



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20TH MAY 2014

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises members of the intention to seek Cabinet approval to endorse the final version of the Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan prior to its submission to Welsh Government.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides information on the public consultation of the draft Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan and provides an overview of the feedback received during the process.
- 2.2 The national nitrogen dioxide air quality objectives are being exceeded at receptor locations around Caerphilly Town Centre. The Local Authority is required to designate any area failing the national air quality objectives as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce an Action Plan which details measures to bring the pollutant within acceptable limits.
- 2.3 The draft Air Quality Action Plan for the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA has recently been through a 3-month public consultation process, only 1 response was received. . The draft Air Quality Action Plan needs to be formally submitted to Welsh Government and the actions detailed within it, once approved, will be implemented.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Addressing poor air quality contributes to the Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly priorities within the Caerphilly Local Service Board single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers. In meeting its statutory requirements, the Council reviews and assesses air quality on an annual basis, in accordance with the National Air Quality Strategy, to ensure that local air quality complies with the national air quality objectives.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 All local authorities are required by the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess air quality within their area for present and future years.

Previous reports to the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee have provided information on the air quality monitoring being undertaken within the County Borough. Under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995, the Government has established a set of national objectives for

specific pollutants having regard to scientific and national evidence on the effects on health. Local Authorities are required to carry out reviews to determine whether there is compliance with these objectives and if there is not, to incorporate management controls to improve air quality bringing it within the acceptable levels.

The air quality update report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 17th September 2013 detailed the then proposed extension of the existing Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Management Area and reported that the draft Air Quality Action plan was due to go out to public consultation later that year.

The draft Air Quality Action Plan public consultation process commenced in December 2013 and concluded on the 5th March 2014. The consultation process consisted of the draft air quality Action Plan being circulated to the Caerphilly Town Centre Steering Group, this included the Local Ward members, the draft Action Plan was made available on the Authority's website and electronic feedback forms provided for the public to leave any comments. A display board was erected in Caerphilly Tourist Information Centre informing the public of the consultation and associated air quality work along with paper copies of the draft Action Plan and feedback forms, articles were placed in Newslines and information was posted on the Authority's Social Media accounts, Facebook and Twitter.

There was one response to the public consultation, which agreed with the actions put forward and provided positive feedback. There were no recommendations to remove or add any actions to the draft Action Plan; consequently the draft document remains unchanged.

This report therefore advises Members of the intention to seek Cabinet approval to endorse the final version of the Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan (Appendix 1) prior to its submission to Welsh Government.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Equalities implications to this report, as reducing the air pollutants in the Caerphilly Town Centre area relates equally to every member of the community in that area regardless of background or individual circumstances.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The progression of the Air Quality Action Plan for the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA will have further resource implications, initially linked to the modelling of the basket of long term and short-term measures.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments received are reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee are asked for their views on the proposals prior to seeking Cabinet approval to:

- (1) Endorse the Final version of the Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan prior

to its submission to Welsh Government.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To mitigate any potential impact on health and to comply with the statutory obligations on the Authority
- (2) To ensure that the Local Air Quality Management process is progressed effectively.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Environment Act 1995 s.83.1

Authors Claire Davies, Team Leader, Pollution Control
Maria Godfrey, Environmental Health Officer, Pollution Control

Consultees: Cllr. D.T. Davies, Chair Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny
Cllr. E.M. Aldworth, Vice-Chair Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny
Cllr. Christine Forehead, Ward Member
Cllr. Elaine Forehead, Ward Member
Cllr. James Fussell, Ward Member
Cllr. Colin Elsbury, Ward Member
Cllr. Barbara Jones, Ward Member
Cllr. Stephen Kent, Ward Member
Cllr. Michael Prew, Ward Member
Cllr. James Pritchard, Ward Member
Cllr. Phil J Bevan, Ward Member
Ken Williams, Caerphilly Town Council
Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services
Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Gail Williams, Monitoring Officer/Principal Solicitor
Terry Shaw, Head of Engineering
Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Sian Phillips, HR Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Caerphilly Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan (final version)

Copies will be made available in the Members library and on the CCBC intranet, internet and Members portal.