

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: REVOCATION AND AMENDMENT OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS
From: HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES		
Date: 12 th August 2014	Ref:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members on the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Moodiesburn and amendments to AQMAs at Whifflet and Chapelhall, within North Lanarkshire.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Environment Act 1995 requires Scottish Local Authorities to regularly review air quality within their areas under a process known as Local Air Quality Management.
- 2.2 Further to this Act, the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and Amendment Regulations 2002 prescribe air quality objectives for seven pollutants deemed to be the most prejudicial to health, namely – Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulates (PM₁₀) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). Dates have also been set for compliance with these objectives.
- 2.3 This process of Local Air Quality Management has been ongoing for a number of years now and as time has progressed, the objectives for the specific pollutants have become increasingly stringent. Continued monitoring in North Lanarkshire has identified six areas of exceedance of the 2010 Annual Mean objective for PM₁₀ (particulate pollution) and this has led over a period of several years to the declaration of six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Whifflet Coatbridge, Chapelhall, Motherwell Town Centre, Harthill, Moodiesburn and Croy. A reduction in PM₁₀ levels within the Harthill area resulted in this AQMA being revoked in 2012.
- 2.4 Further to the declaration of the AQMAs, the Council has a statutory responsibility to continue monitoring air quality within the AQMA and also to prepare and publish an Air Quality Action Plan. This is a document which details measures the Council pledges to consider in order to improve air quality within the AQMAs. The most recent update to the Council's Air Quality Action Plan was published in 2013 and contained a variety of short and long term action plan measures.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 Air quality monitoring results from the Council's air quality monitoring equipment at the Moodiesburn AQMA has indicated over recent years that annual average levels of PM₁₀ in the AQMA now comply with the statutory national air quality objective for this pollutant. This is most likely as a consequence of the opening of the new M80 upgrade which has removed the majority of the traffic from the A80 (the site of the Moodiesburn air quality monitoring station). As such, a report was prepared outlining the monitoring results for the past few years and this document was subsequently submitted to the Scottish Government and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) as evidence to support the revocation of the AQMA. Both agencies have now reviewed the evidence provided and are in agreement that the AQMA can be revoked.

- 3.2 Assuming the Committee is in agreement, a consultation exercise will now be undertaken in respect of the AQMA revocation. This will involve adverts in the local press and Edinburgh Gazette advising on the Council's intention to revoke the AQMA and providing details on how interested parties may make representation. In addition to this, statutory consultees and relevant Council Departments will also be notified. A map outlining the area included in the Moodiesburn AQMA is included as Appendix A to this report.
- 3.3 In addition to the revocation of the Moodiesburn AQMA, two of the Council's other AQMAs require to be amended as a result of a combination of additional monitoring and a comprehensive dispersion modelling exercise which has indicated additional areas of exceedance of air quality objectives immediately adjacent to the AQMAs. The Chapelhall AQMA, currently only declared for the pollutant PM₁₀, is now to be amended to include the pollutant Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) which is exceeding the objective in this AQMA. The Whifflet AQMA will be extended to include the automatic monitoring site at Shawhead, which is showing monitored exceedances of both the PM₁₀ and the NO₂ air quality objective. This AQMA will also be amended to include the M8 corridor to Kirkshaws, which was highlighted in the dispersion modelling report as exceeding the air quality objectives for both PM₁₀ and NO₂. A map outlining the current and proposed areas for the Whifflet AQMA is included in Appendix B to this report.
- 3.4 In addition to the ongoing monitoring within the Council's AQMAs, the Council continues to work towards delivery of the various action plan measures contained within the Air Quality Action Plan. This includes the delivery and expansion of the Eco Stars scheme. This scheme is open to anyone operating a fleet of more than one vehicle in North Lanarkshire and in return for joining the scheme, they receive free advice on reducing emissions in their business through fuel efficiency measures, route planning etc. In addition, Protective Services recently launched an on-line Air Quality education module for all primary schools in North Lanarkshire. The success of this initiative has now been externally recognised and North Lanarkshire Council has now been asked to expand this learning module for use in primary schools throughout Scotland and to assist in the delivery of a similar education package aimed at secondary schools which will be launched and supported by SEPA at a national level. Various road improvement measures to assist traffic movement and therefore reduce emissions within the AQMAs, are also being undertaken within the Chapelhall and Motherwell areas.

4. Corporate Considerations


- 4.1 This report has been discussed with Planning and Development, Roads and Transportation and Legal Services in relation to any potential impact the contents of the report may have on their Service.

5. Financial Considerations

- 5.1 There are no financial implications relevant to this report.

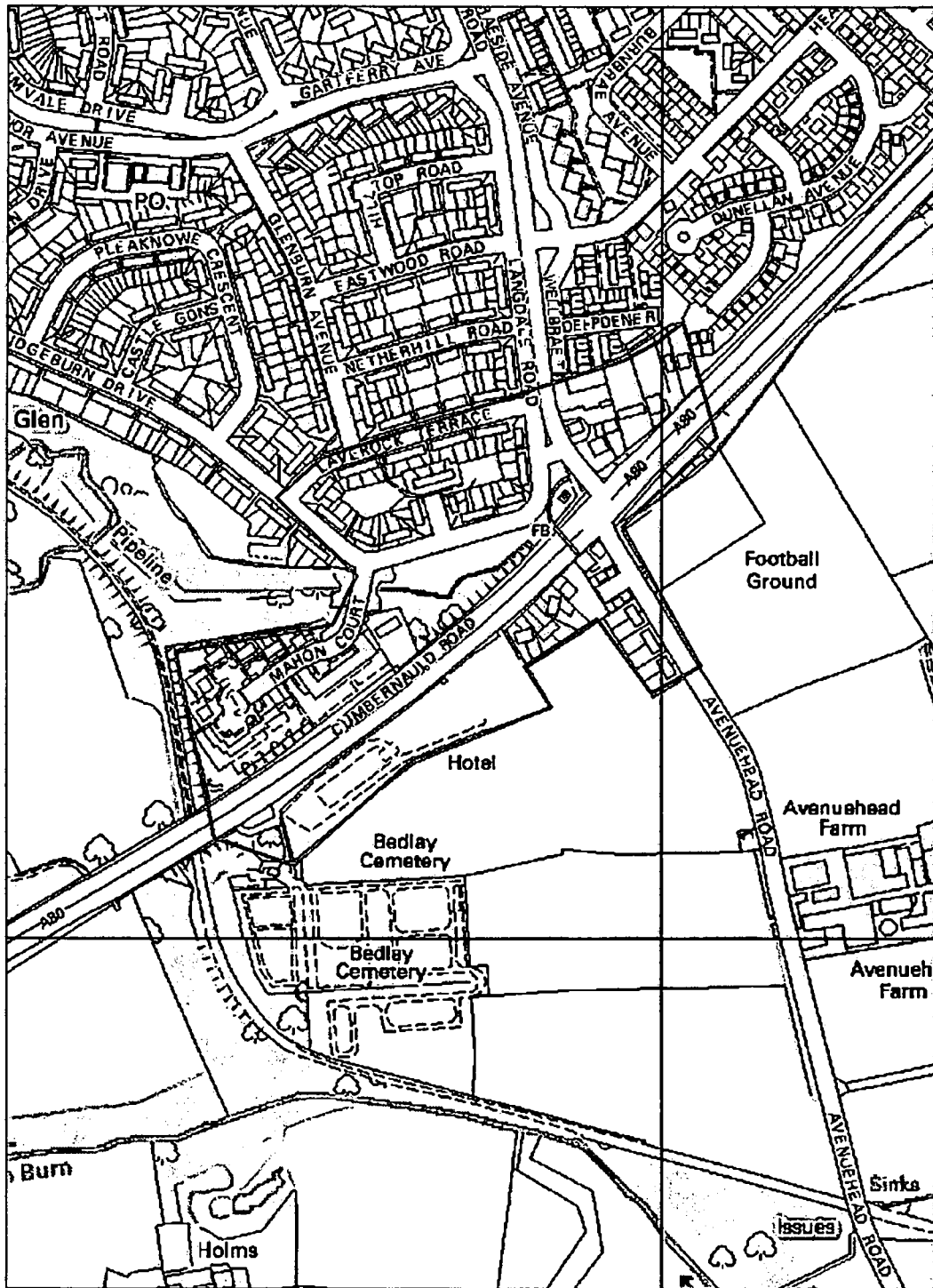
6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That members approve the revocation of the Moodiesburn Air Quality Management Area.
- 6.2 That members approve the amendments to the Air Quality Management Areas at Chapelhall and Whifflet.



C MORGAN
HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Appendix A



Scale 1:3,923
 Date of issue 1/1/2000
 Date of revision 1/1/2000
 Author M. J. O'Connell
 Checked M. J. O'Connell
 Approved M. J. O'Connell

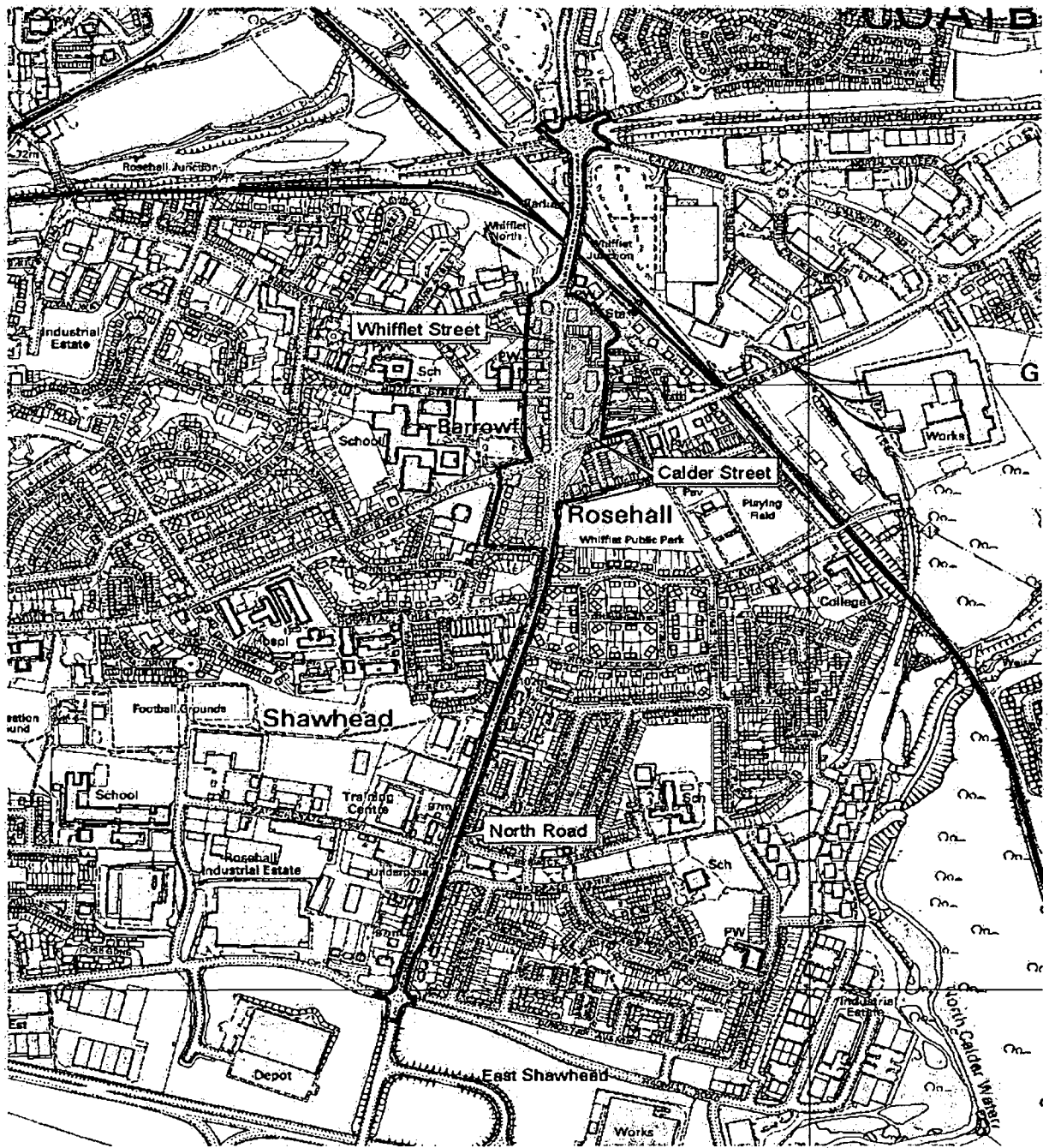
Moodiesburn AQMA

1:3,923



Appendix B

Coatbridge AQMA



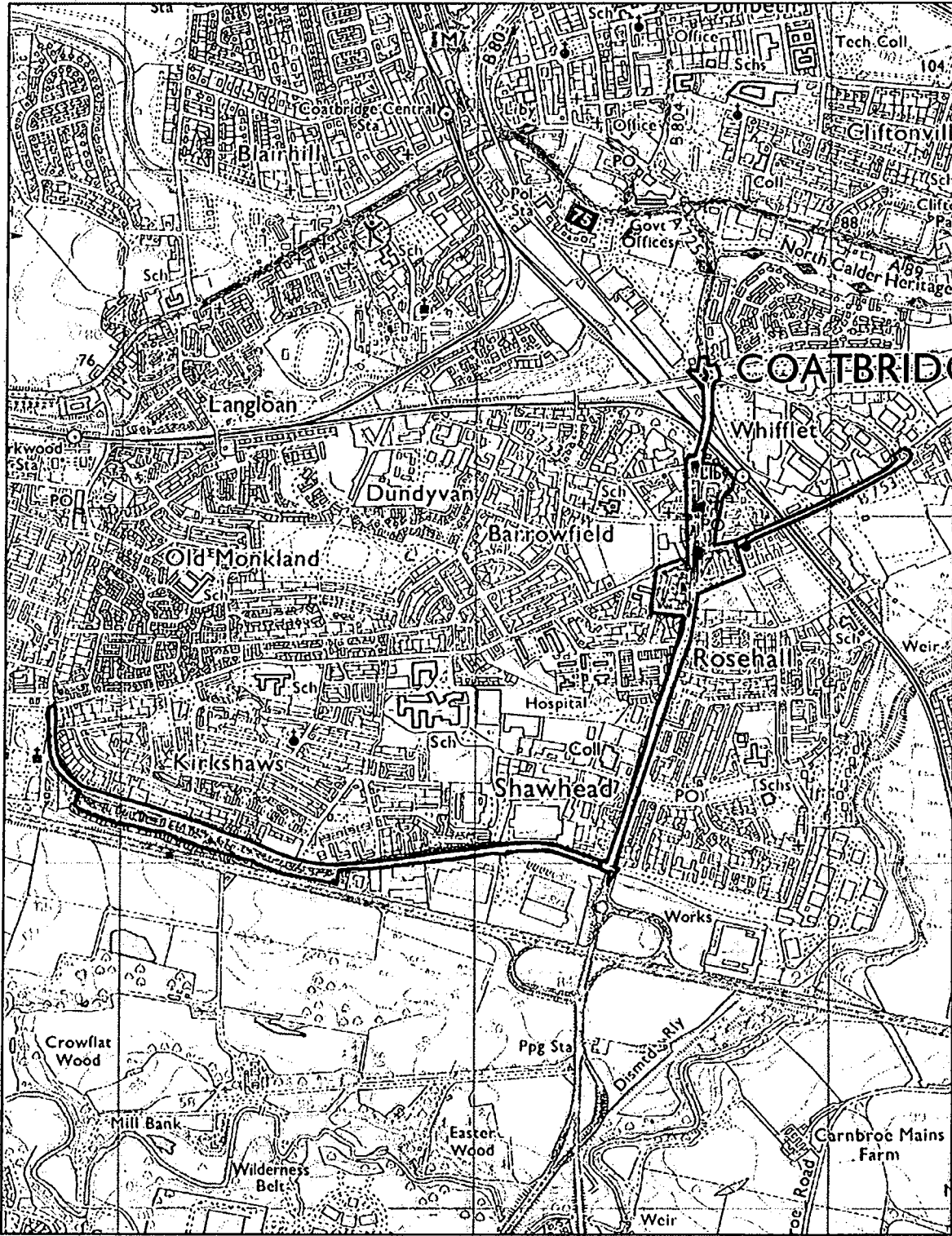
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Whifflet AQMA Proposed Extension



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This map has been prepared for the purpose of illustrating the proposed extension of the Whifflet AQMA. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. The Council is not responsible for any loss or damage arising from the use of this map. The map is based on Ordnance Survey data and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. The Council is not responsible for any loss or damage arising from the use of this map.

North Lanarkshire Council 10/02/1998 10/04

North Lanarkshire

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 1 cm = 0.1 km

