

AIR QUALITY- ANNUAL STATUS REPORT & UPDATE

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee – 10th October 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: N/A

Key Decision: No:

This report supports the Key Aim of: Green Environment & Healthy Environment

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. McArthur

Contact Officer(s):

Nick Chapman, Ext. 7167,

Colin Alden, Ext. 7186

Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee

To note the contents of the 2023 Annual Status Report

Reason for recommendation: This report is for information and has been provided to update Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on Air Quality results and actions being taken by the District Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The District Council is required by DEFRA to produce an Annual Status Report (ASR) in June every year. This report summarises the results of Air Quality Monitoring in the previous calendar year (i.e. 2022).
- 2 We are pleased to confirm that DEFRA have accepted Sevenoaks District Council's ASR and are satisfied with the monitoring that was undertaken and our conclusions.
- 3 In 2022, no diffusion tube showed an exceedance of the National Objective Level (40ug/m³) for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).
- 4 The maximum reported concentration was 35.2µg/m³ at DT42, located at the London Road, Riverhead. This site is located at a in a position of relevant exposure (i.e. air quality is equivalent to that which residents are exposed). The second highest concentration (34.2 µg/m³) was reported at DT87 in Bradbourne Vale Road South, Sevenoaks. This site is not considered to be relevant exposure.
- 5 In general, across the Sevenoaks District, concentrations have decreased slightly from what were reported in 2021. This continues the overall trend of decreasing annual mean NO₂ concentrations over the past 5 years within the district.
- 6 There were no breaches of the NO₂ hourly, PM₁₀ annual, or PM₁₀ daily AQS objectives.
- 7 As our data has shown continuous trends of reducing emissions within each of our Air Quality Management Areas, the District Council is now in a position to consider revoking those that remain (subject to risk assessment). Should we determine that it is appropriate to revoke an AQMA it will be necessary for officers to bring a further report to agree this decision in due course.
- 8 In April 2022 Sevenoaks District Council adopted a new Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The measures included within this action plan are detailed within the Annual Status Report.
- 9 The Annual Status Report 2023 is Appendix A.

Progress towards measures within the Air Quality Action Plan

- 10 Within the first year of publishing the AQAP in 2022, there has been continuous progress towards a number of measures.

Key completed or ongoing measures are:

- 11 Measure 11- Reduction in vehicle idling through the promotion of health impacts at primary and secondary school.
- 12 Measure 12- Educational Campaigns for schools- including attendance at assembly and delivery of key messages.

- 13 Measure 21- Implementation of flexible/ hybrid working arrangements for District Council staff.
- 14 Measure 23- Complete a detailed modelling assessment of the Swanley Area to quantify the local air quality.
- 15 Measure 24- Hire an Air Quality Promotions Officer.

Measures that should be completed over the course of the next reporting year:

- 16 Measure 1- Development of Local Plan Policy and guidance to ensure developers take account of onsite and offsite air quality.
- 17 Measure 8- Development of new walking and cycle routes
- 18 Measure 15- Improving and developing the EV infrastructure within the district including the completion of a study identifying future EV infrastructure demand within the District.
- 19 Measure 16- Installing EV charging points within all Council owned car parks.

Conclusion

- 20 Monitoring data demonstrates that air quality in Sevenoaks District continues to improve year on year and in 2022 all areas met national objective levels for measured pollutants.
- 21 Although Air Quality within Sevenoaks District is improving, there is no safe level of exposure to air pollution. It is therefore in the interests of our residents that we continue to work to reduce exposure to air pollution as far as possible.
- 22 Our new Air Quality Action Plan (2022-2027) provides the framework of measures we intend to implement to improve air quality. We have already made significant progress towards several measures and hope to report more on these in future updates.

Key Implications

Financial

None

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

Equality Assessment

The information in this paper has a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

Whilst the District Council's Air Quality work aligns and supports our NetZero ambitions. The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment

Appendices

Appendix A - Air Quality Status Report 2023

Richard Morris

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services