

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	21 November 2018



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Approval of Air Quality Action Plan	Public Health and Safety, Wellbeing and Environmental	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £100,000 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

1.1 The report seeks Members' approval and adoption of the Council's Revised Air Quality Action Plan.

2. PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Cabinet agree to adopt the Revised Air Quality Action Plan.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1 Air Quality represents the largest environmental health risk to the population of the UK and one of the greatest overall health risks, with over 63,000 premature deaths occurring in the UK every year from poor air quality.

3.2 Within South Ribble five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) have been declared following the identification of five particularly poor areas of air quality.

3.3 The Council is under a legal obligation, Part IV of the Environment Act, to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) following the declaration of an AQMA and to work towards the improvement of air quality within its area and achieving the air quality national objective values.

3.4 Statutory Guidance issued by DEFRA identifies the need for all partner organisations and political leaders to demonstrate leadership, commitment and to take responsibility for actions, especially where measures will have knock-on effects on other policy areas.

3.5 The legislation also identifies the need to periodically review the AQAP's, with the guidance suggesting a maximum of every 5 years, the last AQAP launched in 2016 became out of date in December 2017 following the declaration of the fifth AQMA in Leyland, and an update was required.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	x
Health and Wellbeing	X
Place	X

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	x
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5. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5.1 In 2005 South Ribble Borough Council declared the first four Air Quality Management Areas in the borough covering sites in Penwortham, Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and Walton-le-Dale, all for the likely exceedance of annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide Objective level.

5.2 At the time the authority had been identified as an 'Excellent Authority' and as such did not need to produce an AQAP. This relaxation finished and following a poorly responded to consultation the 2016 AQAP was published.

5.3 Following continual air quality monitoring and due to a significant level of development around the Leyland area exceedances in the annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide levels were recorded and the fifth AQMA declared in December 2017.

5.4 The 2016 AQAP covered the whole borough and as such following the declaration of the Leyland AQMA became out of date, combined with the increase in the wider public concern across the country in air quality, it was decided to review the AQAP.

5.5 A steering group comprising of elected members, County Council Highways Officers, Public Health Lancashire, CCG, Police and South Ribble Staff were invited to attend the steering group to develop the action plan. In addition, a full public consultation was undertaken which gathered a number of responses and suggested measures to be included. The steering group discussed these and determined which ones should be taken forward.

6. PROPOSALS

6.1 That the revised Air Quality Action Plan be adopted and signed and measures implemented within the Council directorates, and by elected members.

7. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 On the 21st June 2018, National Clean Air Day, a full consultation was launched as part of a Clean Air Day event for members and staff at the civic centre. The aim of the day was to launch the consultation on the revised action plan, source potential measures to be incorporated and improve the understanding around air quality.
- 7.2 An air quality Steering group was established involving staff and members from South Ribble Borough Council, County Council Highways and Public Health and CCG.
- 7.3 A press release was released and articles placed on the council's website, social media and internal intranet (Connect).
- 7.4 A large number of suggested measures were received from the Clean Air Day event and over the six-week consultation period. Participants included staff, partner organisations, elected members and members of the public. These were sorted and discussed within the steering group, finally deciding on those included within the document.
- 7.5 Partner agencies who have responsibilities for identified actions in this plan have been fully involved in the consultation and will be written to once the plan has been approved with their agreed actions.
- 7.6 The Action Plan is to cover a five year period with the identified actions being completed or in the case of policies and educational goals started over this time period. Following initial planning identified measures within the plan will be programmed into the corporate planning process.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 8.1 Details of all suggested measures are included within the back of the Action Plan including those that were discounted.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Adoption of the revised Air Quality Action Plan will have no direct financial costs, however the development and implementation of some of the identified measures will have a financial impact and each will need to be considered separately as the measures are developed.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The revised action plan has been written following a full consultation exercise and its production is a statutory requirement. The action plan must identify suitable measures to help towards the improvement of air quality within the borough.
- 10.2 Failure to produce, maintain, review an air quality action plan and pursue measures within it may result in direct intervention from the Secretary of State.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None.

12. ICT/TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13. PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

13.1 No direct implications but some if the identified measures impact on council owned assets.

14. RISK MANAGEMENT

14.1 There are no implications for not adopting the Air Quality Action Plan, However failure to work towards the completion of the identified measures may have instigate Secretary of State involvement.

15. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

15.1 None

16. RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 That Cabinet agree to adopt the Revised Air Quality Action Plan.

17. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

17.1 There are currently no financial implications identified, but any planned actions for which the costs cannot be met from existing budgets will require approval in line with the council's constitution.

18. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

18.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires councils to review air quality in their area periodically and designate management areas if improvements are necessary. Where an air quality management area is designated, councils are also required to work towards the Government's Strategy's objectives. An air quality action plan describing pollution levels must then be put in place. These plans contribute to the achievement of air quality limit values at local level. This report is designed to meet these statutory obligations.

19. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 19.1 Air Quality Management Order, No. 5 – Leyland
- 19.2 South Ribble Borough Council Annual Status Report 2017
- 19.3 Environment Act 1995
- 19.4 Corporate Plan 2018-2023
- 19.5 Local Air Quality Management PG(16)

21. APPENDICES

21.1 South Ribble Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2018

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