

 <b>Health Scrutiny Sub Committee</b> <b>19 November 2019</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>Title</b>	Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Marianne Rolfe, Head of Health and Community Protection Tel: 01926 456700 Email: marianne.rolfe@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Minute number 13	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Appendix 1: Annual Status Report 2019	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	Yes
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	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.	

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Andrew Jones
Head of Service		Marianne Rolfe
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		Cllr Judy Falp Cllr Alan Rhead
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
N/A		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	No	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1.0 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 2019 report (appendix 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
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<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
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
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

<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<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
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
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 (ASR) 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 ASR 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 ASR 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 (AQMA) with on-going monitoring in these areas.
- 8.2 There are currently five AQMA declared within the Warwick District, these are; Warwick Town Centre and Coventry Road, Warwick, Leamington Spa and 2 small AQMA in Kenilworth.
- 8.3 Vehicle emissions are the cause of nitrogen dioxide levels exceeding air quality objectives in all AQMA. 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 AQMA 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 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 In 2018 all monitoring locations within Warwick District reported a lower level of pollutant concentrations than the previous year. There were five monitored exceedences of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean objective, this is 13 less than measured in 2017.

Four diffusion tubes that exceeded for NO<sub>2</sub> in 2018 are located in designated AQMA, one within Warwick, and three within Leamington Spa. This figure fell to three exceedences when distance correction was applied to estimate concentrations at locations of relevant exposure.

There was one monitoring station that exceeded the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean objective and was not within an AQMA; located at Castle Hill. Officers have installed three additional diffusion tubes in this location in response to previous exceedences, none of the new 2018 locations reported exceedences.

With respect to particulate monitoring, both of our AURN sites measured a single hour exceeding the 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> limit for PM<sub>10</sub>, well below the permitted 35

annual exceedances. There were no monitored exceedances of the long term objective at either of the AURN sites.

PM2.5 concentrations continue to fall at the urban background site (AURN1), dropping below 10µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2018. However, the roadside site (AURN2) continues an upward trend in annual mean concentration increasing from 11µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 11.7µg/m<sup>3</sup> from 2017/2018; this is still well below the exceedance limit of 25µg/m<sup>3</sup>

- 9.2 WDC has taken forward a number of measures during the current reporting year of 2018 in pursuit of improving local air quality. Some of these key actions are detailed below and full details can be found in Table 2.2 of the 2019 Annual Status Report (Annex1).

### **Traffic Management & Smarter Travel**

- 9.3 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. The development of the A452 'Europa Way', a sustainable 'spine' linking Leamington Spa and Warwick, commenced works in May 2018 and this will continue throughout 2019. 'Europa Way' has a number of features that will improve local air quality including; park and ride facilities, segregated bicycle lanes, new pedestrian routes as well as general traffic optimisation and junction improvement. Detail around these plans can be found on the Warwick District Council website.

Other measures that have been implemented in 2018 include: a number of pedestrian and cycle improvements across the District including Priory Road, Emscote Road and Northgate; promotion of the Active Travel website to encourage active travel and working pattern changes; 2500 park and ride spaces have been commissioned in 2018 as part of the Europa Way development. Studies undertaken in 2018 have confirmed the feasibility of a number of measures outlined in the AQAP; examples include, identifying 8 Euro 4 buses that are eligible for retrofitting in order to improve their sustainability and minimise pollution and submission of an Ultra-low Emission Bus Scheme grant bid to develop an electric bus route through the Leamington Spa AQMA.

A scheme to address air quality issues in the Bath Street area is also being developed. Options include priority measures for buses, traffic management proposals to reduce queuing traffic in and around the Bath Street area, and improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Development Control**

- 9.4 The measures being implemented through the planning regime have continued to move forward. Planning applications are routinely being reviewed and assessed by the Environmental Health team and air quality assessments requested where relevant. Mitigation, based on the Air quality and planning supplementary planning document 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**

- 9.5 Starting in 2014, Environmental Health Officers have been using Low Emission Strategy Guidance to require new developments to provide electric vehicle charging points and ensure a more widespread infrastructure for low emission vehicles. In 2019 the Low Emission Strategy Guidance was superseded by an Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document which places additional obligations on developers to mitigate air quality impacts. The new SPD was written jointly in conjunction with neighbouring councils at Stratford DC, Coventry City, Rugby BC and Nuneaton and Bedworth BC. EV infrastructure continues to be sought and implemented as part of the planning process.
- 9.6 In response to the commitment for WDC to move our fleet to electric vehicles where practicable, a further electric vehicle has been added to the WDC fleet bringing the total number of vehicles to 6. Options for adding a further two vehicles are also being considered.

## **Local Priorities**

- 9.7 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.

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy**

- 9.8 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 and the provision of on-street electric vehicle charging points for residents without off-street drives or garages. A bid has been submitted to OLEV for 44 charge points across Warwickshire, including sites in Warwick District. WCC are going out to tender at the end of summer 2019 for a supplier to provide the charging infrastructure.

## **Behaviour change**

- 9.9 Warwickshire Public Health have secured funding for 50 personal air quality monitors and an initial project is underway looking at air quality awareness and impact on travel behaviours. It's expected that the monitors will be used for further projects across Warwickshire.