



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Environment Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Date: 13 February 2024

Report of Councillor Rhea Rayside
Cabinet Member for People and Safer
Communities

Air Quality Action Plan 2024 Report

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for awareness and noting.

Recommendations

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Note the content of the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2024

Decision Information	
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Clean and sustainable environment
Which wards are impacted?	Grantham wards only

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 The Council's current air quality monitoring and reporting programme is carried out within existing budgets which are reviewed annually.

Completed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Deputy Director (Finance & ICT) and Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Local Air Quality Management ("LAQM") regime was introduced by the Environment Act 1995. The Council's duties under the Environmental Act 1995 are mandatory. The duties imposed on the Council are, to review air quality from time to time and, under Part IV of the Act, to develop and implement an air quality action plan to tackle air pollution.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

Climate Change

- 1.3 South Kesteven District Council's declared an Air Quality Management Area which was primarily relates to the exceedance of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), one of a number of greenhouse gases contributing to an accelerated changing climate. The update of the Air Quality Action Plan sets out duties and actions for lower and upper tier authorities to improve air quality within Grantham, many of which can also contribute to lowering carbon emissions.

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 Under the Environment Act 1995 and the associated Local Air Quality Management Framework, local authorities have a duty to review and assess air quality against National Air Quality Standards. When a pollutant fails to comply with an objective and there is relevant public exposure, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared and an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) prepared, detailing measures which will be implemented to improve air quality in the designated area.
- 2.2 South Kesteven District Council declared an AQMA in 2013 encompassing the main roads in the town centre of Grantham (see Appendix 1, figure 2). The main pollutant of concern is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), which is largely attributable to road transport emissions, with cars being the dominant source within the AQMA.
- 2.3 Local air quality in South Kesteven is managed via an extensive diffusion tube monitoring network comprising fifty-eight passive NO₂ diffusion tubes at thirty-five separate locations (some have triplicate/duplicate tubes at one location). The diffusion tube network is used to monitor NO₂ concentrations across the District, identify potential new areas of concern and monitor at known hotspot areas.
- 2.4 The Air Quality Strategy Objectives for England pertinent to the current AQMA designation are as follows:
 - NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³
 - NO₂ 1 hour mean objective of 200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year.
- 2.5 An Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) (see Appendix 2) was approved in 2016 and since then progress has been made against the identified measures. Implementation of the actions is monitored as part of an Annual Air Quality Status Report (ASR) which the Council is required to produce. The AQAP lasts for a 5 year period before an updated AQAP is required. Therefore, the draft AQAP 2024 (see Appendix 3) is needed as the previous AQAP has exceeded the 5 year period.
- 2.6 Since the publication of the 2016 AQAP there has been a downward trend in the levels of NO₂ within the district and the last 2-3 years data for sites within the AQMA have indicated that the levels are below the National Air Quality Standards.
- 2.7 The draft 2024 AQAP reflects the updated positions of ongoing actions to continue the downward trend in NO₂ levels within the AQMA as well as removing completed actions.

- 2.8 It must be noted that the current draft AQAP is not completed and is awaiting the Source Apportionment Data, this has been commissioned to be undertaken and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of February 2024.
- 2.9 The draft AQAP has been submitted to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for comment as per the requirements.
- 2.10 On completion of the Source Apportionment the final version will be completed and signed off by relevant external stakeholders prior to a public consultation being completed. It is intended that once these stages have been completed the final AQAP will be taken to cabinet for approval and published via the (DEFRA) air quality portal.
- 2.11 Following completion of this AQAP the intention will be to review the AQMA and bring proposals forward on options identified.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The current AQAP 2016 is out of date and a new draft version has been produced, AQAP 2024 to provide an updated position on the key projects and actions identified to continue to decrease the levels of NO₂ within the AQMA.
- 3.2 following the completion of the AQAP 2024 a review will be undertaken into the AQMA for both the measures and the overall requirements for an AQMA to be in place.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 None.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 As stated the AQAP published in 2016 is now out of date and is required to be updated.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 A consultation is required as part of the AQAP process prior to the final version and adoption. It is proposed that a 4 week consultation will be undertaken and this is proposed for early 2024 with the findings being added to the final AQAP.

7. Background Papers

7.1 [Cabinet Report 4 April 2016](#)

ENV 639 -Approval for implementation of the 2016 AQMA Action Plan.

8. Appendices

8.1 List any Appendices.

Appendix 1: AQMA Order No. 6

Appendix 2: The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) - 2016

Appendix 3: The Air Quality Action Plan 2024-2029