

Title of Report	AIR QUALITY PROGRESS UPDATE	
Presented by	Councillor Andrew Woodman Community Services Portfolio Holder	
Background Papers	Annual Status Report	Public Report: Yes
	Report to Cabinet – 10 December 2019 Report to Community Scrutiny Committee - 25 November 2020	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	There is a request for additional funds as part of the 2021/22 Draft Budget as presented on the same agenda as this report. The values requested are £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	None	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To update Cabinet 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 Community Scrutiny Committee.	
Reason for Decision	Following Cabinet on 10 December 2019, the Environmental Protection Team agreed to return to a future Cabinet meeting with an update on the air quality delivery review including the proposed delivery plan.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NOTE THE REPORT ON THE FUTURE PROVISION OF AIR QUALITY 2) CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN APPENDIX 2 TOGETHER WITH THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 25 NOVEMBER 2020 3) ADOPT THE AIR QUALITY DELIVERY PLAN IN APPENDIX 5, SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVAL AT ITS MEETING IN FEBRUARY 2021 4) RECEMMENT THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE COSTS IDENTIFIED IN THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RESOURCES IN THE BUDGET FOR 2021/22 & FUTURE YEARS 	

1. BACKGROUND AND WORK OF THE SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 1.1 On 20 November 2019, a presentation was made to the 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.
- 1.2 The ASR was presented to [Cabinet on 10 December 2019](#) 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. Then return to Cabinet with a report a recommendations for the future delivery of air quality within the District.
- 1.3 Community Scrutiny Committee requested that since air quality is an important issue for the council and its members that a Scrutiny Task and Finish group for air quality be established, supported by relevant officers.
- 1.4 Task and Finish group meetings were held on 2 October, 30 October and 13 November.
- 1.5 **Appendix 1** sets out the terms of reference approved by the councillors on the group at its first meeting on 2 October. 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.
- 1.6 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 to Community Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2020.
- 1.7 The recommendations from Community Scrutiny Committee and officer responses are attached to this report at **Appendix 2**. The minutes from Community Scrutiny are attached to this report at **Appendix 3**.
- 1.8 As Cabinet may recall, the Council is required to comply with statutory deadlines for the production of the ASR. The ASR for 20/21 is required to be published by June 2021. In order to meet this deadline, Cabinet decisions are required regarding the delivery plan and recommending additional budget as part of the budget process. It will also be necessary for the council to commission and initiate work to ensure compliance with the deadline and there is a lead in time for some of this work.
- 1.9 Proposals and recommendations have been put forward to Cabinet which are cognisant of the work of the Task and Finish Group, recommendations from Scrutiny and the statutory deadlines.

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 2019, 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 4**.

- 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 5**. Officer's attended Community Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2020.

4 . JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Public Health have drafted the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and associated action plan and these were approved at 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 5**. 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 ROADMAP AND ACTION PLAN

- 5.1 As part of our commitment to be carbon zero by 2050, a Carbon Zero 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 5**.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RESOURCES

- 6.1 In order to deliver the additional work contained within the air quality delivery action plan at **Appendix 5**, 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

- 6.2 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.

6.3 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 Air Quality task and Finish Group Community Scrutiny Committee
Risks:	Risks have been managed through the detailed review of air quality delivery undertaken independently by AQC
Officer Contact	Paul Sanders Head of Community Services paul.sander@nwleicestershire.gov.uk