

Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 17 September 2018

Report Title: Cheshire East Air Quality Strategy 2018 Update

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 Strategy (August 2018) and to provide comments as appropriate.

2. Recommendation

2.1. To note the report and to provide feedback to Cabinet.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

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

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. Not applicable.

5. Background

5.1. Local authorities have a duty under the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess local air quality within their area, against a set of health-based objectives for a number of specific air pollutants. If any areas are found where pollutants exceed the objectives, local authorities are required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out measures they intend to introduce in order to reduce concentrations of air pollutants, in pursuit of achieving the objectives. This strategy sets out how air quality will be considered in all

relevant decision making processes across the Council to ensure that any impacts to air quality are taken in to account and actions in the AQAP are implemented where possible.

- 5.2. In addition to these formal obligations, local authorities are encouraged by Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to draft and implement local Air Quality Strategies. The aims of the Air Quality Strategy are to support the achievement of the air quality objectives and to ensure air quality is considered within a wide range of local government and regional planning frameworks. This is important, as whilst working towards achievement of the air quality objectives will help reduce the risk of the most serious health effects related to pollution, there are advantages to be gained from the continual improvement of local air quality conditions. By establishing a strategic framework for the inclusion of air quality considerations within Council policies and procedures, a local authority is then well placed to maintain good air quality and secure future improvements.
- 5.3. Delivering improvements to local air quality requires input from a wide range of professions. Therefore the Strategy identifies commitments intended to promote communication and co-operation within the Council, between external organisations and the community. These commitments are grouped under a number of relevant policy sectors including air quality, spatial planning, transport, climate change and energy management, health and education.
- 5.4. Although future improvements in local air quality are predicted as a result of technological advances in vehicle engines and improved fuels, there is currently some doubt as to their efficacy, and there remains a need to reduce the increasing reliance on private motor vehicle use and to provide access to improved public transport services or other sustainable means of travel. Traffic accounts for the main source of pollutant emissions across the borough, which is primarily responsible for all the AQMAs. As such, links with the Local Transport Plan are fundamental to both the improvement of local air quality and maintenance of air quality, across the borough.
- 5.5. Six indicators are proposed within the Strategy including the monitoring of air pollutants, assessing new developments for their impact on air quality and improving public awareness of air quality. Using these metrics, the effectiveness of the Strategy can be evaluated throughout the lifetime of the document.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

6.1.1. No direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. This report has been prepared by Regulatory Service & Health and the costs have been covered by the existing service budget.

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 of a Cheshire East Air Quality Strategy addresses recommendations made by Defra to ensure a council wide, strategic approach to air quality.

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. There are no direct implications for 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:

Name: Nick Kelly

Job Title: Environmental Protection Team Leader

Email: nick.kelly@cheshireeast.gov.uk