

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25
NOVEMBER 2020**



Title of Report	AIR QUALITY PROGRESS UPDATE	
Presented by	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services	
Background Papers	Annual Status Report https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/local_air_quality_review_and_assessment Cabinet Report 10 th December 2019 https://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=2039&Ver=4	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	There will be a request for additional funds requested as part of the 2021/22 budget process of £19,000 for 2021/22, reducing to £9,000 and £3,000 in the following two financial years. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	As detailed in the report Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To update Community Scrutiny on the air quality Annual Status Report, the collaborative work being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Team and the outcome of the air quality delivery review. To report the recommendations from the Community Scrutiny Task & Finish Group.	
Reason agenda item submitted to Scrutiny Committee	Following Community Scrutiny on 20 November 2019, the Environmental Protection Team agreed to return to a future scrutiny meeting with an update on the air quality delivery review including the proposed delivery plan.	
Recommendations	THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY: - CONSIDER THE REPORT ON THE FUTURE PROVISION OF AIR QUALITY AND THE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN - CONSIDER THE REPORT FROM THE AIR QUALITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP - FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET FOR ITS MEETING ON 8 DECEMBER 2020 ON THE FUTURE PROVISION OF AIR QUALITY	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 20 November 2019, the Environmental Protection Team Manager and Public Protection Team Leader gave a presentation to Community Scrutiny Committee on the air quality Annual Status Report (ASR) 2019. This was because amendments were being made to the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) that would need Cabinet approval and the ASR was presented to Cabinet on 10 December 2019 <https://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=2039&Ver=4>. Officers' agreed to return to Community Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work being carried out in collaboration with public health, to update on the status of the ASR and to report the outcome of the air quality delivery review including a proposed delivery plan.

2. ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

- 2.1 The ASR has been approved by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA have made some recommendations and these have been taken into consideration for the next report and include some amendments to the location of monitoring tubes.

3. REVIEW OF AIR QUALITY DELIVERY

- 3.1 As a result of Community Scrutiny Committee recommendations and approval by Cabinet in December, a review of the delivery of the air quality service has been undertaken. The outcome of this review was documented in a report which can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The review looked at all aspects of statutory, proactive and collaborative work with Public Health and identified some recommendations. As a result of the review of air quality delivery, a proposed action plan for the future delivery has been drawn up and is at **Appendix 2**. Officer's welcome the views of Community Scrutiny Committee on the Officer's proposed delivery plan and the task and finish group recommendations before formulating the final report to Cabinet on 8 December 2020.

4. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Public Health have drafted the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and associated action plan and these went to Leicestershire County Council Cabinet on 20 October 2020 <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5998&Ver=4>. Within the JSNA there is an air quality chapter and the Environmental Protection team will work closely with the County Council to ensure that the action plan is implemented.
- 4.2 In June 2017, the following motion was presented at full Council: *Officer's to engage with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and the Director of Public Health to move forward with an Air Quality Action Plan.*
- 4.3 The council has been actively engaging with LCC through the JSNA and the publication of the action plans will see the continuing collaborative working. North West Leicestershire's role within the JSNA air quality action plan is documented in the future delivery of air quality action plan found at **Appendix 2**. The implementation of the JSNA air quality action plan will be through ongoing meetings with the districts, boroughs and Public Health Leicestershire.

5. CARBON ZERO

- 5.1 As part of our commitment to be carbon zero by 2050, a Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan has been adopted by the council in March 2020. The Environmental Protection team will work closely with the Climate Change Programme Manager to ensure that the air quality aspects of the action plan are implemented, which will in turn help to reduce air

pollution and improve the quality of the air within the district. This has been incorporated in the delivery plan at **Appendix 2**.

6. TASK & FINISH GROUP

- 6.1 Community Scrutiny Committee requested that since air quality is an important issue for the council and its members that a Community Scrutiny Committee task and finish group for air quality be established, supported by relevant officers.
- 6.2 Task and finish group meetings were held on 2 October, 30 October and 13 November.
- 6.3 **Appendix 3** sets out the terms of reference approved by the councillors on the group at its first meeting on 2 October.
- 6.4 The key outcome for the task and finish group was for members to agree a majority consensus for recommendations that would then be submitted to Community Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.5 Officers note the contribution made by the task & finish group and thank them for their time and commitment, which has led to the submission of a comprehensive report containing their recommendations. The task and finish group report is detailed in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.6 Due to the publication deadline for Community Scrutiny Committee, Officers have been unable to provide comment on the task and finish group recommendations in time for the report deadline. A supplementary paper will be provided in advance of the committee of 25 November, which will provide advice and guidance to Community Scrutiny on each of the recommendations and propose some draft recommendations for inclusion in the Cabinet report for the meeting on 8 December 2020 which can be considered and debated by Community Scrutiny

The proposed air quality delivery plan detailed at **Appendix 2** contains the officer's recommendations on the future delivery of air quality based on the outcome of the air quality review which have been presented and debated at the task & finish group.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RESOURCES

- 7.1 In order to deliver the additional work contained within the air quality delivery action plan at **Appendix 2**, one of the recommendations to Council will be to increase the air quality budget as part of developing the Council's 2021/22 budget, due to be approved by Council in February 2021. The proposed increase is to cover the following:

	Action	Cost	Financial year	Ongoing
1	Proactive campaigns e.g. clean air day	£3k additional budget Officer time and promotional materials	To start in 2021/2022	Yes
2	Desktop study for PM _{2.5}	£4-12k additional budget	To be completed in 2021/2022	No
3	Planners workshop	£2-4k additional budget	To be completed in 2021/2022	No
4	Supplementary Planning Document	£6k additional budget	To be completed in 2022/2023	No

7.2 Implementation of the outcomes of the desktop study in point 2 above will require review and will be picked up as part of the annual budget setting process in 2022/2023. At this stage the outcomes are unknown so cannot be quantified.

7.3 The total additional budget requirements each year are:

Financial Year	Total Additional Budget
2021/2022	£19,000
2022/2023	£9,000 + implementation of outcomes of desktop study
2023/2024	£3,000 + implementation of outcomes of desktop study this may be ongoing for a number of years

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a clean and green district - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	No concerns
Equalities/Diversity:	None
Customer Impact:	None
Economic and Social Impact:	None
Environment and Climate Change:	Detailed within the report
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Task & Finish Group Portfolio Holder Community Scrutiny task & finish members
Risks:	Risks have been managed through the detailed review of air quality delivery undertaken independently by AQC
Officer Contact	Clare Proudfoot Environmental Protection Team Manager clare.proudfoot@nwleicestershire.gov.uk