



**ARTICLE NO: 2A**

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2017/2018  
ISSUE: 2**

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**Article of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing**

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**SUBJECT: AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2017**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

- 1.1 To advise Members that the Air Quality Annual Status Report submitted by this authority to DEFRA, was approved.
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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) system was set out in Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. This placed an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas. European and UK law set out the current air quality limit values and objectives. If it is considered likely that one of these objectives will be exceeded, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). This must then be followed by an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), highlighting the measures and actions that are intended to be put in place with the ultimate goal of achieving those objectives.
- 2.2 Air pollution is associated with several adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

## **3.0 ISSUES FOR WEST LANCASHIRE**

- 3.1 One specific location within West Lancashire is affected by emissions from road traffic. This issue continues to cause exceedance of the air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The measured exceedance of nitrogen dioxide previously resulted in the designation of an AQMA in 2010, located largely on Moor Street and Stanley St in Ormskirk town centre. The designation of this AQMA can be

found by visiting: <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/media/47218/aqma-order-2010.pdf>.

- 3.2 Since the designation of this AQMA, apart from a peak in 2011, monitoring results within it have highlighted an annual decline in levels of NO<sub>2</sub>. Whilst monitoring levels still show exceedance in the AQMA, the overall indication is that the pollution levels are reducing annually. Two of the seven monitoring locations within the Borough exceed the 40 micrograms per cubic metre limit value. Both of these locations are within the current AQMA. Appendix 1 clearly demonstrates that the recorded results at these locations are falling annually.
- 3.3 Following the declaration of an AQMA, a Local Authority must produce a report each year which reviews the previous 12 months air quality work. This Annual Status Report (ASR) is an annual requirement showing the strategies employed by West Lancashire Borough Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made. Our 2017 report can be viewed via <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/media/543321/annual-status-report-asr-for-2017.pdf>.
- 3.4 This report was submitted to DEFRA before the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline and was formally approved in August 2017.
- 3.5 One new piece of work which was in the report and will commence shortly, is the installation of signs which will suggest that drivers switch off their engines while stationary, to reduce emissions and save money. It is hoped that this will further assist in reducing emissions and that they will continue to reduce even further.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 4.1 Improving air quality can lead to improvements in health and longevity.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council in relation to this consultation.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

The approval of the report by DEFRA does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## Appendix 1

