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Community and Environment Committee

29 June 2022

Report of the Director of Regulatory Services

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA, ASHBOURNE – UPDATING REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report updates Members on the actions taken following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Ashbourne at the meeting of this Committee on 7 April 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That members note the actions taken in progressing the action plan process

WARDS AFFECTED

Ashbourne North

STRATEGIC LINK

Protecting and improving air quality supports the District Council's priority of Place and directly addresses the Corporate Plan indicator CP20/PL14 to carry out a Detailed Assessment and progress to an Air Quality Management Area and Action Plan as necessary.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 At the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on 7 April 2021 it was resolved to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in respect of the following area:

- Buxton Road from the junction with Windmill Lane and North Avenue, to the junction with St John's Street;
- St John's Street from number 22 St John's Street to the junction with Cokayne Avenue and Park Road.

1.2 The AQMA was declared in relation to exceedances of the annual average air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide ($40\mu\text{g}\text{m}^{-3}$) and the area was defined to include all areas in which levels of nitrogen dioxide came within 10% of the air quality objective (ie that

were likely to exceed 36µgm⁻³). The AQMA is formally known as the Derbyshire Dales District Council Air Quality Management Area (No 2; NO₂) Order 2021 and came into effect on 5 May 2021.

- 1.3 At the 7 April 2021 meeting it was agreed that quarterly updating reports would be submitted to further meetings of this Committee. A first update was provided at the meeting of this Committee on 23 June 2021, a second update was given on 17 November 2021 and a third on 23 February 2022. This report is the fourth update.

2 REPORT

2.1 Following the meeting on 7 April 2021, Officers contacted Derbyshire County Council's Transport team and began the process of progressing an action plan. This conversation had been ongoing for some time, as liaison had been necessary to obtain the traffic figures necessary to undertake the Detailed Assessment. However, it was agreed that it would now be appropriate to hold an Action Plan inception meeting. This meeting was held on 13 May 2021 and it was agreed that the team would follow the model used for the creation of other AQMA Action Plans in Derbyshire, that is that a long list of all possible options would be devised and that this would then be evaluated to determine which of these options might be suitable for Ashbourne. It was also agreed that representatives from Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team would be involved in the Action Plan process. A series of meetings would be needed in order to produce the final approved Action Plan and to monitor the actions agreed as part of the Plan.

2.2 In order to manage the Action Plan process, officers have set up a simple action log to record progress. This action log is a live document and will become of more use as the Action Plan process develops. However, it is reproduced below in order to provide Committee with an update at this stage:

Number	Date	Action
001	05/05/21	AQMA formally declared
002	12/05/21	AQMA accepted by DEFRA
003	TBC	AQMA uploaded to DEFRA website – problems with DEFRA website have prevented immediate uploading
004	13/05/21	Inception meeting with DCC Highways – agreed to creation of long list for action plan, involvement of interested parties and allocated staff resources
005	19/05/21	Publication of DDDC webpage – https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/pollution-noise/air-pollution/air-quality-management-areas/buxton-road-ashbourne
006	25/05/21	Contact made with Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Town Team
007	25/05/21	Date agreed for creating long list.
008	18/06/21	Proposed date for action plan working group to discuss long list
009	18/06/21	Meeting with DCC, ATC and ATT. Discussion of general principles. Agreement of approach to be taken – long list to short list to implementation
010	06/07/21	Email from Buxton Road residents requesting involvement
011	26/07/21	Email from Buxton Road residents with suggestions for actions

012	27/07/21	Email to DCC requesting update and forwarding Buxton Road residents information for DCC to assess
013	27/07/21	Response from DCC – long list not yet ready, general ideas mooted. September suggested for working group meeting
014	29/07/21	Contact from Chris Webster ATT update on current status as requested
015	02/09/21	Email to DCC to look to set up a further stakeholder meeting
016	02/09/21	Reply from DCC suggesting an internal catch up meeting after 9 th September when they were having an internal workshop re: Ashbourne.
017	02/09/21	Reply sent offering dates.
018	02/09/21	Interagency meeting agreed for 16/09/21
019	16/09/21	Meeting undertaken with DCC and proposed wider meeting for end of October –Jim Seymour availability after 18 th .
020	22/09/21	Email to DCC for dates for stakeholder meeting
021	22/09/21	Email to stakeholders with proposed dates for next meeting
022	20/10/21	Email to DCC to request the long and short lists to send out prior to the next Stakeholder meeting - reply back advising it is not yet available, due to not having sign off by senior managers
023	27/10/21	Chasing email to DCC officers for the lists. Still not available as it is going through the governance process at DCC. Jim to update us.
024	28/10/21	Email to DCC as no update yet asked them to update Amanda in my absence
025	01/11/21	AG Email DCC for an update response is that the lists can't yet be released as governance process not complete. Meeting to go ahead for update.
026	02/11/21	Proposed Stakeholder meeting
027	12/11/21	Date confirmed for possible next meeting with the proviso of the lists being released by DCC. Due to availability 15 th December earliest date available.
028	17/11/21	Email from TJB to DCC requesting update.
029	17/11/21	Response from DCC – expect to complete assessment of long list today or tomorrow
030	17/11/21	Second update to C&E Committee
031	24/11/21	Letter from Cllr Purdy to Cllr Lewis <i>et al</i>
032	08/12/21	Email DCC for update
033	14/12/21	Email DCC again for update
034	14/12/21	Update from DCC – lists are not yet available but the scheduling of the meetings for the relevant permissions are being arranged. Work on the Capital Programme is still being worked on to contribute towards the Action Plan
035	11/01/22	Update from DCC: all work complete and scheduling of a meeting is with the members' secretariat. Considerable work been undertaken up to now and just need the sign off to release the information.
036	13/01/22	Update from DCC: Councillor meeting is booked for 25 January 2022.
037	27/01/22	Email to DCC for an update

038	28/01/22	Email from DCC advising that proposals will need to be considered by Cabinet meeting on 22/02/22
039	10/02/22	Email to DCC for update
040	10/02/22	Confirmation from DCC that course of action as per point 38 is being followed
041	22/02/22	Email from DCC with a link to the committee report and the long and short lists
042	23/02/22	Email from DCC giving details of an internal planning meeting for 4 th March to look at the commissioning of works included in the short list of works.
043	23/02/22	Email of link to the DCC report to the Stakeholders' Group
044	08/03/22	Emails with DCC to select a date for next meeting internal meeting pushed back a week due to diary availability. 21 st April a possibility.
045	08/03/22	21 st not suitable for all group new date to be found
046	13/04/22	New request for availability from group for next stakeholder meeting
047	14/04/22	9 th best day booked for meeting
048	14/04/22	Shared 2021 data with DCC now bias factor released
049	04/05/22	Further resident traffic alleviation scheme for review shared with DCC
050	04/05/22	Meeting put back 1 hour to allow all members to attend
051	04/05/22	ATC provided recent material regarding local interest in the AQMA
052	05/05/22	Request for Zoom meeting to be arranged
053	06/05/22	Papers and invite sent out
054	09/05/22	Meeting undertaken dates and priorities discussed Karen to write draft and circulate
056	19/05/22	Draft AQAP to DoRS and EHM for first comment
057	30/05/22	Draft of AQAP to group
058	30/05/22	Complaint that not all information in the draft. Karen agreed more information was planned to be included, however, was waiting for further details to be provided before adding additional information agreed at the meeting
059	31/05/22	Shared AQAP draft with DCC public health team
060	25/05/22	Meet with Council Tree Officer on Buxton Road
061	ongoing	Liaise with Tree Officer and solicitor to secure agreement for tree management on Buxton Hill

2.3 As can be seen from the table above, the shortlist of proposed actions has been received from Derbyshire County Council and has been shared with the working group. This shortlist has been discussed with the group and worked up into an early draft of the Air Quality Action Plan, which has also been shared with the group. The intention is to work through the options available to produce a final draft of the Action Plan, which will then be presented to a future meeting of this Committee, before submission to DEFRA.

2.4 In the meantime, preparatory works have been commenced to consider how one of the recommendations, relating to the tree canopy towards the top of the area covered by the Air Quality Management Area, can be thinned in order to enable better dispersion and dilution of nitrogen dioxide.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal

This report is updating members on the progress for officers on implementing the Air Quality Management Plan as per its statutory obligations, therefore the legal risk is low.

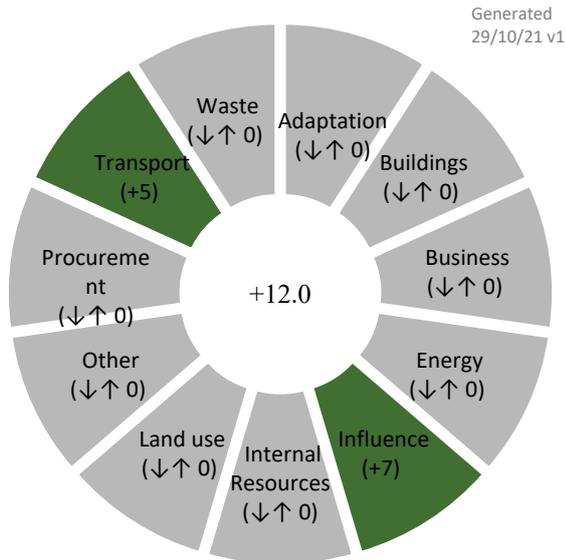
3.2 Financial

The costs of monitoring air quality can be accommodated from the existing budgets. The financial risk is, therefore, assessed as low.

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

4.2 The approved Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool has been completed for this report and is reproduced below. This identifies that the AQMA action plan has the potential to decrease emissions from vehicles travelling through the area. However, since the action is aimed at reducing emissions in one particular area it may not result in an overall reduction in vehicle use, so much as a shift to other routes. However, it is suggested that progressing and publicising this work could result in raising awareness around the impacts of travel on emissions that impact on climate change.



DDDC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 2 months away).

5 CONTACT INFORMATION

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6 BACKGROUND PAPER

6.1 None

7 ATTACHMENTS

7.1 None