

Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 17 September 2018

Report Title: Cheshire East Air Quality Action Plan 2018 Review

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ainsley Arnold – Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Senior Officer: Frank Jordan – Executive Director Place and Acting Deputy Chief Executive

1. Report Summary

1.1. To update the Committee on the review of the Council's Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2018, the purpose of the report is to ensure Members are aware of the revised Action Plan and to provide comments as appropriate.

2. Recommendation/s

2.1. To note the report and to provide feedback for the Portfolio Holder to consider.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

3.1. To ensure Members are kept up to date with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. Not applicable.

5. Background

5.1 This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the action we will take to improve air quality in Cheshire East between 2018 and 2023.

5.2 This action plan replaces the previous action plan which ran from 2011 to 2017. Projects delivered through the previous action plan include upgrading the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing on West Road, Congleton; the completion of a comprehensive traffic review and resigning in and around Nantwich; completion of the Crewe to Nantwich Cycleway (Connect2); completion of the Crewe Green Link Road; an additional entrance at Crewe Station to alleviate traffic flow; and the installation of traffic lights at Redhouse Lane, Disley.

5.3 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society notably, children and older people and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equality issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

5.4 The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16 billion (Source: Defra. Abatement cost guidance for valuing changes in air quality, May 2013). The Council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in the Borough to poor air quality in order to improve health. Therefore actions have been developed under eight broad topic areas;

- Environmental permits;
- Policy guidance and development control;
- Promoting low emission transport;
- Promoting travel alternatives;
- Public information, Awareness and Education;
- Transport planning and infrastructure;
- Traffic management; and
- Vehicle fleet efficiency

5.5 Within Cheshire East the pollutants of concern are nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter which are linked to transport. Therefore, our priorities are to tackle vehicular emissions by applying actions around;

- development and planning;
- traffic management;
- alternative travel;
- active travel;
- low emission transportation;

- transportation;
- public awareness; and
- use of NOx-busting paint and green planting

5.6 In this AQAP we outline how we plan to effectively tackle air quality issues within our local authority control. However, we recognise that there are a large number of air quality policy areas that are outside of our influence (such as vehicle emissions standards agreed in Europe), but for which we may have useful evidence. We will therefore continue to work with regional and central government on policies and issues beyond Cheshire East's direct influence.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

6.1.1. Section 84 of the Environment Act 1995, requires the Council to develop an Air Quality Action Plan detailing remedial measures to tackle the problem within all Air Quality Management Areas.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. The Action Plan sets out proposed measures to improve air quality which will have a financial cost. Whilst some of the smaller measures may be funded from within existing Regulatory Services and Health budgets, larger projects will need to be financially supported by services such as Highways and any other relevant service.

6.3. Policy Implications

6.3.1. No direct Policy implications arising from this report.

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. No direct equality implications arising from this report.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. No direct human resources implications arising from this report.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. No direct risk management implications arising from this report. The development, approval and implementation of a Cheshire East Air Quality Action Plan meet with statutory requirements under the Environment Act 1995.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People

6.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. The implementation of the Action Plan aims to improve public health.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. Borough wide

8. Access to Information

8.1. The background papers relating to this report are in Appendix 1.

9. Contact Information

9.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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