

 Health Scrutiny Sub Committee 22 November 2016		Agenda Item No. 5
Title	Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management	
For further information about this report please contact	Michael Jenkins (01926 - 456724)	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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		
Background Papers	Annual Status Report 2016: Annex 1	

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	11/11/16	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	11/11/16	Marianne Rolfe
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance	11/11/16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	11/11/16	Councillor Moira-Ann Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the contents of this report are noted.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To keep the committee advised on progress.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – One of the strategic aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to protect and enhance the built and natural environment. Together with the priorities of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, actions to improve local air quality are considered essential contributors to delivering these objectives.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – 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.
- 4.3 **Equality 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 OPTIONS 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 (AQMA's) with on-going monitoring in these areas.

- 8.2 There are currently AQMAs declared in 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 queried the Council's focus on nitrogen dioxide and a perceived lack of interest in 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. For the Council to consider further particulate monitoring, there would be a capital cost of c£30,000+ per unit with on-going annual maintenance/data management costs estimated at £2,000 per unit. If Members were minded to consider this approach, accurate costings could be obtained and reported to a future meeting but this would have to be considered as a 'growth' budgetary item.

9. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

- 9.1 WDC has taken forward a number of measures during the current reporting year of 2015 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.

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 Emissions SPG 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.