

Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Chorley Liaison	18.11.2020

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update members on work of the council in monitoring Air Quality

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To note the contents of the report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This report provides a summary of the approaches the council is looking to implement as part of its efforts to improve air quality across the Borough. To deliver improvements, the council is looking to develop an Air Quality Strategy.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	x	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	x	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

- Chorley Council declared a climate emergency on the 19th November 2019, as part of this declaration, the council committed to being carbon neutral by 2030, 20 years ahead of the UK target of 2050.
- To enable this target to be met a number of behavioural changes will be required by our residents, as well as considering changes which can be made in relation to how we run our council and how we can support local business to become greener. These actions will have a direct effect on many areas, including air quality.
- With increasing development taking place across the borough, concerns have also been raised by residents and members on the quality of the air we breathe and increased pollution due to more traffic on our roads. The current crisis has opened our eyes as to

how we can change how we live and work and present us with an opportunity to encourage a change in behaviour now.

National Policy

8. The Environment Bill, which is currently at its second stage of reading in the House of Commons, sets out a number of priority areas for environmental targets relating to air quality. When enacted the Bill will introduce mandatory targets in relation to pollutant levels, including Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5). The WHO has set recommended targets in relation to this but the UK government is yet to decide on the levels it will set.
9. The Environment Bill will introduce a National Air Quality Strategy and all Local Authorities will need to adhere to this when exercising any function which could affect the quality of air.

Air Quality in Chorley

10. The council currently monitor air quality across a number of different sites in Chorley. A report on this known as the 'Air Quality Status Report (ASR)', is produced annually, this is a requirement of the existing legislative framework set out in the Environment Act 1995. The principle pollutants of concern within Chorley are those mainly associated with traffic, these being Nitrogen Dioxide, and Particulate Matter. The Council monitors Nitrogen Dioxide emissions via a network of passive diffusion tubes against National Air Quality Objectives. Currently there are no Air Quality Management Areas declared within the borough as the Air Quality Objectives are being met.
11. The current national targets are set out below.
 - **PM2.5** 20ug/m³ ambient air concentration (annual) by 2020 – this has been achieved – commitments to reduce this further by 2020 and 2030
 - **Ammonia** – reduce emissions (from 2005 baseline) by 8 % by 2020 and 16% by 2030
 - **NOx** – aim to reduce NOx (from 2005 baseline) by 55% by 2020 and 73% by 2030. Currently the UK is not meeting the NO₂ objective
 - **Sulphur Dioxide** – Currently UK meet the legal daily & hourly SO₂ in ambient air. Aim to reduce emissions (from 2005 baseline) by 59% by 2020 and 88% by 2030
 - **Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs)**- We must reduce emissions of NMVOCs (from 2005 baseline) by 32% by 2020 and 39% by 2030.
12. CO₂ emissions for 2018 in Lancashire show that Chorley has the highest percentage of CO₂ emissions from transport than anywhere else in the County (with motorways being the main source of this pollution), but has much lower levels from sources such as industry which are high in neighbouring areas of South Ribble and West Lancs, and since 2005 year on year reductions in CO₂ emissions have been seen. Levels of Oxides of Nitrogen are also attributed to transport., Levels of PM^{2.5} may also be linked to this, although only 50% of particulate matter is generated within borough, the remaining is from transboundary
13. Although not required locally, the Council has declared an intention to prepare an Air Quality Strategy. The aim of this document is to identify where the key areas for intervention are which could help to improve air quality locally and raise awareness to residents of their role in improving air quality.

Air Quality Strategy

14. Air Quality has been identified as a Corporate Priority for the Council and in order to deliver change in this area, a capital budget has been allocated for improving air quality. This will allow for increased monitoring across the borough and enable production and delivery of an Air Quality Strategy (AQS).
15. The AQS is proposing a wider programme of monitoring, looking at a broader range of pollutants than currently monitored which in turn will give us better data on the state of air quality across the Borough and identify what actions need to be taken to improve air quality overall.
16. The strategy also proposes the development of a detailed communications strategy to identify how we can effectively engage with residents and businesses, raising awareness and better educating people how to reduce air pollution and in what way small actions can have a big impact.
17. The strategy will also ask the Council to lead by example and look at implementing measures affecting the way we operate our business that can have a direct impact on air quality, such as moving council fleet vehicles to electric and promoting use of sustainable travel by employees as well as looking at how we can make our buildings more energy efficient.
The Strategy will also look at ways to promote more sustainable development and incorporate air quality requirements into policy development for the council through the new Local Plan, as well as working with partners to identify how to ensure infrastructure requirements promote sustainable travel.
18. Once finalised, the AQS will be presented to members for consideration and approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

20. Report for information only. Funding has already been set aside to deliver the green agenda of the council and improving air quality will come under this provision.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

21. No comment

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

22. No comments

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Deputy Chief Executive

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