked to consider the Detailed Assessment Report and endorse the recommendation for the declaration of four new Air Quality Management Areas and agree that the proposal be forwarded to full Council for approval on 29th April 2008.

Contact Officer: David Ingham
Environmental Quality Manager

Ext: 7328

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 Introduction

The Environment Act 1995 introduced a new system of local air quality management in the U.K. This introduced measures in line with the Government's Air Quality Strategy which provide a framework for air quality control through air quality management and air quality standards.

The Air Quality Regulations 1997, 2000 and 2002 set the standards and objective levels for air quality.

The Environment Act also placed a legal duty on all Local Authorities to periodically review and assess the current and predicted air quality within their geographic area against the air quality objectives.

In areas where an air quality objective is not anticipated to be met, Local Authorities are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas (A.Q.M.A's) and implement Action Plans to improve air quality.

The Council has already declared two Air Quality Management Areas in the City in December 2005 and December 2006 applying to the A7 along Scotland Road/Kingstown Road and to Currock Street, respectively. The Council has prepared and introduced an Air Quality Action Plan which fulfils the Council's duty to pursue the achievement of air quality objectives in these Air Quality Management Areas.

1.2 Detailed Assessment

An Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment carried out in May 2006 by the Council concluded that in addition to the Currock Street and Scotland Road/Kingstown Road areas exceeding the average nitrogen dioxide concentrations objective level, there was also a significant risk of other relevant locations within the City exceeding the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. These were: The A595 Caldewgate and Castleway; Warwick Road; A6 Botchergate and London Road; and Charlotte Street, Victoria Viaduct and Junction Street. This Updating and Screening Assessment Report was reported to Executive and Council in 2006.

Where significant risk of exceedance is identified for a pollutant it is necessary for the local authority to proceed to a Detailed Assessment.

The Council commissioned the air quality consultants A.E.A. Technology to carry out the Detailed Assessment work necessary.

1.3 Detailed Assessment Report

1.3.1 The A.E.A. Technology Consultants Report (Appendix 1) concluded that the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide is currently not met at four locations, these being on Wigton Road, on the A595 Bridge Street, at the junction of Dalston Road and Junction Street and on the A6 London Road. These are very small localised areas of exceedance.

1.3.2 The Consultant's report recommends that the Council considers declaring Air Quality Management Areas to cover the following areas:

- To cover Wigton Road between Crummock Street and Ashley Street and extending to cover the properties: the Post Office and odd nos. 69-95 Wigton Road; nos. 35, 37 and 39a and even numbers 26-52 Wigton Road.
- The north side of the A595, northbound from the junction with Shaddongate and including the two properties on which the "Impact" diffusion tube is sited, Brewer House and Old Brewery House.
- To cover the junction of Dalston Road and Junction Street, Carlisle and including even nos. 76-52 Dalston Road, nos. 1 and 2 Newcastle Street, nos. 1 and 2 Kendal Street, nos. 1-6 Dixon Court, the public house on the corner of Dixon Court and Shaddongate, no. 44 Shaddongate, The Guard House and Linton House Shaddongate.
- To cover the North side of the A6 from the junction of London Road and Blake Street, extending to cover no. 33 London Road.

1.4 Conclusion and Observations

1.4.1 Where assessed pollutant levels are found likely to exceed the air quality objectives at relevant locations the Council is required to declare Air Quality Management Areas and it will be necessary for the Council to declare four additional A.Q.M.A's in

respect of these identified small areas.

- 1.4.2 Street map locations showing the details of the four proposed new A.Q.M.A's are contained in Appendix 2.
- 1.4.3 Whilst the Council is required to declare A.Q.M.A's this does not necessarily mean that the air quality is significantly worse at these locations than it was in 2006 when they were initially identified as areas requiring more detailed assessment.
- 1.4.4 In January 2008 Council approved an Air Quality Action Plan which introduced measures designed to improve air quality in the City which will help address the exceedences in these areas. (Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan will be reported separately to Committee at a later date.)
- 1.4.5 Following any declaration of new A.Q.M.A's it is necessary for the Council to enter into discussion with other bodies in particular the County Council Highways Department to consider measures to reduce the nitrogen dioxide levels to below the objective levels at the locations concerned.
- 1.4.6 It should be noted that the Detailed Assessment Report states that in two of the four proposed A.Q.M.A's the nitrogen dioxide levels will fall below the objective level by the target date of 2010 without any additional measures being taken. (i.e. Bridge Street and Wigton Road).
- 1.4.7 The main purpose of declaring the A.Q.M.A's will be to ensure that there is no worsening of air quality as a result of new development and this will be pursued by requiring Air Quality Impact Assessments to be carried out by developers where a proposed development has the potential to impact on air quality within an A.Q.M.A.
- 1.4.8 The Council will be required to undertake what is referred to as a "Further Assessment Report" to confirm that the areas covered by the A.Q.M.A's are appropriate and that any additional measures proposed to reduce pollutant levels as part of the Air Quality Action Plan, are likely to be effective.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date

The following parties were consulted on the consultants Detailed Assessment Report:-

Cumbria County Council
Cumbria County Council Local Committee
Highways and Transport Working Group
The Environment Agency
Allerdale Borough Council
Dumfries and Galloway Council
North Tyneside Council
Eden District Council
Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Statecoach North West Bus Company
All Relevant Services/Team Managers within the Council

2.2 Consultation Undertaken

The Cumbria County Council Local Committee Highways and Transport Group considered the consultation at their meeting on 15 January 2008 and reply was received from T. Richard Hayward, Area Engineer (copies appended: Appendix 2). The committee agreed to support the proposals for four new A.Q.M.A's.

- 2.3 Reply was received from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and rural Affairs (copy appended: Appendix 3).

Defra accepts the conclusions of the Detailed assessment Report.

- 2.4 The Detailed Assessment Report has been considered by Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Minute excerpts are appended.
- 2.5 Consultation has also taken place regarding the Detailed Assessment with Senior Management Team and Joint Management Team.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That members consider the Detailed Assessment Report and endorse the recommendation for the declaration of four Air Quality Management Areas and agree that the proposal be forwarded to Full Council for approval on the 29th April 2008.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure compliance with Council constitution and with Government requirements regarding Local Air Quality Management.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/resources - Existing staffing resource.
- Financial - Funding within existing budgets will continue to be required for air quality monitoring and assessment. No additional funding is required at this time.
- Legal - The Council is under legal obligation to carry out Local Air Quality Assessment and Management.
- Corporate - The Council is under legal obligation to carry out Local Air Quality Assessment and Management.
- Risk Management - Failing to meet the Government's requirements would be a reputation risk to the Council and impact on the quality of life of citizens living in the relevant areas.
- 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.
- Impact on Customers - Nil.