

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 17 October, 2016**

### **Report of the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services**

### **Air Quality Progress Report 2016**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Cabinet approval of the 2016 Air Quality Progress Report for the Vale of Glamorgan, attached at [Appendix 1](#).

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Cabinet acknowledges and approves the 2016 Air Quality Progress Report attached at [Appendix 1](#) to this report and agrees to its submission to Welsh Government.

#### **Reason for the Recommendation**

1. The report fulfils the requirements of the statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process. 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 to protect health are likely to be achieved. Where exceedences are considered likely, the local authority must then 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.

#### **Background**

2. The results of the 2015 monitoring data confirm that air quality within the Vale of Glamorgan meets the relevant air quality objectives, including within the existing AQMA on Windsor Road, Penarth.

#### **Relevant Issues and Options**

3. The 2015 data indicated one minor exceedance of the annual average Air Quality Standard of 40 ug/ m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub> at Andrew Road with a result of 40.3µg/m<sup>3</sup>. However, this site is regarded as a Kerbside location and after applying a correction factor to derive levels at the nearest relevant exposure, the final result was in compliance with the Air Quality Standard.

4. It is evident that NO<sup>2</sup> levels have seen a noticeable decrease or have remained stable during the 2015 monitoring period.
5. There were no monitoring sites with concentrations above 60µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2015. This indicates it is unlikely that the hourly nitrogen dioxide objective will be exceeded at any location in the Vale of Glamorgan.
6. The results of the monitoring indicate that the annual average particulate matter PM10 concentration at the Windsor Road monitoring station is compliant with the AQS objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This is the only location across the Vale of Glamorgan where PM10 is actively monitored.
7. Ozone is monitored at the Windsor Road monitoring station. There are no exceedences of the 8-hour mean objective of 100µg/m<sup>3</sup> on more than 10 days per year as set by the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQs).
8. The report recommends that we continue to monitor at the majority of current locations.
9. Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) will review nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube placement and re-locate tubes to property facades where practicable to provide results indicative of relevant exposure. In the same way, we identify tubes with consistently low, compliant concentrations and redeploy these elsewhere.
10. SRS will proceed to a detailed assessment of the 2016 ratified monitoring data obtained for the Windsor Road AQMA, to assess whether the Council should revoke the AQMA.
11. The report provides details on the ratified data for the air quality monitoring undertaken in 2015.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

12. SRS has an existing budget to complete a programme of air quality monitoring across the Vale of Glamorgan. Additional NO<sup>2</sup> diffusion tube and particulate monitoring will be required but the costs will be met from existing budgets.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

13. There are no direct sustainability or climate change implications from the report itself. However the continued monitoring proposed will help the Council identify any potential areas where poor air quality is of a concern and where any action is necessary to improve air quality.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

14. Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 places a duty on all Local Authorities to review periodically air quality in their area. This includes assessment of compliance of present and likely future air quality to comply with the objectives of the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2010.
15. Where air quality is unlikely to meet the objectives Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995 requires that the Council declares an Air Quality Management Area.
16. Section 84 of the Environment Act 1995 places a duty on the Council to develop an Action Plan to address the situation.
17. Statutory duty to produce and publish reports to fulfil the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995),

the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and relevant Policy.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

18. There are no Crime and Disorder implications as a result of the report.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

19. There are no equal opportunities implications from the publication of the report. Invitations to comment will be sent to all known stakeholders and interest groups to provide an opportunity for comments.

### **Corporate/Service Objectives**

20. The Corporate Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan Council (2016-2020), includes a Well Being Outcome which is - An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale. A key part of this outcome states that The Vale of Glamorgan Council will look 'to protect our environment for future generations.' This Progress Report demonstrates that currently Air Quality within the Vale meets National Air Quality Standards and this report demonstrates one aspect where the Vale of Glamorgan Council is meeting this outcome.

### **Policy Framework and Budget**

21. This is a matter for Executive decision.

### **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

22. The 2016 Progress Report does not require, any external consultation and following approval from Cabinet will be submitted to Welsh Government.

### **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

23. Environment and Regeneration

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Contact Officer**

Helen Picton - Operational Manager - Enterprise and Specialist Services

### **Officers Consulted**

Accountant - Regulatory Services  
Legal - Committee Reports

### **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services