

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Date 3rd November 2015

REPORT TITLE Environment Act 1995 – Part IV
Local Air Quality Management – Update and Screening
Assessment 2014

Submitted by: (Environmental Protection Team Manager – Darren Walters)

Portfolio: Environmental Health

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Purpose of the Report

To advise Committee of the findings of the statutory Update and Screening Assessment 2015 in respect of air quality.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received

1. Background

Local authorities in the UK have statutory duties for managing local air quality under [Part IV of the Environment Act 1995](#). District Council's have been required to review and assess air quality within their areas since 1997 for compliance against a range of pollutant objectives.

The Council has been carrying out reviews of air quality since December 1997; these involve measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change over the next few years. The review process aims to make sure that the national air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality Regulations http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/National_air_quality_objectives.pdf will be achieved throughout the UK by the relevant deadlines. These objectives have been put in place to protect people's health and the environment.

Nationally, air pollution is estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months with estimated equivalent health costs of up to £20 billion each year." (Source *The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 1)*, HMSO, 2007).

The World Health Organisation, estimates that poor air quality within the UK costs the economy circa £54 billion which is equivalent to 3.7% of British GDP(based on 2010 data). It also accounts for 29,000 premature deaths annually. (Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe, OECD (2015). Economic cost of the health impact of air pollution in Europe: Clean air, health and wealth. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2015/04/ehp-mid-term-review/publications/economic-cost-of-the-health-impact-of-air-pollution-in-europe>)

Local authorities therefore have an important role in bringing about improvements in air quality

and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements to reduce the impact on health and associated costs to the National Health Service and the wider economy

The findings of the previous reviews and assessments undertaken by your Officers was reported to committee in December 2014 and this also saw the council declare four air quality management area's (AQMA's) due to exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective. The AQMA's still remain in force and work is underway on developing the required Air Quality Action Plans in conjunction with key partners and stakeholders which are intended to bring about reductions in nitrogen dioxide exposure.

2. **Issues**

Update and Screening Assessment 2015

In accordance with its statutory duties, the Borough Council has recently undertaken an Update and Screening Assessment (USA2015) of Air Quality in the Borough for the 2014 calendar year. A copy of the full report can be found on the internet at <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality-newcastle-under-lyme>

Previous assessments have identified nitrogen dioxide as the pollutant of concern, with a number of locations within the Borough exceeding the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective.

This Updating and Screening Assessment considers all new monitoring data and assesses the data against the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives. It also considers any changes that may have an impact on air quality.

The review of new diffusion tube monitoring data has not identified any locations outside of the four existing AQMA's, declared in December 2015 within the Borough where the AQS annual NO₂ objective was exceeded in 2014.

There are five locations in two geographic areas of the Borough which are representative of relevant exposure and where results yielded are at or above the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ and these are highlighted in red. These locations are:-

- Kidsgrove (A50 Liverpool Road) (Located within the Kidsgrove AQMA)
Site 6 – 106 Liverpool Road
- Newcastle Town Centre (Located within the Newcastle Town Centre AQMA)
Site K1 – A34 Holy Trinity
Site 11 – 11 to 34 London Road
Site 85 – 106 King Street
Site 96 – 52/54 London Road Newcastle

All of the above mentioned locations are within the AQMA boundaries declared by the Council in January 2015. Air Quality action planning is currently being undertaken to look at ways in which the NO₂ levels in these areas can be addressed. Details regarding action planning for the AQMAs will be discussed in future reports.

There are a further six sites in three geographic locations, which have yielded bias adjusted results that are below the annual mean objective, but are showing results that are within 10% of the annual mean objective (at or above 36µg/m³). These sites are;

Locations within the Maybank, Porthill, Wolstanton AQMA
Site 9 – 32 Port Hill Bank

Locations within the Newcastle Town Centre AQMA

- Site 42 – Jubilee Baths, Brunswick Street
- Site 84 – 102 King Street
- Site 87 – Blue Chilli, 1 King Street
- Site 98 – Newcastle Taxis

Locations within the Kldsgrove AQMA

- Site 64 - Kidsgrove Carpets, 57-59 Liverpool Road

The sites above are included in the AQMAs which have been declared by Newcastle Borough in December 2014, as they are risk of exceeding the annual mean in future years.

All sites which have shown annual mean nitrogen dioxide levels that are in excess or within 10% of the annual emission limit are within areas which have been declared as AQMAs. No further sites have been found to be in exceedance of the annual emission limit value.

The Little Madeley AQMA has remained below the objective for the third year running, however as this continues to be within 10% of the annual mean objective, there are no immediate plans to explore revocation of this AQMA.

With regards to the assessment of industrial sources, the Council is proceeding to a detailed assessment for emissions associated with the Loucetios STOR site at Holditch. The findings of this assessment will be reported to a further meeting of the committee.

Proposed actions arising from the 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment are as follows:

- Continue the current network of NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring in the District to identify future changes in pollutant concentrations;
- Undertake a detailed assessment for emissions associated with the Locuetios STOR site at Holditch and report the findings as soon as this is available.;
- Finalise the Air Quality Action Plan for the Newcastle under Lyme Town Centre AQMA;
- Finalise the Air Quality Action Plan for the Maybank, Wolstanton and Porthill AQMA;
- Finalise the Air Quality Action Plan for the Kidsgrove AQMA;
- Finalise the Air Quality Action Plan for the Little Madeley AQMA;
- Proceed to a Progress Report in 2016.

3. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

The Council is required to take the action outlined in this report in order to fulfil its statutory duties.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

The action taken achieves the following priorities detailed within the Council Plan

- Priority 1 – A clean, safe and sustainable borough
- Priority 3 –A healthy and active community
- Council Plan Outcome 1.3 The negative impact that the Council, residents and local businesses have on the environment will have reduced

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

Where air quality is unlikely to meet or does not meet the statutory objectives, Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995 requires the Council by Order designate an Air Quality Management Area. The draft Orders are attached in appendices A to D.

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

Existing budgets will be utilised to fund the work identified in this report.

7. **Background Papers**

- Environment Act 1995 – Part IV
- Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG.09) (available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13081-tech-guidance-laqm-tg-09-090218.pdf>)
- Air Quality Reports completed since 1997 available from <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality-newcastle-under-lyme>

