

**PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**AIR QUALITY UPDATE**

**Purpose:**

That the Members of the Scrutiny Committee are updated on the work undertaken in respect of Air Quality in Carmarthenshire, and progress on our Air Quality Delivery plan.

**THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-**

**Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member.**

**Reasons:**

To ensure that progress is made in monitoring and improving air quality within the County, particularly within our 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's)

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

Cllr Aled Vaughan (Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability Portfolio Holder)

**Directorate**

Communities

**Name of Head of Service:**

Jonathan Morgan

**Report Author:**

Lisa Jones

Aled Morgan

**Designations:**

Head of Housing

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

### AIR QUALITY UPDATE

#### 1. SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

##### 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 regime. 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 (NO<sub>2</sub>) from road traffic.
- 1.2 NO<sub>2</sub> 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 NO<sub>2</sub> can be harmful, in particular to those with existing respiratory conditions, the elderly or the young.
- 1.3 The town of Llandeilo and areas of Carmarthen and Llanelli have experienced increasing levels of NO<sub>2</sub>, to the extent that the air quality objective for NO<sub>2</sub> has been breached and Air Quality management Areas have been designated. Our Air Quality Delivery Plan focuses on these areas, but also highlights the need to protect good Air Quality in the rest of the County.
- 1.4 The Environment Act 1995 and associated statutory guidance specifies how Local Authorities deal with areas that fail to comply with the national air quality objectives.
- 1.5 An Air Quality Delivery plan was adopted in October 2021 and is set out in two parts. The first sets out the way in which we deal with Air Quality, and provides context as to how it sits within the legal framework and specifically, in Carmarthenshire. It outlines how the Air Quality Delivery Plan aligns with other Policies and Strategies of the Council, and it describes how poor Air Quality can adversely impact health, especially that of our most vulnerable in society. This can be seen in full in Appendix 2.

1.6 The second part introduces specific actions that have been identified to contribute towards improving Air Quality, both generally across the County and more specifically in individual AQMAs. Measures for assessing progress are also included in this part. This is attached as Appendix 3.

1.7 An update of the current Air Quality in the County and within our AQMA's with comparison to previous years is presented and attached in Appendix 1. An update of the work progressed to deliver this action plan improvements is also included in this report.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**YES**

- Appendix 1 – Air Quality Update 2022
- Appendix 2 – Air Quality Delivery Plan (Main Plan) 2021
- Appendix 3 – Air Quality Delivery Action Plan (2021)

# 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 Housing

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

## 2. Legal

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

## 3. Finance

Individual actions are subject to cost/benefit analysis at the time.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED**

**YES**  
Cllr. Vaughan is fully aware of the content of the report.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**