

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AIR QUALITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members of the Task and Finish Group

- Councillor C Benfield
- Councillor T Eynon
- Councillor D Harrison (Chair)
- Councillor M Hay
- Councillor G Hoult
- Councillor K Merrie MBE
- Councillor M Wyatt

Cllr A Woodman, Portfolio Holder attended the meetings of the Working Group on 3 October and 13 November 2020.

2. The role of Members of the Task and Finish Group

Members of the Task and Finish group were responsible for acting as critical friends during key aspects of the review of air quality delivery, in relation to the scrutiny function, providing comments and feedback as required.

Whilst the Task and Finish Group was not a decision-making body, the group was asked to:

- Review the information available to date around NWL air quality delivery to include AQC's report currently being commissioned and Leicestershire County Council's Air Quality Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Action Plan whilst also taking into account the national picture.
- Rank and profile key objectives of future non statutory air quality delivery
- Review and recommend to Cabinet future levels of resources for air quality delivery
- Review and recommend to Cabinet future levels of capacity and resource for delivering the air quality objectives of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Review and recommend to Cabinet future levels of capacity and resource for delivering the air quality requirements of the Carbon Zero agenda

3. Officers of the Task and Finish Group

- Paul Sanders, Head of Community Services
- Clare Proudfoot, Environmental Protection Team Manager
- Minna Scott, Public Protection Team Leader
- Other officer's/representatives as appropriate or requested

4. The role of officers of the Task and Finish Group

- To provide professional advice, as required, throughout the review
- To present information, options and issues to members for review and exploration

- To engage and facilitate discussions around key areas to support the forming of consensus and recommendation
- To ensure effective administration of the working group including provision of agendas and minutes

5. Meetings

- A series of three meetings were held on 3 and 20 October and 13 November 2020.

6. Objectives

The Leicestershire JSNA for 2018 – 2021 identified that a strategic approach was the best way to address Air Quality and all its associated issues. In summary, the following objectives were identified:

- Clear leadership, vision and strategic direction
- Collaborative partnership working
- Consideration of Air Quality in planning & development
- Align Air Quality with environmental and transport decisions
- Improved communications with public and organisations about Air Quality & Health
- Targeted communications and campaigns

7. Findings

The Task and Finish Group has identified and agreed the following key aims

- Active and Sustainable Travel: This work should act as a catalyst for behaviour change and modal shift to green travel.
- Planning and development proposals: Guidance and frameworks should be developed with and for planners to support measures to improve Air Quality and identify and address developments which may worsen Air Quality.
- Information sharing and campaigns: Take steps to understand the public's views, knowledge, attitudes and motivations, in order that they can be engaged in developing actions which are aligned with their priorities.

Recently members from all Parties have expressed their concerns over increasing evidence that air pollutants are on an upward trend in certain areas in North West Leicestershire, and could potentially be health and life threatening to residents.

To help address these concerns the Task and Finish Group seeks the support of the Community Scrutiny Committee to agree a number of recommendations.

It is considered that the climate change budget is to support projects which will help to reduce emissions and tackle climate change within North West Leicestershire. Due to air pollutants being a major factor in a large number of areas that can affect air quality and emissions, which can have a severe effect on people's health and the atmosphere, the Group asks Cabinet to fund the cost of any additional equipment needed such as the additional AQMA machines as described in recommendation (4) from this earmarked budget.

8. Recommendations

That the Community Scrutiny be requested to make the following recommendations to Cabinet.

That Cabinet

- (1) Produces a supplementary planning document to clarify the processes for Air Quality Management;
- (2) Undertakes a review of Local Plan to include improved Air Quality standards;
- (3) Responds to DEFRA consultations on Air Quality;
- (4) Undertakes a strategic and costed plan, ensuring all the District's monitoring meets the DEFRA guidelines and that the district is screened for poor air quality and not just existing sites. The monitoring of Air Quality is to be to a standard consistent with the Institute of Air Quality Management focusing on areas considered to be at risk from modelling evidence or as a response to community concern including:-
 - The re-instatement of the chemiluminescent instrument at the Broom Leys junction, Coalville to monitor NO₂. If that is now unavailable, install a Zephyr NO₂ sensor;
 - The installation of a Zephyr PM_{2.5} sensor at the Bardon Road, Birch Tree roundabout, Coalville
 - The installation of a Zephyr NO₂ or PM_{2.5} sensor at the Tesco A511 Roundabout , Ashby de la Zouch
 - The installation of a Zephyr NO₂ sensor in High Street, Castle Donington
- (5) Continues to monitor Kegworth AQMA with diffusion tubes until it shows no exceedences;
- (6) Compiles a costed Plan to collaborate with County Public Health on the Air Quality JSNA;
- (7) Provides an annual report on air quality across the whole District to the relevant scrutiny with factual data from all the AQMA machines and other measurement sites so elected members can scrutinise and provide further supported recommendations if needed.
- (8) Allocates funding from the General Fund or the Zero Carbon reserve, as necessary, to enable the above actions to be carried out.

Councillor Dan Harrison

Chairman of the Air Quality Task and Finish Group