

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: Local Air Quality Management and proposed introduction of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within North Lanarkshire. The Environment Act 1995
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 8 June 2005	Ref: PC/FM/AD	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members on the current position of Local Air Quality Management in North Lanarkshire and to seek approval for the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) as detailed in the report.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members will recall the report to the Committee at the meeting on 2 February 2005. This report indicated that 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 specific pollutants – Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulates (PM₁₀) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). Dates have also been set for compliance with the 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.
- 2.4 Air Quality monitoring has been carried out within North Lanarkshire area and several reports relating to this have been prepared and sent to the Scottish Executive, in line with the requirements of the Regulations. The second round of Review and Assessment began in 2003, and comprised two phases. The first phase involved an Updating and Screening Assessment of local air quality which served to consider any changes that had occurred since the first stage Review and Assessment which had the potential to affect air quality. This exercise identified areas of North Lanarkshire where National Air Quality Objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Particulates (PM₁₀) may be exceeded.
- 2.5 As a result of these likely exceedances a Detailed Assessment was carried out in relation to the three pollutants of concern – Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Particulates (PM₁₀). The results of this Detailed Assessment highlighted that it is unlikely that there would be any exceedances of National Air Quality Objectives for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), however, it is likely that there would be exceedances of National Air Quality Objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and also Particulates (PM₁₀).

- 2.6 The Detailed Assessment was submitted to the Scottish Executive and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for their consideration, and they have consequently instructed North Lanarkshire Council to designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for one specific pollutant – Particulates (PM₁₀) at the areas of exceedance within North Lanarkshire.
- 2.7 Further details on Local Air Quality Management can be found in supplementary material provided within the Member's Library.
- 2.8 A public consultation exercise was conducted in relation to the proposed declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). This involved contacting statutory consultees as outlined in the guidance, as well as placing adverts in the local newspapers inviting comments/observations on the proposed AQMAs. This consultation period has now ended and only one response was received. This response came from Carrickstone Community Council, and requested that consideration be given to air quality monitoring in the Cumbernauld area. This will be duly considered.
- 2.9 A copy of the comments received may be viewed in the members library.

3. Sustainability Implications

- 3.1 The Local Air Quality Management process is one which guarantees the continuous improvement of air quality within North Lanarkshire. It clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to ensuring better environmental conditions for the residents of North Lanarkshire.

4. Proposals / Considerations

- 4.1 There are three areas in North Lanarkshire where the levels of PM₁₀ are such that the National Air Quality Objective for particulates (PM₁₀) is likely to fail. These areas are as follows :
- Junction of A73 and B799 Main Street, Chapelhall ;
 - Junction of A725 Whifflett Street and B735 Calder Street/School Street, Coatbridge ; and
 - Motherwell Town Centre area, encompassing the junction of A721 Windmillhill Street and B754 Airbles Road, and also to include the junction of A723 Hamilton Road and A721 West Hamilton Road/Muir Street, Mothewell.
- 4.2 Maps outlining the areas to be included within the three Air Quality Management Areas are available in the Member's Library.

5. Corporate Considerations

- 5.1 This report has been discussed with relevant officers in the Development Control Section and the Traffic and Transportation Section within Planning and Environment Department, with respect to future implications which the declaration of the Air Quality Management Areas may have on their sections.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That members note the contents of this report.
- 6.2 That members endorse the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas within North Lanarkshire.

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DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
25 May 2005

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