



HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE – 21ST JUNE 2016

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

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to a Notice of Motion asking that CCBC take all remedial action, urgently to improve air quality on Hafodyrynys Road.
- 1.2 The report is seeking the views of members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor A. Lewis.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred for consideration.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Local Air Quality Management 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 resilient Wales
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A globally responsible Wales

In terms of the five ways of working set out in the sustainable development principle, as defined in the Act. Local Air Quality Management is integrated in that it contributes to a number of the Well-being goals and supports the objectives of other stakeholders. There is also an emphasis on acting to prevent problems from getting worse and a necessity for collaboration across a number of services and agencies.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Councillor A. Lewis requests in his Notice of Motion that:-

'I call on CCBC to take all remedial action, urgently to improve air quality on Hafodyrynys Road'.

Members will be aware of recent reports in the media regarding air quality at this location.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Air quality monitoring began at Hafodyrynys in 2009, at that time a single diffusion tube was deployed on Woodside Terrace to give an indication of levels of nitrogen dioxide within the area. Initial readings suggested that there was a need to extend the monitoring and undertake a more comprehensive assessment within the area. An additional 2 diffusion tubes were placed on Hafodyrynys Road and a continuous air quality monitor was installed in September 2011.
- 4.4 Air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide are 40 µg/m³ (measured as an annual average) and 200 µg/m³ (measured as a 1 hour mean) not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year. The table below shows the continuous monitoring results dating back to 2012. Whilst the annual average has remained consistent since 2013, the amount of 1 hour mean exceedances have decreased over time. The rise in this figure in 2015 will be attributable to queueing traffic during the Crumlin Junction improvements that took place between January and October.
- 4.5 As the air quality monitoring station is located on the roadside it is a requirement when assessing measured data to consider what levels would be at the façade of residential properties some 2 metres away. The adjusted data is also presented in the table.

Table: Air Quality Monitoring Results 2012-2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Continuous Monitoring Results				
Annual Average (µg/m ³) (Objective Level 40 µg/m ³)	98	68	68	68
No. of 1 hour mean exceedances (per year) 18 allowed per year	137	85	75	108
Annual Average (µg/m ³) adjusted for façade.	71	50	50	50
Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results (µg/m³)				
CCBC 48 (1 Woodside Terr)	45	48	46	42
CCBC 50 (Top Woodside Terr)	46	50	47	47
CCBC 60 (3 New Houses)	41	41	39	32

- 4.6 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 for nitrogen dioxide and concluded there was a need to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The area was designated as an AQMA at the same time that the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA was extended in November 2013.
- 4.7 A Further Assessment report was undertaken and submitted to Welsh Government in April 2015. The Further Assessment report 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 air quality modelling study that was undertaken as part of the Crumlin Junction improvements concluded that there would be an improvement in the annual mean, a reduction of up to $23\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and that the 1 hour mean exceedances would no longer fail the air quality objective.
- 4.8 The Crumlin Junction improvements were undertaken to address peak time congestion at this key junction of the A467/A472 strategic highway network for the County Borough, improve journey time reliability for public transport bus services, and provide capacity to accommodate future development identified under the Council's Local Development Plan. The works to date have totalled £1.3m.
- 4.9 The recently completed scheme has already resulted in efficiency benefits but post scheme monitoring is ongoing, including a review of junctions outside the scope of the actual works undertaken, to better understand the impact of the scheme and identify whether further minor amendments could improve the efficiency benefits further. At least a full year of air quality monitoring data is required for to fully understand the impact/benefits of the Crumlin junction highway improvement.
- 4.10 Air quality action planning, 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.
- 4.11 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 and 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.
- 4.12 Air quality from traffic is a national problem and is not something that can be addressed quickly; the solution often requires physical interventions as well as encouraging behavioural changes. Options in Hafodyrynys are likely to be quite limited due to the nature of the area. The topography is a large influencing factor as well as the fact that there are no alternative routes for traffic in the immediate vicinity without having to add substantial mileage to the journey.
- 4.13 In support of his Notice of Motion Cllr Lewis has also made reference to a planning application submitted to Torfaen Council. This application 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 8 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.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report as the assessment work is being undertaken by existing Council staff and by utilising existing revenue budgets.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been sent to the Consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Notice of Motion be duly considered by the Scrutiny Committee and referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To be in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972, Section 123 and Environment Act 1995.

Author: Maria Godfrey, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Consultees: Cllr. Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
Cllr Lyn Ackerman, (Chair) Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee
Cllr P Cook, (Vice Chair) Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager
Jacqui Morgan, Trading Standards & Licensing Manager
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager
Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Shaun Watkins, HR Manager

Background Papers:

Air Quality Assessment Hafodyrynys 2013 & Air Quality Further Assessment Hafodyrynys 2015