

Cabinet Meeting	
Meeting Date	31 October 2018
Report Title	Air Quality Action Plan and Public Consultation
Cabinet Member	Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment & Rural Affairs
SMT Lead	Nick Vickers, Chief Financial Officer
Head of Service	Tracey Beattie, Mid Kent Environmental Health Manager
Lead Officer	Steve Wilcock, Environment Protection Team Leader
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the outcomes of the updated traffic modelling work. 2. To agree a draft Air Quality Management Action Plan for public consultation and delegate to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Rural Affairs the final drafting of the document .

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Cabinet last received a report on air quality at its meeting on 11 July 2018. The report explained the additional traffic modelling work which was being undertaken as a precursor to the preparation of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for public consultation.
- 1.2 This report sets out the outcomes of the additional modelling work and the draft AQAP for public consultation. After the public consultation a technical report and plan will have to be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This is a hugely important issue and the Council has used independent external consultants of the highest calibre to undertake this work.
- 1.3 This Council already has a far larger scale of AQ monitoring than any Council in Kent and the remediation of this issue is an extremely high priority. It has to be recognised that whilst the statutory responsibility for preparing the AQAP lies with this Council the bigger picture response to these issues sits with Central Government. This Council is making a clear statement that we cannot wait for the improvements in air quality which will come naturally from reductions in vehicle emissions.

2 Background

- 2.1 In January 2018 the Council appointed AQ consultants, Phlorum Ltd, who commissioned traffic counts and Automatic Number Plate Recognition studies in the five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) in the borough (East Street Sittingbourne, St Paul's Sittingbourne, Newington, Teynham and Ospringe). The resulting Air Quality Assessment reported Predicted current Annual Average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations were still above the UK Air Quality Standard of 40ug/m³ in the current AQMAs.
- 2.2 The AQ Steering Group chaired by Cllr Simmons identified that to be robust the traffic data needed to be updated for allocated developments included in the 2017 Local Plan. Traffic data for future modelling would be based on:
- KCC Saturn traffic model,
 - Baseline model data from 2017,
 - Project forward to 2018 (base year for the AQ model), 2020 and 2022, and
 - Include Local Plan (developments) allocation traffic.
- 2.3 The actual traffic modelling was undertaken by SWECO, an independent consultant appointed by KCC, to produce traffic modelling data across the Swale AQMAs. In summary this work showed:
- Saturn model data differs to 2018 traffic counts,
 - On average traffic volumes are -20% lower than the January 2018 counts.
- 2.4 In the July Cabinet report a table was included showing AQMA modelling results for 2018, 2020 and 2022 showing Predicted Annual Average NO₂ concentrations (ug/m³) within each AQMA. These have now been updated for the SWECO modelling and the table below shows the proportion of exceedances by receptor in each of the five AQMA's and the number of receptors (in brackets):

	2018	2020	2022
East Street (26 receptors)	54% (14)	46%(12)	27%(7)
St Paul's (12 receptors)	33%(4)	0%(0)	0%(0)
Newington (51 receptors)	8% (4)	0%(0)	0%(0)
Teynham (22 receptors)	45% (10)	36% (8)	0% (0)
Ospringe (51 receptors)	35%(17)	10% (5)	4% (2)

(0% (0) = all receptors below 40ug/m3 i.e. AQMA is compliant)

2.5 Looking at the implications of the modelling by AQMA:

- (1) Newington AQMA - Newington AQMA is predicted to be compliant in 2020.
- (2) St Pauls AQMA - St Pauls AQMA is predicted to be compliant in 2020.
- (3) East Street AQMA - the AQMA is predicted to be non-compliant in 2020 and 2022.
- (4) Teynham AQMA - the AQMA is predicted to be non-compliant in 2020 but will be compliant by 2022.
- (5) Ospringe AQMA- the AQMA is predicted to be non-compliant in 2020 and marginally above the AQS in 2022.

2.6 The AQAP options modelling gives the numbers of Light and Heavy Goods Vehicles which need to be eliminated to comply with the Air Quality targets, scenarios were modelled to determine the impact within the target AQMAs (East Street and Ospringe) for 2022.

2.7 The modelled scenarios results that show that a CAZ scheme on the A2 would result in improved air quality within the target AQMAs (East Street and Ospringe) are presented below:

- (1) CAZ with -10% reduction in HGV numbers on A2
- (2) CAZ with -20% reduction in HGV numbers on A2

2.8 The most effective options to improve air quality and reduce the number of receptors which are above the target are shown below.

Scenario	East Street (Before)	After	Ospringe (Before)	After
CAZ with -10% reduction in HGV numbers on A2	7	2	2	1
CAZ with -20% reduction in HGV numbers on A2	7	1	2	0

- 2.9 The 2 CAZ options reduce the number of exceedance locations in each AQMA and reduce concentrations significantly at all locations. The remaining 1 or 2 locations above the limit are only marginally above, thus with local air quality initiatives implemented, together these would help to fully achieve compliance within all the AQMAs in 2022.
- 2.10 Additionally 14 new diffusion tubes locations were added in July and August 2018 to expand the number of locations, including some parts of the borough not previously monitored. Early results have shown predictable values, mostly well under the guideline values. Further work will continue with the possibility of extra tubes being put in place.
- 2.11 Public meetings have also taken place in Ospringe, Newington and Teynham where the purpose and progress so far of the Action Plan has been explained. Suggested actions from local residents are being collected for inclusion into the final Action Plan prior to consultation.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The attached draft AQAP (Appendix I) builds upon an earlier draft reported to Cabinet in October 2017 which was produced before the detailed traffic modelling work was done.
- 3.2 There are broadly two main areas of focus:
- (1) Major strategic initiatives such as a Clean Air Zone (CAZ). These are very complex initiatives which will take some years to implement and will be heavily reliant upon the collaboration with KCC.
 - (2) Operational initiatives such as the range of proposals from Policy Development and Review Committee.
- 3.3 Very significant progress has been made since the Air Quality Steering Group was set up in late 2017. This has showed the benefits of collaboration at member and officer level between different Council departments, in particular Environmental Health and Planning. Following a direct request to the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Waste we now have good KCC Highways engagement at a senior level on the Steering Group.
- 3.4 There will be a further report to Cabinet in Spring 2019.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Cabinet has already agreed to prepare an AQAP and this is an essential step in developing practical actions to address AQ issues in the borough.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The development of the Interim AQAP reflected conversations with interested local community groups such as those in Newington, Ospringe and Teynham and liaison with these groups has continued. The Interim AQAP was also subject to review and comment by Policy Development and Review Committee on 10 April 2018 and their comments were included in the 11 July report to Cabinet.
- 5.2 The draft AQAP will be subject to an eight week consultation period. The plan will be provided to all parish and town councils in the borough; and to all known community groups with an interest in the subject. It will also be placed on the Council website.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Supports the objective of being a Borough to be Proud of.
Financial, Resource and Property	Council allocated an additional £50,000 for Air Quality work. This has funded the SWECO traffic modelling, additional diffusion tubes and will fund the additional Project Officer once appointed.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The AQAP will meet the Council's statutory obligation under the Environment Act 1995 to provide an AQAP that meets DEFRA approval.
Crime and Disorder	None identified.
Environment and Sustainability	The approach will support Climate Local Swale and the Kent Environment Strategy.
Health and Wellbeing	The AQAP seeks to improve the health of the residents of the borough.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified.
Equality and Diversity	None identified.
Privacy and Data	None identified.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Draft AQAP

8 Background Papers

Cabinet reports 4 October 2017 and 11 July 2018

https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s8358/AQAP%20report_postAS.pdf

https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s10361/Final%20-%20StrategicAQAP_Cabinet2017_draft%20v6.pdf