

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Note



**DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE**

Subject: Local Air Quality Management in Cherwell - Update
 Head of Service / Jackie Fitzsimons / Sean Gregory
 Officer Responsible

Background and Reason for Briefing Note	<p>This briefing note provides a general update on local air quality management and an update on matters agreed (below) at the May 2013 Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These matters were:</p> <p>(1) That officers be requested to ensure that an Air Quality Action Plan be produced as soon as possible in respect of Hennef Way and that Members be advised of its publication via a Briefing Note.</p> <p>(2) That, six months after the publication of the Air Quality Action Plan, a further report be submitted to the Committee advising on how the objectives are being met.</p> <p>Local Authorities have a duty under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess air quality to identify areas where an air quality objective is being or is likely to be exceeded. If an exceedance of an air quality objective is identified an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared. Once an area has been designated Local Authorities must carry out an assessment and then develop an Action Plan for the AQMA.</p> <p>In January 2011 CDC declared an AQMA in Hennef Way, Banbury because of exceedances of annual and hourly mean air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).</p>
Head of Service	<p>As part of the process for completing an AQAP local authorities are required to take into account DEFRA's comments. These comments were received from DEFRA on CDC's Further Assessment in October 2013 with a recommendation that further monitoring be completed in closer proximity to resident's dwellings before drafting and consulting on an AQAP for this AQMA. Additional monitoring is in progress and will be completed by January 2015. Once this monitoring has been assessed, CDC will then be in a position to consult on an AQAP for this area. In the interim, stakeholders within the council, transport and health departments at OCC, Banbury Town Council, residents within the AQMA, the Environment Agency, Banbury Chamber of Commerce, Oxfordshire local authorities will be provided with an update of the current findings in anticipation of completing the AQAP in 2015.</p> <p>In addition to the comments from DEFRA on air quality in Hennef Way, DEFRA has also provided feedback on CDC's Detailed Assessment reports for three other locations in the district. These are: Bicester Road in Kidlington, Oxford Road to North Bar in Banbury and Kings End to Field Street in Bicester.</p> <p>CDC had recommended that AQMA's be declared in these three areas following our monitoring and assessment which was reported to O&S Committee in May 2013. DEFRA have agreed with our findings and consultation on the findings of these Detailed Assessment reports will begin in early 2014. Once complete AQMA's will be declared for</p>

the areas, followed by a Further Assessment and the production of an AQAP.

Members are requested to note:

1)The update on a requirement for further monitoring in Hennef Way prior to drafting an AQAP

2) DEFRA's support for AQMAs in a further three areas and CDC's commencement of public consultation with regard to Air Quality in the District in early 2014 to aid action planning and the declaration of AQMA's.

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