

Cabinet Meeting		Agenda Item: 6
Meeting Date	4 October 2017	
Report Title	Swale Borough Council (Interim) Air Quality Action Plan	
Cabinet Member	Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs	
SMT Lead	Nick Vickers	
Head of Service	Tracey Beattie	
Lead Officer	Tracey Beattie	
Key Decision	Yes	
Classification	Open	
Forward Plan	Reference number:	
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members adopt the Swale Borough Council (Interim) Air Quality Action Plan 2017. 2. To approve establishing a Strategic Air Quality Steering Group (SASG) to develop the final Strategic Air Quality Action Plan 2018 – 2022. 	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Swale Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) as part of the Local Air Quality Management Framework. It currently has a number of individual Air Quality Action Plans for the Air Quality Management Areas in the borough.
- 1.2 The Interim Air Quality Action Plan provides a route map to develop a more strategic and longer term Air Quality Action Plan from 2018 – 2022 that combines the current individual action plans into one document. In addition it calls for the establishment of a Strategic Air Quality Steering Group (SASG) in Swale to evaluate the viability of proposed measures in terms of clear and quantifiable outcomes to improve air quality in Swale.
- 1.3 Initial contact with Defra on the proposed approach to preparing an interim AQAP and the development of a strategic AQAP has been supportive. They were keen to stress the importance of having clear and quantifiable measures associated with the action plan that can demonstrate improvements in air quality.
- 1.4 The Interim AQAP will form the basis of the Strategic AQAP following evaluation of the proposed actions by the Strategic Air Quality Group. The Strategic AQAP will be subject full consultation before the submission to Defra.

2 Background

- 2.1 The current AQAPs associated with the Air Quality Action Plans are out of date and require revision in the light of government guidance on Local Air Quality Management.
- 2.2 During 2016 -17 Swale produced two air quality documents which have a strategic bearing on how the authority is tackling poor air quality: the completion of the Freight Management Plan in December 2016 and the adoption of the Air Quality Technical Guidance document in 2017. However there is no overall document to provide a framework of how the authority will deal with air quality issues.
- 2.3 The Interim AQAP will form the basis of this framework once the actions identified within Tables 6.1 and 6.2 have been assessed and evaluated to provide quantifiable pollution reduction and the potential viability of measures being implemented.
- 2.4 The Interim AQAP will provide an important provisional guide for Environmental Protection planning consultation and development control purposes.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposed Strategic AQAP will be based on the Interim AQAP in Appendix I but enabling the Strategic Air Quality Group members to evaluate the proposed actions contained in tables 6.1 and 6.2 in terms of viability, developing Key Performance Indicators, pollution reduction targets and timescales.
- 3.2 There will be three stages to ensure appropriate leadership and engagement is demonstrated.

Stage I Review and update existing AQAP and set-out strategic approach and potential measures for development of Swale Strategic AQAP.

Output: Interim AQAP (2017).

Stage II Further develop AQAP steering groups and develop AQAP options/measures to be assessed. Assess viability and air quality benefits of measures for internal engagement and consultation lead by a Strategic Air Quality Steering Group (SASG)

Output: Strategic AQAP assessment (2017/18).

Stage III Draft Strategic AQAP for Swale BC consultation and preparation for public consultation. (Early 2018), finalise Strategic AQAP and implementation plans.

Output: Swale Strategic AQAP (2018 – 2022)

- 3.3 The Strategic Air Quality Steering Group will include members of key agencies such as KCC Highways, Public Health, Highways England, key services within Swale and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Rural Affairs and include the Cabinet Member for Planning to provide the leadership of the group.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Option 1 – do nothing. This could lead to a lack of direction and impetus for air quality issues, having a negative impact on future major developments in the borough.
- 4.2 Option 2 – adopt the current Interim AQAP and submit to Defra as the final rather than interim AQAP for Swale for the next four years. Whilst this is the most expedient option it does not provide as comprehensive and robust assessment of the quantifiable measures going forward.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The measures contained in the Interim AQAP (Tables 6.1 and 6.2) have been prepared following community based consultations with residents and members of steering groups; notably Newington, Ospringe and Teynham during 2016.
- 5.2 Establishing the Strategic Air Quality Steering Group will provide additional discussion on the measures.
- 5.3 Full public consultation will follow submission to the Policy and Development Committee on the proposed measures in the Strategic AQAP 2018 – 2022 during spring 2018.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	A Borough to be Proud of: Protect and Improve the natural and built environment Community to be Proud of: Work in partnership to Improve health and mental health

	A Council to Be Proud Of: Enhance capacity to achieve outcomes collaboratively
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no financial implications associated with the Interim AQAP.
Legal and Statutory	In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management the Interim AQAP will provide an Air Quality Action Plan that meets Defra approval and satisfies Swale's statutory obligations.
Crime and Disorder	None
Sustainability	These recommendations will support Climate Local Swale and the Kent Environment Strategy particularly with concern to emissions and health targets.
Health and Wellbeing	The Interim AQAP will provide benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents in the Borough and reduce health inequality.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The Interim AQAP provides Swale with the opportunity to meet the Air Quality Management Framework requirements set by Defra whilst develop clear and quantifiable measures for the Strategic AQAP. There are no health and safety risks associated with the Interim AQAP
Equality and Diversity	None

7 Appendices

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

- Appendix I: Interim Air Quality Action Plan 2017

8 Background Papers

None