

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16TH JANUARY 2017

SUBJECT:

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 Area 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. J. Jones (Environment & Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Robin Staines Report Author: Sue Watts	Designations: Head of Housing and Public Protection, Care and Support Environmental Health and Licensing Manager	Tel Nos. 01267 228960 Rstaines@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 228929 sewatts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16TH JANUARY 2017**

**UPDATE ON THE CURRENT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
AREAS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE**

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).
- 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 towns of Llandeilo and areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli have experienced increasing levels of NO₂ over the last few years, to the extent that the air quality objective for NO₂ has been breached, resulting in Welsh Government requiring the Council to carry out a Detailed Assessment to ascertain the extent and level of exceedance of the Air Quality Objective.

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 During 2013, the Llandeilo By Pass Forum has been set up which focused on the provision of a bypass for the Town of Llandeilo to improve the strategic Swansea/Manchester Trunk road. The delivery of the bypass will support the economic performance of south west Wales and mid Wales.
- 2.3 A number of actions from the plan have been implemented. The measured NO₂ levels for 2015 and 2016 are attached as per Appendix 1. As illustrated, to date, these measures have not been effective in reducing the levels of NO₂. We will continue to implement actions identified on the 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. The Welsh Government recently released a statement to confirm that work will progress on the by-pass in 2019.

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 2. An initial Action Planning Group meeting has been arranged for 19th January 2017. The Membership of the group will include Officers of Carmarthenshire County Council's Public Protection Division, Highways and Transport, Regeneration, Development Control, and Legal Services. The agenda will include appropriate Membership for the group.

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 3. An initial Action Planning Group meeting has been arranged for 19th January 2017. The Membership of the group will include Officers of Carmarthenshire County Council's Public Protection Division, Highways and Transport, Regeneration, Development Control, and Legal Services. The agenda will include appropriate Membership for the group.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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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: Robin Staines

Head of Housing and Public Protection

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: Robin Staines

Head of Housing, Public Protection, Care and Support

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