

 Health Scrutiny Sub Committee 21st November 2017		Agenda Item No. 4
Title	Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management	
For further information about this report please contact	Matthew Shirley (01926 456730)	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	22 nd November 2016 – Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Minute number 26	
Background Papers	Annex 1: Annual Status Report 2017 Annex 2: Review of Taxi Emissions overview	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No (If No state why below)
The Annual Status Report is a progress report and as such it is not considered that it has any adverse impact in respect of Equalities.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	24/10/2017	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	20/10/2017	Marianne Rolfe
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)	07/11/2017	Cllr Andrew Thompson
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

Summary

- 1.1 The Council plays a key role in local air quality management. This report is to update Members on progress.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the contents of the Warwick District Council Annual Status 2017 report (Annex 1) are noted.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 To keep the committee advised on progress.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
The Council's purpose is to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits Warwick District. With our partners, we aspire to build sustainable, safer, stronger and healthier communities. As traffic congestion is the main source of air pollution, any actions promoting modal shift to reduce car dependency will not only improve air quality but also enhance healthier lifestyles.		None

Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
None	None	None

4.2 Supporting Strategies

The annual status report details Warwick District Council's progress towards achieving national air quality objectives. The council's strategy for delivering air quality improvements in its area are set out within Warwick District Council's Air Quality Action Plan. The Annual Status Report provides an update on progress with the actions identified within this plan.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

This report is to update Members on progress in relation to local air quality management and does not propose any changes to the following principle policies:

- Fit for the Future
- Development Plan Documents
- Food Law Enforcement Service Plan
- The plan and strategy which comprise the Housing Investment Programme

4.3 Impact Assessments

It is not considered that the annual status report has any adverse impact in respect of Equality.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The costs associated with local air quality management are contained within current budgets.

6. Risks

- 6.1 No risks have been identified with this update report.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 No alternatives have been considered because providing an Annual Status Report to Defra is a statutory responsibility. The ASR fulfils a requirement of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.

8. Background

- 8.1 Within Warwick District, air quality is generally good. However there are locations in the town centres where nitrogen dioxide levels regularly exceed the national objective. This has led to the Council declaring five air quality management areas (AQMAS) with on-going monitoring in these areas.
- 8.2 There are currently five AQMAS declared within the Warwick District, these are; Warwick town centre and Coventry Road, Warwick, Leamington Spa and 2 small AQMAS in Kenilworth.
- 8.3 Vehicle emissions are the cause of nitrogen dioxide levels exceeding air quality objectives in all AQMAS. As such, any improvement is largely dependent on the cooperation of Warwickshire County Council to implement schemes aimed at reducing traffic congestion. Warwickshire Public Health also has a key role in promoting modal shift away from the car to encourage healthier lifestyles.
- 8.4 The Action Plan encompassing all these AQMAS was updated in 2015 and progress is reported on through the Annual Status Report. Warwick District Council is actively working to improve air quality in the district, through the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as implementation of the Local Transport Plan in partnership with Planning and Public Health colleagues.
- 8.5 Members have previously queried the Council's focus on nitrogen dioxide and a perceived lack of attention to particulate matter air pollution. Whilst the health impact of particulates (mainly from diesel engines) is recognised, no exceedences of air quality objectives have been identified for particulates. Levels of particulates measured at the two DEFRA real-time monitoring units in Leamington (Rugby Road and Hamilton Terrace) have not shown any exceedences.

9. Action to Improve Air Quality

- 9.1 At the majority of monitoring locations, pollutant concentrations in 2016 were higher than other recent years. There were fifteen monitored exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective in 2016. The majority of the locations above the annual mean objective were within the boundaries of existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) with the exception of two sites which are just beyond the boundaries of these areas. Given the increase in nitrogen dioxide concentrations seen in 2016, the council will need to continue focussing on implementing measures from its air quality action plan to deliver further improvements.

No exceedences of the annual objectives for particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) were measured in 2016 and have generally remained stable over the last five years. Similarly no exceedences of the 24-hour mean for PM10 have

been measured in 2016 with concentrations also remaining relatively stable over the last five years.

- 9.2 WDC has taken forward a number of measures during the current reporting year of 2016 in pursuit of improving local air quality. As the Action Plan is still relatively new, many of the measures are still in the planning phase. Some of these key actions are detailed below.

Traffic Management & Smarter Travel

- 9.2 One of the key groups of measures relate to those being implemented on the key transport corridors, which have been prioritised by Warwickshire County Council. Good progress is being made in relation to these proposals, with many of the detailed measures having some air quality impact. Detailed proposals are set out for 11 main corridors / areas, many of which align with AQMAs in the district. Each of the 11 areas include specific measures for junction / highway improvements, walking and cycling improvements, park and ride provision, bus priority measures as well as behavioural change measures. Most work has been undertaken on the A452 Europa Way 'Sustainable Spine' corridor which is the key route from the M40 in Leamington Spa and Warwick. Proposals are being worked on and funding being sought from large scale developments currently coming forward.

Development Control

- 9.3 The measures being implemented through planning are also successfully moving forward. Planning applications are routinely being checked by Environmental Health Officers and air quality assessments requested where relevant. Mitigation based on the Low Emission Strategy Guidance is also routinely requested. In addition, an air quality assessment of the impacts of Local Plan development has been undertaken, which goes some way to assessing the potential cumulative impact of development outlined in the Local Plan.

Promote Low Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure

- 9.4 Environmental Health Officers are using our Low Emission Strategy Guidance to require new developments to provide electric vehicle charging points and ensure a more widespread infrastructure for low emission vehicles.
- 9.5 In response to the commitment for WDC to move our fleet to electric vehicles where practicable, WDC now have 5 electric vehicle pool cars, 4 are routinely used by the housing department and 1 by planning.

Local Priorities

- 9.6 Priorities for the coming year are to continue to support the work on the key transport corridors and continue implementing the planning measures, as well as promoting low emission vehicles and infrastructure.

Review of Taxi Emissions

- 9.4 Warwick District Council is currently exploring the potential for a low emissions taxi licensing policy which would seek to deliver air quality improvements by introducing emission standard limits for new licensed taxi vehicles. The policy is currently being considered as a county-wide initiative with neighbouring district and borough councils in Coventry and Warwickshire. An overview of this policy is attached in Annex 2.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy

- 9.5 Warwick District Council is a stakeholder in Warwickshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy is looking at delivering a network of electric vehicle charging points in public car parks throughout the County. The strategy is also looking at options to increase the provision of on-street electric vehicle charging points for residents without off-street drives or garages.