



**Agenda item:
Draft revised air**

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	12th March 2019
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Draft revised air quality action plan for 2019 – 2024 and air quality update
Contact:	Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer Neil Polden, Lead EHO for the Environmental Community & Protection Emma Walker, Group Manager, Environmental Community & Protection
Purpose of report:	To provide to Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an outline of the proposals for revisions to the Councils draft air quality action plan for 2019 – 2024 • to provide a short update as regards air quality • to seek member approval for the draft action plan in principle
Recommendations	For Information only.
Corporate objectives:	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> Development of the draft AQAP has been met within existing budget arrangements.
Risk implications	Risk Assessment completed for each service area as part of service planning and reviewed quarterly. Key risks are recorded on the Council's Risk Register which has been updated recently. The council is under a duty to ensure its action plan on air quality is periodically reviewed. Although no time limits is set, Defra expect this to be every 5 years. The current AQAP was set to run over a 3 year period from 2015 – 2108, and therefore

	<p>is due for revision.</p> <p>Monitoring of air quality within the 3 AQMAs has reported an overall reduction in ambient air quality levels for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide, but still well above intervention levels in the locality of London Road and Apsley. Therefore revision of the current plan and consideration of more direct measures are justified.</p> <p>Failure to act also has the following implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for the public health to be put at risk • Legal action taken against the Council • Reputational damage to the Council • Mandated actions from central government
Equality Impact Assessment	Equality issues which address improvements in air quality as studies show that the lowest socio-economic groups tend to live in and be disproportionately affected by areas of air pollution (Marmot review 2010).
Health and safety Implications	None
Consultees:	The proposed mechanism for delivering the draft AQAP will be a consult as we go approach. The intention is that we develop the evidence base for each measure and to consider feasibility for implementation (where feasibility is not already a stated intention of a specific measure). We propose to consult as necessary with relevant partners and stakeholders on individual measures and return to Committee for final approval to implement.
Background papers:	Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2019 – 2014 A short presentation will also be provided to the O&S committee
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	See section 1, below.
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	Detailed within section 1

Section 1 – Historical Background

1. Background

The Council is under a duty to keep air quality in its area under review. Where it appears any of the objectives for air quality will not be met then the Council must designate the affected area as an air quality management area (AQMA).

Where the Council has declared an AQMA it must also produce an air quality action plan (AQAP) setting out measures to achieve air quality objectives. Measures put forward by the plan should be relevant, feasible and achievable. They should also be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and partners.

Since 2012 the Council has declared 3 AQMAs due to exceedances of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Source apportionment has identified road transportation as the reason for the exceedances within each of the AQMAs. The AQMAs declared by the Council are:

- AQMA 1: Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead
- AQMA 2: London Road, Apsley
- AQMA 3: High Street, Northchurch

In pursuance of its duty to air quality the Council produced an action plan which was approved by Cabinet on 16 December 2014. The plan contained 20 air quality improvement measures proposed for implementation over a 3 year period (2015 – 2018). Progress on these measures will be covered in a short presentation to the O&S committee.

2. Air Quality Monitoring

The Council continues to monitor air quality across its district. It has monitoring deployed at around 70 separate locations. This includes monitoring of air quality in the 3 AQMAs as well as other parts of the district where there is relevant exposure.

A general comparison of monitoring results from the 3 AQMAs has indicated a general overall reduction in ambient NO₂ levels, however at some locations ambient NO₂ levels have also increased. Therefore there is no justification for revoking any of the existing AQMAs.

Within the Lawn Lane and London Road AQMAs ambient levels of NO₂ remain noticeably above objective limits. In the Northchurch AQMA ambient levels remain marginally above objective limits. Furthermore when comparing the measured exceedances in this locality there is no change in levels from 2013 against 2017.

Monitoring undertaken across the rest of the district has not identified any exceedances of the relevant objective for NO₂. Therefore the Council does not consider a need to declare any further AQMAs. The Council will however continue to review and assess local air quality as per its duty.

3. Further action

Referring to the most recent monitoring results within the Dacorum AQMAs it is considered that more ambitious action is required to achieve relevant air quality objectives.

The approach set under the draft revised air quality action plan is targeted at achieving overall emissions reduction, but also includes actions which are specific to each AQMA.