



COUNCIL - 19TH JULY 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - REMEDIAL ACTION TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY ON HAFODYRYNYS ROAD

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The report, which was presented to Cabinet on 29th June 2016 and Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 21st June 2016, in response to a Notice of Motion, received from Councillor A. Lewis requests that CCBC take all remedial action urgently, to improve air quality on Hafodyrynys Road.
- 1.2 Cabinet noted that there have been some recent reports in the media regarding air quality at this location.
- 1.3 The Environment Act 1995 introduced a strategic policy framework for air quality management. The strategy established a set of standards for a number of pollutants having regard to scientific and medical evidence on the effects on health. Local authorities are required to carry out regular reviews of air quality within their area to determine whether they comply with these standards and, where they do not, to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and incorporate controls to improve air quality bringing it within the accepted levels.
- 1.4 Air quality monitoring began at Hafodyrynys in 2009. A Detailed Assessment of air quality was undertaken in 2013 based on monitoring data from 2012 and was submitted to Welsh Government. The Detailed Assessment confirmed that monitoring results were continuing to fail the air quality objectives and the area was designated as an AQMA at the same time that the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA was extended in November 2013.
- 1.5 A Further Assessment report was undertaken in April 2015 and considered contributions from the different traffic types and modelled mitigation scenarios. The recent Crumlin Junction improvements were one of the modelled mitigation scenarios within the report. The recently completed scheme has already resulted in efficiency benefits but post scheme monitoring is ongoing.
- 1.6 Members noted that Air quality action plan, as required by the Act, will concentrate primarily on reducing levels of nitrogen dioxide within the Air Quality Management Area, it is important to note that the pollutant of concern is traffic related. Traffic queuing and congestion is an issue along the junctions that feed the A472 not just within the confines of the Air Quality Management Area. When producing the Action Plan, it will be necessary to consider areas surrounding the junctions that feed the A472 and require an input from many services across the Local Authority as well as from external partners, local residents and businesses.
- 1.7 In addition, Members noted that there is a requirement to consult members of the public during the production of the Action Plan and through an appropriate communication strategy it is intended to engage with residents, community groups and other key players. An Action Plan Steering Group meeting is proposed for September. All proposed actions will be assessed and those that are deliverable will go forward into the Hafodyrynys Air Quality

Action Plan. It is envisaged that the draft Action Plan will go out to public consultation in early 2017.

1.8 Officers highlighted that, in support of the Notice of Motion, Councillor Lewis has also made reference to a planning application submitted to Torfaen Council which relates to reclamation of former opencast workings, recovery of secondary aggregates and construction of new access road affecting public rights of way. The application has not yet been determined by Torfaen Council, but the resolution of Planning Committee on 8th July 2015 was: that Torfaen County Borough Council be advised that Caerphilly County Borough Council Planning Committee raises objections to the application on the grounds of the detrimental impact on residential amenity, highway safety and air quality. A letter to that effect was sent to Torfaen Council.

1.9 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons discussed at the meeting, contained in the Officers report and in considering the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee : -

- (i) the Notice of Motion be referred to Council for determination;
- (ii) the Action Plan Steering Group explore the option of building a by-pass in the area, in conjunction with Welsh Government.

1.10 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

Author: C.A Evans, Committee Services Officer
Ext. 4210

Appendix:
Report to Cabinet dated 29th June 2016.