

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

# CABINET

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

### ADOPTION OF WORCESTERSHIRE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2013
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jorden (WRS)
Wards Affected	<b>All but mainly those with AQMAs</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	Apr-Jun 2013 and August 2013
Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 Adopt the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan and agree to support and assist progress of the measures identified in the Plan that will provide effective resolution to the poor air quality enabling revocation of the Air Quality Management areas in Bromsgrove District.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Under the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management Process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents, local authorities have a duty to prepare an Action Plan where an Air Quality Management Area has been declared.
- 2.2 Air Quality Management Areas are declared where the air quality objectives applicable to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) have been exceeded. The objective of most importance to this Committee is the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub>, which should not exceed 40 microgrammes per metre squared. Traffic is the main source of NO<sub>2</sub> in the Bromsgrove District.
- 2.3 There are currently four AQMA's in Bromsgrove District at Kidderminster Road, Hagley; Worcester Road, Bromsgrove; Redditch Road, Stoke Heath; and M42 Junction, Lickey End.
- 2.4 Poor air quality can affect peoples' health, causing problems such as heart disease and breathing problems. Up to 24,000 people per year die prematurely because of its effects (DETR 2000). Nitrogen Dioxide in particular is known to cause respiratory illnesses and possibly increase the risk of lung infections. Young children and asthma sufferers are most sensitive to this pollutant.
- 2.5 The adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan will permit WRS to act on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council in identification and implementation of the most effective measures to reduce nitrogen

dioxide levels in AQMAs so that they no longer exceed the National Objective and may be revoked.

- 2.6 Consultation on the Air Quality Action Plan was undertaken between April and June 2013 with Stakeholders (such as Ward Councillors, Taxi Associations, Bus Companies and the County Council) consulted. Many comments were received and the Plan has been altered to consider these, it is the amended version which is brought to the Committee for adoption.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications with adoption of the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan.

Work on progression of the measures contained in the Air Quality Action Plan is to be facilitated by WRS staff within the existing budget.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Adoption of an Air Quality Action Plan is a requirement under Part IV of Environment Act 1995 .

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 There are no service or operational implications with adoption of the Plan itself.
- 3.4 The progression of the Plan is a large piece of work currently proposed to be completed within existing budgets (subject to future funding alterations).

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.5 The Committee will ensure it has regard to the desirability of exercising its functions concerning the need to eliminate discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity. All LAQM work and procedures will be delivered in accordance with Bromsgrove District Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- 3.6 The LAQM process focuses attention on areas of poor air quality which generally coincide with areas of poor socio-economic quality. The aim of the LAQM process is to target delivery of improvements in air quality where they are most needed which should have a positive impact on

areas of poor socio-economic quality. It is the Action Planning process that targets how the improvements are to be delivered.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) reports to Defra (on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council) at least annually, on progress with Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) which will include an Annual Action Plan Progress Report in addition to the other reporting requirements. In the event that a Local Authority fails to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan, or mismanages the Action Planning process, Defra may choose to pass on a portion of any fine given to the UK by the European Commission for non-compliance with the EU Directive which is translated into UK legislation by the LAQM process. The Action Plan complies with Government Guidance, reducing financial risk.

**5. APPENDICES**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan 2013

Available on the Worcestershire Regulatory Services website  
<http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/pollution/air-quality/air-quality-action-plan.aspx>

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 5.1 2012 Updating & Screening Assessment for Bromsgrove District Council; available on the Worcestershire Regulatory Services website  
<http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/pollution/air-quality.aspx> .

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