

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Air Quality in Flintshire
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer Planning and Environment
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide an overview of the findings from the regional Air Quality Report, prepared in August 2017, and recommend how Flintshire County Council can do more to promote air quality considerations when key strategic and operational decisions are taken.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Encourage all Flintshire County Council decisions and policies, where appropriate, to proactively consider the impact on air quality.
2	Work with the Public Services Board, as part of their environmental theme, to promote a multi-agency approach to addressing air quality.
3	Note the contents of the North Wales Combined Authority Air Quality Report.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>WHAT THE NORTH WALES COMBINED AUTHORITY 2017 AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT MEANS FOR FLINTSHIRE</b>
1.01	Flintshire County Council has a statutory requirement to monitor and assess the air quality of the County, as directed by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. In 2017/18 this requirement, for Flintshire, has been met through the North Wales Combined Authority report.
1.02	The report was prepared by the consultancy Bureau Veritas, on behalf of all six local authorities in North Wales and provides a detailed assessment of the region's air quality. It considers all new monitoring data within the region, and assesses the data against the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives. It also considers any changes that may have an impact on air quality.
1.03	Various methods of monitoring air quality in the region were employed. Automatic monitoring was carried out on Anglesey and Wrexham; and diffusion tube monitoring (please refer to paragraph 7.03 for a fuller definition) was undertaken throughout the region, at key locations within town centres and along the main transport links.
1.04	Specifically for Flintshire the main source of air pollution is road traffic emissions from major roads linking England to the rest of North Wales i.e. the A55 and the A494.
1.05	Having considered each pollutant and reviewed any new developments in the region that could adversely impact air quality (such as landfill sites, quarries, industrial sites, etc), it was concluded that the local authorities should continue to maintain their monitoring programmes. No Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) were declared in North Wales.
1.06	Overall, air quality is considered to be good within the region, however it must be noted Nitrogen Dioxide and particulate matter, which are the pollutants of primary national concern from a public health perspective, currently have no safe threshold defined and therefore the lower the concentration of those pollutants the lower the risks of adverse health effects. It is desirable to keep levels of pollution as low as reasonably practicable.
<b>2.00</b>	<b>WHY IS AIR QUALITY IMPORTANT?</b>
2.01	Air quality management is a public health priority. Integrated action to improve the air people breathe must be taken internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. From this year local air quality reporting will change to include the effects of noise.
2.02	Whilst undertaking an annual air quality assessment is important (and fulfils a statutory requirement), air quality considerations should be embedded within areas of policy such as land use and transport planning,

	environmental permitting and statutory nuisance regimes, as well as with the carrying out of any other activities, not confined to the public sector, which have a bearing on local air quality.
2.03	<p>The Welsh Government expects local authorities in Wales to follow the five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 when undertaking its duties in respect of air quality.</p> <p>These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ looking to the <b>long term</b> so we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;</li> <li>▪ taking an <b>integrated</b> approach;</li> <li>▪ <b>involving</b> a diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them;</li> <li>▪ working with others in a <b>collaborative</b> way to find shared sustainable solutions; and</li> <li>▪ acting to <b>prevent</b> problems from occurring or getting worse.</li> </ul>
2.04	The environmental thematic area identified by the Public Services Board makes reference to air quality. This should be seen as an opportunity to raise the profile of this area of work and seek to further improve air quality. It should be borne in mind that technical compliance does not mean the air should be regarded as 'clean'. The Council and its partners should strive towards lowering the levels of pollution, as this will improve health outcomes for the residents of Flintshire.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
3.01	None as a result of this report.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	None required.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
5.01	None as a result of this report

<b>6.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
6.01	Appendix A - North Wales Combined Authority Report on Air Quality.
6.02	Appendix B - Flintshire Public Services Board – Draft Well-Being Assessment.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer: Sian Jones</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 702132</b> <b>E-mail: sian-jones@flintshire.gov.uk</b>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Local Air Quality Management (LAQM):</b> The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. This requirement is set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.
7.02	<b>Air Quality Management Area (AQMA):</b> Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. There are currently no AQMA's in North Wales.
7.03	<b>Diffusion Tube Monitoring:</b> Diffusion tubes are small plastic tubes which measure Nitrogen Dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The chemical contained within the tube indicates the level of Nitrogen Dioxide found during the monitoring period.