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## **Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny**

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**Date of Meeting:** 19 October 2020

**Report Title:** Cheshire East 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mick Warren – Portfolio Holder for Communities

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

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1. To update the Committee on the review of the Council's 2020 Annual Status Report (ASR). The purpose of the report is to ensure Members are aware of the report and the current status of air quality across the borough.
- 1.2. The 2020 Annual Status Report has been submitted to and approved by Defra in accordance with requirements of the Local Air Quality Management Regime.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1. That Members

- 2.1.1 Review the contents of the report and provide any feedback to the Portfolio Holder for consideration.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. It is important that Members are kept up to date with the Council's work on air quality and consultation with Defra. The Annual Status Report provides

an overarching view of all of the Council's air quality activities and current position.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

4.1. None.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1 The 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (Appendix 1) provides an overview of air quality across Cheshire East for the 2019 calendar year. The Report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management Regime as laid out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) and relevant supporting Policy and Technical Guidance documents published by Defra.
- 5.2 The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.
- 5.3 The Annual Status Report (ASR) sets out results of monitoring, discusses trends in air quality data and outlines strategies employed by Cheshire East to improve air quality including any progress with regards to actions contained in the Council's AQAP.
- 5.4 To date the Council has completed all of the previous air quality submissions to Defra which have all been approved.
- 5.5 As part of the submission and approval process, Defra may make comment and recommendations with respect to future report content and/or structure. Consequently the 2020 ASR also addresses comments provided by Defra as part of 2019 ASR feedback.
- 5.5 Whilst the 2020 ASR does not recommend any new AQMAs, it does propose the revocation of seven existing AQMAs within the Cheshire East area. The NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured at these sites over the past three or more years is shown to be less than 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is the national Air Quality Objective (AQO) set for NO<sub>2</sub>. In line with our approved, in-house monitoring procedure this is one reason an AQMA can be revoked. The seven AQMAs the Council is proposing to revoke are:

- A50 Manchester Road, Knutsford
- A556 Chester Road, Mere
- Park Lane, Macclesfield
- Middlewich Road, Sandbach
- Nantwich Road, Crewe
- Wistaston Road, Crewe
- Earle Street, Crewe

5.6 Defra has provided their Annual Status Report Appraisal Report (Appendix 2) and accepted the report, but included some additional comments. These will be addressed in the 2021 ASR as appropriate.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

6.1.1. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires a local authority to regularly review and assess whether air quality standards and objectives are being achieved, or are likely to be achieved within the authority's area. The Annual Status Report provides all information to fulfil this statutory requirement.

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. The report was compiled internally and funded from existing Regulatory Services and Health (RS&H) staffing budgets.

6.2.2. In addition, the report provides an update on progress of the Air Quality Action Plan, which sets out proposed measures to improve air quality. Smaller measures will be funded from within existing RS&H budgets, but air quality measures in larger projects are supported by services, such as Highways, as part of their development of the financial plans of relevant projects.

### **6.3. Policy Implications**

6.3.1. There are no direct Policy implications arising from this report.

### **6.4. Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

### **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. The report ensures the Council meets 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 Air Quality Action Plan aims to improve public health.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. The ASR alone will not directly help to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. Borough wide.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. There is no requirement for formal consultation with members of staff or the Trade Union, however there is a formal requirement to consult with Defra. Feedback from this consultation is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

## **9. Access to Information**

9.1. Background papers relating to this report are contained as Appendices 1 and 2.

## **10. Contact Information**

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

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## 11. Version Control

Date	Version	Author	Meeting report presented to	Consultees		Summary of amendments made
				Name of officers consulted	Date consulted	
07/09/20	1.0	Nick Kelly	Place SMT	Wendy Broadhurst Alison Burquest Matt Tyrer	26/08/2020	
23/09/20	2.0	Nick Kelly	CLT	Wendy Broadhurst Alison Burquest Matt Tyrer	23/09/2020	Reworded sections 6.1.1 and 6.2.2
19/10/20	2.1	Nick Kelly	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee			