

Air Quality Management Area – Kidderminster Road, Hagley

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Cllr Peter Whittaker |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | Simon Wilkes |
| Ward(s) Affected | Hagley East |
| Ward Councillor(s) Consulted | Cllr. Colella, Cllr. Jenkins |
| Non-Key Decision | |
| This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended | |

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 A review of Hagley air quality monitoring has been undertaken in relation to the Kidderminster Road, Hagley Air Quality Management Area to ascertain whether the area can be revoked based on historical monitoring data and current trends and levels. The reasons for the proposal are set out in the accompanying report entitled “Kidderminster Road, Hagley, AQMA Revocation Screening Assessment” of November 2017

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND that the Kidderminster Road, Hagley AQMA, be revoked.**
- 2.2 **Air Quality will remain an important high profile issue in the area and monitoring will continue to ensure air quality objectives continue to be met.** During consultation with Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department the wider location will continue to be considered as an “air quality consultation zone” where the impact on air quality is given due consideration through the planning process. In addition WRS will continue to be involved in the development of measures throughout the wider Bromsgrove District as per the Air Quality Action Plan.

3. KEY ISSUES

Worcestershire Regulatory Services has observed that annual average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) within the Hagley monitoring network has fallen below the national objectives that require the adoption of an air quality management area.

In light of these findings WRS undertook an assessment of historical data for all monitoring locations in the area and confirmed that there is a general decrease in the trend of NO₂ levels since monitoring began in 2001. Concentrations have been recorded as below the national objective by a factor of 10-15% within the AQMA over the last 3 years. Full details of the findings can be seen in appendix

1 “*Kidderminster Road, Hagley AQMA Revocation Screening Assessment*’ dated November 2017”.

The prime function of AQMA’s are to facilitate the creation of air quality management plans and the delivery of air quality improvements. Such plans invariably provide fringe benefits such as improved traffic flow however AQMA’s are complementary to the development of local transport plans and do not provide a vehicle for the delivery of highways management initiatives that fall beyond the scope of delivering compliance with government air quality objectives.

DEFRA’s Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG16) and Technical Guidance (TG16) (April 2016) provides information on the revocation of an AQMA. Section 4.9 of PG16 states that *‘For revocation this should demonstrate that air quality objectives are being met and will continue to do so... typically this is after three years or more compliance’*. Section 3.47 of TG16 states *‘an AQMA may be amended or revoked following a screening assessment or on the basis of robust monitoring evidence’*. An AQMA Revocation Order is required to officially revoke an AQMA.

Financial Implications

- 3.1 None

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, the Local Air Quality Management process (LAQM) and subsequent Policy Guidance (LAQM.PG16) and Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG16) documents set out the duty of local authorities to review and assess local air quality within their areas against a set of health based objectives and work to improving poor air quality identified. The Objective of most importance to the Council is the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) objective which should not exceed 40 microgrammes per cubic metre of air at the façade of a residential dwelling or school.
- 3.3 Poor air quality in general can affect peoples’ health, playing a role in many chronic conditions such as cancer, asthma, heart disease and neurological changes linked to dementia. Outdoor air pollution contributes to about 40,000 premature deaths per year in the UK (Royal College of Physicians & Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, 2016). 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.
- 3.4 Where there is robust evidence to demonstrate that the Objective is being met and will continue to be met an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) can be revoked (LAQM.TG16). The decision to revoke an Air Quality Management Area

can be taken either following a detailed study or following a screening assessment based on robust monitoring evidence.

Service / Operational Implications

3.3 None

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.4 None

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Low – robust monitoring data indicates that air quality objectives within the area are being met.

5. APPENDICES

Kidderminster Road, Hagley AQMA Revocation Screening Assessment dated November 2017.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG16) April 2016
DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG16) April 2016

7. KEY

AQAP – Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA – Air Quality Management Area
AQO – Air Quality Objective
LAQM – Local Air Quality Management
NO₂ – Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x – Nitrogen Oxides

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Stephen Williams
email: Stephen.williams@worcsregservices.gov.uk
Tel: 01562 738090