



HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: HAFOD-YR-YNYS AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the development of the Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and presents the current draft AQAP.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 This report provides information on the public consultation of the draft Hafod-yr-ynys AQAP 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 on Hafod-yr-ynys Road. 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 AQAP which details measures to bring the pollutant back within acceptable limits.

2.3 The draft AQAP for Hafod-yr-ynys has recently been through a public consultation process and 21 responses were received. The current draft AQAP has been updated in the light of consultation responses and is attached at Appendix 2. Officers are still reviewing some aspects of the draft action plan in conjunction with officials at Welsh Government and it is anticipated that a final draft will be presented to the December meeting of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) is a statutory requirement. Addressing air quality contributes to the Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly priorities within the Caerphilly Local service Board single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers.

3.2 Addressing air quality contributes to the following Well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

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 Health, Social Care and Well-being Scrutiny Committee have provided information on the air quality monitoring being undertaken within Hafod-yr-ynys. 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.
- 4.2 The air quality update report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 17th September 2013 detailed the then proposed AQMA at Hafod-yr-ynys and reported that an air quality action plan was required for the area.
- 4.3 The draft air quality action plan consultation process commenced in June 2017 and concluded on the 31st August 2017. An air quality steering group meeting was held with residents of Hafod-yr-ynys and key stakeholders on 9th March 2017 where officers of the authority discussed the contents of the draft action plan. All those who attended the meeting of the 9th March were given a hard copy of the plan and were informed about the start of the public consultation. The public consultation then started in June following the election period.
- 4.4 The Council received 21 responses to the consultation which are summarised in Appendix 1 attached to the report. There were no recommendations to remove any proposed options, however Public Health Wales did suggest considering the introduction of a low emission zone, this has not been introduced in to the document as yet as the feasibility of this option is being discussed further with Welsh Government. Welsh Government have requested that the authority undertake further traffic and air quality monitoring within the area to better refine the air quality model and this request is still being assessed. The action plan is a living document and actions will be subject to review as and when required. As monitoring and actions progress, updates will be provided to residents, key stakeholders and Welsh Government.
- 4.5 Members are asked to note the current position in relation to the development of the Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan. It is anticipated that a final version of the plan will be presented to the December meeting of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 Local Air Quality Management contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. The service's activity in this regard is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that it is focussed on preventing harm to public health. The service follows a statutory process in relation to Local Air Quality Management and uses a range of strategies, activities and interventions that ensure an integrated and balanced approach to service delivery. This process seeks to balance the need for proactive intervention programmes with the need to promote, educate and inform both key stakeholders and the public; collaborating with them to promote and improve air quality over the long term.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However as you will note

from the table of options within the action plan, significant internal and external investment will be required to take some of the larger infrastructure options forward. The additional traffic counts and modelling work requested by Welsh Government will be realised utilising existing Environmental Health revenue budgets.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received have been reflected within the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are asked to;

- (1) Note the consultation responses within Appendix 1 of the report
- (2) Note the progress to date and the current draft of the Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan at Appendix 2.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Environment Act 1995 s.83.1

Author: Maria Godfrey, Team Leader Pollution Control & Emergency Planning

Consultees: Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Social Services Senior Management Team
Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Shaun Watkins, HR Manager
Dean Smith, Principal Engineer
Marcus Lloyd, Deputy Head of Programmes
Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager
Rhian Kyte, Strategic Planning Team Leader

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Air Quality Action Plan consultation responses

Appendix 2: Draft Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan