

Cherwell District Council

Executive

5 October 2015

Air Quality Management Area for Bicester

Report of Interim Public Protection and Environmental Health Manager

This report is public

Purpose of report

To declare an Air Quality Management Area in Bicester

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To declare an Air Quality Management Area including Kings End, Queens Avenue and Field Street, Bicester.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 established the legislative framework for local air quality management. Under the Act the Council has a statutory duty to review and assess air quality in the district against national air quality objectives and co-ordinate actions to improve air quality where exceedances are identified.
- 2.2 DEFRA oversees the Council's role and monitors progress by requiring local authorities to undertake a review and assessment on a three year cycle. This is a two stepped approach. Step 1 requires an Updating and Screening Assessment Report (USA) to be completed in the first year. The purpose of the USA is to look at the current and likely future air quality in the district and to assess if an air quality objective is, or is likely to be exceeded. If the USA identifies a risk that an air quality objective will be exceeded the local authority is required to proceed to Step 2, a Detailed Assessment to formally identify the need to declare an air quality management area. Review and Assessment Progress Reports are completed in the interim years to ensure continuity.
- 2.3 Local authorities have a duty to declare any area where an air quality objective is unlikely to be, or is not being met as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Previous rounds of the review and assessment process have identified nitrogen dioxide from road transport sources as the pollutant of concern in Cherwell. These review and assessment reports can be found on the local air quality management page of the Councils website; www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/airquality.
- 3.2 The 2009 USA report identified that air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide may be exceeded at Hennef Way and Horsefair/North Bar in Banbury, Kings End/Queens Avenue in Bicester, and Bicester Road in Kidlington.
- 3.3 A Detailed Assessment was completed for Hennef Way, Banbury and an AQMA declared in January 2011 because the annual and hourly mean air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide were exceeded.
- 3.4 Detailed Assessments for Horsefair/North Bar in Banbury, Kings End/Queens Avenue in Bicester, and Bicester Road in Kidlington were completed in April 2013 and exceedances of the annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide were confirmed for these areas.
- 3.5 The findings and conclusions of the Detailed Assessment reports have been confirmed by Defra.
- 3.6 In September 2014 AQMA's were declared for Horsefair/North Bar in Banbury, and Bicester Road in Kidlington. However, due to significant road layout changes in Bicester, it was recommended to, and accepted by, the September 2014 Executive Committee that the declaration of an AQMA in Bicester be deferred until additional monitoring and assessment had been undertaken, so the impact of the changes to the road layout on air quality could be assessed. This course of action was agreed with Defra.
- 3.6 The additional monitoring and assessment work was completed in 2015 and recommends the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area for Kings End/Queens Avenue/Field Street in Bicester, as identified in Figure 1 in Appendix 1, for the exceedance of the annual mean national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Due to exceedances of the annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide it is recommended that an AQMA is declared for:
 - (i) Kings End / Queens Avenue / Field Street, Bicester as outlined in Figure 1 in Appendix 1.

5.0 Consultation

Defra

Defra has been consulted on the Detailed Assessment report.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: An alternative option would be to not declare the area as an AQMA. However, if an air quality objective is not being met then the Council is required to declare that area as an AQMA and so for this reason this is not an alternative option.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The continuing review and assessment of air quality will be met within existing budgets.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There is a statutory requirement to review and assess air quality and if an air quality objective is not being met to declare an Air Quality Management Area.

Comments checked by:

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Risk

- 7.3 There is an increase in risk to health to prolonged exposure to elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

Bicester Town

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

The District of Opportunity strategic priority, and the deliver high quality regulatory services that support the growth of the local economy key objective.

Lead Councillor

Councillor Tony Ilott,
Lead Member for Public Protection

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	AQMA Map
Background Papers	
None	
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