

# North Lanarkshire Council

## Report

### ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

approval  noting

Ref FM/AM

Date 26/08/20

### REVOCATION OF CROY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

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#### Executive Summary

The Croy Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2011 for breaches of the national air quality objective for annual mean levels of the pollutant Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in size (PM<sub>10</sub>). Investigation into PM<sub>10</sub> levels in the Croy area identified a correlation with activities undertaken at Croy quarry.

Following a reduction in quarrying activities in recent years monitored levels of PM<sub>10</sub> have fallen below the statutory objective level and have remained so for several years. In reporting this as part of the Council's Annual Progress Report on air quality it has been concluded that the Croy AQMA should now be revoked under section 83(2) of the Environment Act 1995. This would demonstrate an accurate picture of air quality in the Croy area which has improved.

Following acceptance of this report by the committee, the Revocation Order will be drawn up in conjunction with Legal Services and the Order advertised among statutory consultees before coming into effect in Autumn 2020.

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#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Environment & Transportation Committee:

1. Note the contents of this report; and
2. Endorse and approve the revocation of the Croy Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

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#### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

Ambition statement (14) Ensure the highest standards of public protection

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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 (NO<sub>2</sub>), Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Dates have also been set for compliance with these objectives. Legislation also brought in the requirement to monitor for the pollutant PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 2018.
- 1.3 North Lanarkshire Council has been working to improve air quality within its jurisdiction following the national Local Air Quality Management framework. Continued monitoring in North Lanarkshire over the years has identified some areas of exceedance of the 2010 Annual Mean objective for PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter pollution) and this has led over a period of several years to the declaration of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Coatbridge, Chapelhall, Motherwell Town Centre, Harthill, Moodiesburn and Croy. A reduction in measured PM<sub>10</sub> levels within the Harthill and Moodiesburn areas resulted in these AQMAs being revoked and now levels in Croy of PM<sub>10</sub>, have fallen below the national objective.
- 1.4 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 2018 and contained a variety of short and long term action plan measures.

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## **2. Report**

- 2.1 The Croy Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2011 for exceedances of the 2010 statutory annual mean objective for the pollutant PM<sub>10</sub>. The AQMA boundary is shown on the attached map at Appendix 1. Analysis of baseline conditions at the Croy air monitoring station identified that measured ambient concentrations were closely correlated with activity levels at the adjacent quarry in Croy. It was subsequently noted that operations at Croy quarry had reduced as a result of the then economic downturn. Monitoring results saw a corresponding reduction in measured PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.
  - 2.2 For the past eight years (2011-2018) the annual mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations have been recorded below the national air quality objective level. The general trend can be seen to be decreasing with a temporary increase (although still below the objective level) seen in 2015/16 which coincided with a resumption and increase in crushing activities at the quarry at that time.
  - 2.3 In line with our statutory reporting requirements the Council prepares an Annual Progress Report on air quality each year to submit to the Scottish Government and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for appraisal. In reporting the ongoing compliance with the statutory air quality objective for PM<sub>10</sub> levels at Croy in recent years, combined with the fact there is no predicted increase in quarry operations, it has been recommended that the Council revoke the Croy Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
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### **3. Equality and Diversity**

#### **3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty**

There are no unfair aspects contained within this report.

#### **3.2 Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no adverse impact on equality or diversity contained within this report.

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### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications contained within this report.

#### **4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**

There are no HR/Policy/Legislative impacts.

#### **4.3 Environmental Impact**

There are no adverse environmental implications contained within this report and the intention of the revocation is to provide an updated and accurate reflection of air quality in the Croy area. It should be noted the local air quality in relation to PM<sub>10</sub> has improved.

#### **4.4 Risk Impact**

No significant risks are identified within this report.

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### **5. Measures of success**

- 5.1 It is anticipated that air monitoring at the existing automatic air station will continue for a year following revocation of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) to demonstrate that the decision to revoke was justified. As such Protective Services will continue to monitor PM<sub>10</sub> at this location and report annually through the Annual Progress Report to the Scottish Government and SEPA on compliance with the national air quality statutory objectives.
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### **6. Supporting documents**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Map of Croy AQMA



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