

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	6 DECEMBER 2017



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ASSETS

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £75,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	No
Is this report confidential?	No

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

As part of the 2017 Annual Status Report for Air Quality in the borough it has been identified that levels along Turpin Green Lane and Golden Hill Lane are exceeding or very close to exceeding the national objective level. As such the Council must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

A consultation process has been undertaken to inform the statutory process and Cabinet is now requested to agree the extent of the proposed new AQMA and formally declare the new AQMA to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

2. PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agrees:

1. That the proposed extent of the new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), as detailed in Appendix A, be agreed.
2. That the new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), as detailed in Appendix A, be formally declared to DEFRA.
3. That the development of a revised Action Plan for Air Quality be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

Clean, green and safe	X	Strong and healthy communities	X
Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire	X	Efficient, effective and exceptional council	

4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

Air quality is currently one of the high profile public health issues within the UK. Nationally over 50,000 premature deaths are caused each year as a direct result of poor air quality. The source of much of this pollution is traffic and industry, and results in poor development of children, increased asthma, coronary and respiratory disease to mention just a few of the impacts on people's health.

The Council has a statutory duty to monitor and report on air quality within the borough. Where the objective levels for certain pollutants are exceeded the Council has a duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and then produce an Action Plan with the aid of partners (County Council, Public Health professionals etc.) to undertake measures to try and improve the air quality in the area to below national objective values (40µg/m³ for Nitrogen Dioxide).

As part of the 2017 Annual Status Report it has been identified that levels along Turpin Green Lane and Golden Hill Lane are exceeding or very close to exceeding the national objective level of 40µg/m³. As such the Council must declare an AQMA.

Once the AQMA has been declared the Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) will need to be reviewed in light of the new AQMA.

A consultation was carried out during September 2017 on the extent of the area to be declared as the AQMA. Unfortunately very few responses were received. Lancashire County Council Highway's and Public Health departments responded. They had no comments to make. In addition responses were also received from 2 members of the public and 1 councillor. Comments received were as follows.

One response did not agree with the area to be declared and wanted the area around Langdale Road, near Runshaw declaring as an AQMA and suggested re sequencing of the traffic lights along the proposed route by LCC.

Two responses wished to extend the area by placing a weight limit on Longmeanygate. Whilst this is an action that can be investigated further it would not alter the size of the proposed AQMA.

Other suggestions have included a link road from the end of Tomlinson Road and work has begun to see if this can be progressed. Speed cameras were also suggested, although slower vehicles tend to result in more pollution, along with improved signage, particularly from the motorway.

All of the above ideas can be taken forward within the Council's revised Action Plan to help improve the situation in both the proposed AQMA and possibly in the existing.

The borough already has four declared AQMA's, declared in 2005 in relation to the likely exceedance of the Nitrogen Dioxide objective value. These four AQMA's cover;

- Cop Lane, Liverpool Road junction at Penwortham,
- Victoria Road, Walton-le-Dale,
- The junction of Leyland Road, Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall
- Station Road, Bamber Bridge.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the area identified in Appendix A be declared as an Air Quality Management Area under Part IV, Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995.

5.2 The Council are under a legal duty to declare an AQMA within Leyland due to an exceedance of the National Air Quality Annual Mean Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide.

5.3 Following a consultation exercise the area identified as forming the new AQMA has been proposed as the road network from the railway bridge on Turpin Green Lane through to Churchill Way, and along Golden Hill Lane running from the Junction with Chapel Brow to the traffic lights at Leyland Lane/Longmeanygate.

5.4 Members are asked to agree the proposed extent of the AQMA.

5.5 The Council does not have a choice over the declaration of the AQMA only the extent of the area to be covered.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

A consultation exercise was undertaken during the period 21st August to 22nd September 2017. The Consultation concentrated on the extent of the new AQMA and asked for any ideas for resolving the poor air quality issues in Leyland. The consultation was advertised via the Council's website, Councillor Connect and was sent to Public Health Lancashire and Lancashire County Council Highways. Neither had any comments to make on the proposed area of the new AQMA.

The responses reviewed from the consultation have been reviewed and no changes to the proposed AQMA boundaries have been made, although a number of possible solutions to improve the air quality and alleviate traffic flow have been made and will be taken forward to the next stage of the process.

7. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other options were considered, however the proposed AQMA is considered the most appropriate as it covers the main transport routes through the town which have been identified as exceeding the national objective value, and is considered suitable and appropriate given the current available information.

Given the source of the pollution and the possible measures required to improve the situation the area chosen has been identified to allow suitable measures to be implemented to improve the air quality. The proposed area also includes a number of locations where the objective level is close to being exceeded.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate direct financial implications to the declaration of the AQMA. However, there may be some implications as progress is made in delivering the action plan which will be kept under continuous review.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications to the declaration of the AQMA.

10. ICT/TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications to the declaration of the AQMA.

11. PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications to the declaration of the AQMA.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council is under a legal obligation to declare the AQMA, with only the extent of the area to be covered under consideration. Should the Council not formally declare the AQMA then it will be in breach of its statutory duties.

13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

There are no equality or diversity implications to the declaration of the AQMA.

14. RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council has a statutory duty to declare the AQMA. Therefore the officer recommendations are as follows.

That Cabinet agrees:

1. That the proposed extent of the new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), as detailed in Appendix A, be agreed.
2. That the new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), as detailed in Appendix A, be formally declared to DEFRA.
3. That the development of a revised Action Plan for Air Quality be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets.

15. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

There is no implications for the Council's budget as a result of accepting the Director's recommendations in this report.

16. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Council's duties under the Environment Act 1995 are mandatory. The Council must review air quality from time to time. If air quality standards are not being met in a particular area, the Council must designate the area as an air quality management area, and produce a report within 12 months of the assessment.

17. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

South Ribble Borough Council; (June 2017) South Ribble Borough Council Annual Status Report 2017;

<https://www.southribble.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ASR%202017%20Report.pdf>

Environment Act 1995 C25, (pt 4); HMSO: (1995)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>

Defra; (2016); Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG16);

<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-PG16-April-16-v1.pdf>

Appendix A Proposed Air Quality Management Area Boundary

Mark Gaffney

Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets

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