

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**DATE: 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**SUBJECT:**  
**IMPACT OF COVID19 LOCKDOWN ON AIR QUALITY IN**  
**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

1. To note the contents of the report for information.
2. The Executive Board is recommended to make a commitment to discourage non-essential journeys under the 'new normal' arrangements by expanding on current policies relating to home and agile working, when the work can be done effectively either at home or at a closer more convenient office base.
3. The Executive Board is recommended to encourage staff to consider using non-travel related digital techniques as a preferred first option (where possible) for meetings and training purposes.

**Reasons:**

1. To inform members of the impact the COVID – 19 lockdown has had on Air Quality in Carmarthenshire;
2. To outline how Air Quality can be improved by reducing vehicle movements and how we can influence this via our multi departmental Air Quality Action Plans.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Council Decision Required NO

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

Cllr Philip Hughes, Executive Board Member for Public Protection

Directorate  
**Communities**

Name of Head of Service:  
**Jonathan Morgan**

Head of Homes and  
Safer Communities

01554 899 285

[JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

Report Author:  
**Lisa Jones**

Environmental Health  
Practitioner

01269 598 255

[LisaJJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:LisaJJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**SUBJECT:  
IMPACT OF COVID19 LOCKDOWN ON AIR QUALITY IN  
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

One of the general responses to dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic has been for restrictions to be placed on numerous activities, including the closure of many attractions, tourist locations, shops, entertainment venues etc. It has also included the need for people to work from home wherever they can and has prohibited non-essential journeys. This has generally become known as “lockdown” and is a measure that has been employed by Countries across the world.

As a consequence of lockdown, a drastic reduction of road vehicle movements has been observed within Carmarthenshire. The Environmental Protection service is responsible for the Review and Assessment of Air Quality – a statutory function under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995. Through this regime, the main pollutant of concern for Carmarthenshire has been identified as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from road vehicles. We have 91 locations throughout the County where NO<sub>2</sub> is measured (via diffusion tubes – standard practice outlined in the relevant guidance document), and we have 3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where levels exceed annual statutory limits in “hotspot” locations. There is an AQMA in Llandeilo, Llanelli and Carmarthen. The Aim of the AQMAs is to improve Air Quality to the extent that no further breaches of the standards occur. Our Air Quality Action Plans set out how we do this, and to be successful, it is essential to work closely with our colleagues within and outside the Council (Transportation and highways / Planning services being two key partners).

We have been able to continue with our monitoring programme throughout lockdown and have been able to work with our laboratory partner during this time to ensure that the analytical results continue to be received. This report demonstrates the effect reduced road vehicle journeys have on improving Air Quality and provides an indication as to how critical road vehicle journeys are to achieving our collective aims.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

## 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

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

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

### 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The report is for information only, however the impact of this area of work has a direct influence on the Authority's ability to meet:

- Objective number 8 (A) of our Corporate Wellbeing Objectives : *Eat and breathe healthily*;
- Statutory obligations relating to Air Quality standards;
- The requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by ensuring good Air Quality for the County's children, especially whilst walking to and attending school – our Corporate Strategy 2018-23 specifies wellbeing objective 2 as a duty to help children live healthy lifestyles

### 2. Legal

The legislative requirements for this area of work are:

- Environment Act 1995 – statutory duty to review and assess Air Quality within our area;
- Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

**YES**

Cllr. Philip Hughes has been made aware of the content of the report via email on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

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

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

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on Air quality in Carmarthenshire		Attached.