
TITLE: AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2016

Committee: Regulatory and Support Services

Date: 23rd January 2016

Author: Karen See – Senior EHO

[R181]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To update Members on the progress of implementing the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime, a statutory function aimed at requiring local authorities to review and assess air quality in their areas from time to time.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members note the 2016 Annual Status Report (ASR) (Appendix 1) for East Cambridgeshire District Council and approve the report for formal sign off by the Chief Executive of East Cambridgeshire District Council and the Director of Public Health Cambridgeshire County Council.

2.2 Members agree that following formal signatures the report is submitted to the Secretary of State (DEFRA) for consideration and the report to be made available on the Council's website, and a link to be sent to all relevant departments/stakeholders as identified in Appendix 2.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 all local authorities are required through LAQM to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas to determine whether or not the air quality objectives applicable in England have been or are likely to be met.

3.2 If an exceedance of air quality objectives is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to set out the measures it intends to put in place to progress with improvements to air quality and meet the objectives.

3.3 Environmental Services monitor Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels within the District. The lower the level of these pollutants the better the air quality. Information about NO₂ levels is therefore important in developing policies to protect public health, for example it can provide assistance in sustainable planning for the future.

3.4 Although air quality is generally good in East Cambridgeshire, higher levels of NO₂ were shown to be occurring at the Station Road and Angel Drove junction, Ely. The primary source of the higher levels of the pollutant

concerned is motor vehicles. Work will shortly begin on construction of the A142 Ely Southern Bypass which will help to remove the build up of traffic in this area, and improve air quality.

- 3.5 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 recognises the role local authorities can play in influencing health improvements within an area, with Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) helping to determine what actions organisations need to take to address wider determinants that impact on health and well being for example traffic and air quality.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The 2016 Annual Status Report shows that within East Cambridgeshire there are no exceedances or likely exceedances of the statutory air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in England.

- 4.2 The monitoring of air pollution within the district provides information that can inform and contribute to consultation responses on planning applications. Ensuring that, where possible the air quality for residents is not compromised.

- 4.3 The role local authorities can play in influencing the wider determinants of health has been recognised within the Health and Social Care Act 2012. As a result the new reporting guidance from DEFRA requires the ASR to be formally agreed and signed by the Chief Executive of the District or Borough that it covers and also the Director of Public Health.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – East Cambridgeshire District Council - 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

- 6.2 Appendix 2 – list of departments/stakeholders identified to receive a web link to a copy of report.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Environment Act 1995	Room SF203	Peter Ord
Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 – Local Air Quality Management – Policy Guidance (PG16) – April 2016	The Grange Ely	Scientific Officer (01353) 616 E-mail: peter.ord@eastcambs.gov.uk