

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH JANUARY, 2019

UPDATE ON THE CURRENT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the Members of the Scrutiny Committee are updated on the work undertaken in respect of the declared Air Quality Management Areas in Carmarthenshire.

Reasons:

To ensure that progress is made in monitoring and improving the air quality in the declared Air Quality Management Areas in Carmarthenshire.

To be referred to the Executive Board/Council for decision: **NO**

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. P. Hughes (Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan Report Author: Sue Watts	Designations: Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities Environmental Protection Manager	Tel Nos. 01267 228960 JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 228929 sewatts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Background

- 1.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area. This is achieved through the Local Air Quality Management work. There are various pollutants that can be assessed, but local authorities are only required to monitor those that have a potential to breach the Air Quality Objectives. For Carmarthenshire, the main pollutant of concern is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from road traffic.
- 1.2 The Environment Act 1995 specifies how local authorities deal with areas that fail to comply with the national air quality objectives.
- 1.3 The town of Llandeilo and areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli have experienced increasing levels of NO₂, to the extent that the air quality objective for NO₂ has been breached. Welsh Government required the Council to carry out a Detailed Assessment of Air Quality to ascertain the extent and level of exceedance of the Air Quality Objective. This was completed and confirmed that Air Quality Management Areas should be designated.
- 1.4 NO₂ is a pollutant that can affect the respiratory system. It can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. Prolonged exposure to NO₂ can be harmful, in particular to those with existing respiratory conditions, the elderly or the young.

2.0 Llandeilo

- 2.1 The Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was defined and designated for Llandeilo on the 11th November 2011. As a result, an Action Plan was developed which looked at a wider range of measures that are focussed on improving Air Quality within the Town on short, medium and longer term basis.
- 2.2 Work has commenced to implement the measures contained within the action plan. A review of the effectiveness of the measures implemented during Phase 1 was completed and reported upon during 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The reports are attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

- 2.3 The measured NO₂ levels for 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date are attached as Appendices 4, 5 and 6 respectively. It can be seen that the measures that have been implemented to date have not resulted in a demonstrable improvement to Air Quality within the Town. We will continue to implement actions identified on phase 2 of the action plan, and monitor the levels of NO₂ however, the only likely long-

term viable option for bringing about a permanent and definite improvement to air quality in Llandeilo is the provision of a by-pass.

3.0 Carmarthen

- 3.1 The Air Quality Management Area for Carmarthen was declared on 2nd August 2016, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 7. The Action Planning Group developed an Action Plan for the area which identifies measures to be implemented to improve Air Quality. The Action Plan was subject to an 8 week formal public consultation period. Responses received as part of the consultation were incorporated into the “Carmarthen and Llanelli Action Plan” report, which is attached as Appendix 8.
- 3.2 Work has commenced to implement the measures that have been identified, although it is recognised that not all of the measures will be possible to progress with. Monitoring of Air Quality in the area is continuing.
- 3.3 As part of the Action Planning process, we are working with a primary school within the Carmarthen area to monitor and assess Air Quality within the school grounds over a 12 month period. This will conclude at the end of December, and the findings will be reported during 2019. Officers have visited the school and have spoken to children as part of a lesson on Air Quality and the wider Environment. We have also put the school in touch with voluntary organisations that promote walking to school, in an aim to encourage less journeys to school by car.
- 3.4 We will continue to work with colleagues at Swansea University in the monitoring and interpretation of Air Quality figures at specified locations, with the aim of informing Action Planning work.

4.0 Llanelli

- 4.1 The Air Quality Management Area for Llanelli was declared on 2nd August 2016, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 9. The Action Planning Group developed an Action Plan for the area which identifies measures to be implemented to improve Air Quality. The Action Plan was subject to an 8 week formal public consultation period. Responses received as part of the consultation were incorporated into the “Carmarthen and Llanelli Action Plan” report, which is attached as Appendix 8.
- 4.2 Work has commenced to implement the measures that have been identified, although it is recognised that not all of the measures will be possible to progress with. Monitoring of Air Quality in the area is continuing.

- 4.3 Arrangements will be made to discuss proposals for monitoring Air Quality within the school grounds of a primary school in Llanelli during 2019. This will be a mirror of the project highlighted in 3.3 above, and it is intended that discussions will take place in early 2019.
- 4.4 We will continue to work with colleagues at Swansea University in the monitoring and interpretation of Air Quality figures at specified locations, with the aim of informing Action Planning work.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

Yes –

- Appendix 1 – 2015 Llandeilo AQMA Action Plan First Review
- Appendix 2 – 2016 Llandeilo AQMA Action Plan Second Year Review
- Appendix 3 – 2017 Llandeilo AQMA Action Plan Outstanding Options
- Appendix 4 – Measured NO2 Levels for 2016
- Appendix 5 – Measured NO2 Levels for 2017
- Appendix 6 – Measured NO2 levels for 2018 to date
- Appendix 7 – Carmarthen AQMA Order & Boundary Map
- Appendix 8 – 2017 Carmarthen and Llanelli AQMA's Action Plan Report
- Appendix 9 – Llanelli AQMA Order & Boundary Map

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes & Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to assess and manage air quality in its area.

3. Finance

There is no residual monies in the Capital fund to implement additional requirements during 2017/18.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities

1. Scrutiny Committee - N/A

2. Local Member(s) - N/A

3. Community / Town Council - N/A

4. Relevant Partners - N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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