

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 24th June 2014
Air Quality Action Plan

Accountable member	Councillor Andrew McKinley, Cabinet Member Development and Safety
Accountable officer	Paul Scott – Contaminated Land Officer
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>Cheltenham Borough Council has produced an Air Quality Action Plan in accordance with its statutory duties under the Environment Act 1995 and following the designation of the Borough as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2011.</p> <p>The AQMA was declared because five separate locations in Cheltenham did not meet the government's health based limit for the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a gas formed from fossil fuel combustion. It comes from some industrial processes, but mostly from road traffic exhaust emissions. Studies on the effects of nitrogen dioxide and particulates on human health have linked it with various respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease and the aggravation of existing lung conditions, such as asthma. Poor air quality impacts on health of the whole population and it is calculated to cause the premature death of 29,000 people per year in the UK.</p> <p>This Action Plan lays out a number of actions that if implemented could have a positive impact on air quality within Cheltenham. Implementation of the proposed actions will require effective engagement with key partners both within and external to the council. Such partners include Planning and Development Control, Gloucestershire Highways and Gloucestershire County Council.</p>
Recommendations	To approve the adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan and implementation of measures contained therein

Financial implications	<p>None – will be implemented within existing revenue resources.</p> <p>Contact officer: Nina Philippidis, Accountant nina.philippidis@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264121</p>
Legal implications	<p>None, unless not implemented.</p> <p>Contact officer: vikki.fennell@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272015</p>

HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	Negligible – use of existing resources Contact officer: richard.hall@cheltenham.gov.uk, 07801123276
Key risks	Should resources be reduced within Public Protection there is a risk that the Action Plan measures may not be progressed and air quality may not improve.
Corporate and community plan Implications	Implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan will help deliver elements of the community objectives within the Corporate Plan; especially <i>enhancing and protecting our environment</i> and <i>strengthening our communities</i> . In particular, the outcomes that will be assisted in being met by the Air Quality Action Plan include; maintaining a clean and well maintained environment, reducing carbon emissions and ensuring people are able to lead healthy lifestyles (through reduced exposure to potentially harmful air pollution). In addition the economy of Cheltenham could benefit from a number of the proposed Air Quality actions, through improving the shopping experience and visual appeal of Cheltenham to visitors and improving the safety of cyclists and pedestrians (from reduced town-centre through traffic).
Environmental and climate change implications	Implementation of the measures contained within the Air Quality Action Plan should help to reduce carbon emissions through the planned reduction in vehicle use.
Property/Asset Implications	None Contact officer: David Roberts@cheltenham.gov.uk

1. Background

1.1 Please see attached report Air Quality Action Plan 2014 – v1.2 FINAL

2. Reasons for recommendations

2.1 To comply with statutory provisions under Section 84(2) b of the Environment Act (1995) – where a local authority is required to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards. In this case, achievement of the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide (annual mean).

3. Alternative options considered

3.1 None

4. Consultation and feedback

4.1 External and Public consultation completed. Feedback fed into revised Action Plan as attached.

5. Performance management –monitoring and review

5.1 Cheltenham Borough Council is required to provide annual Progress Reports to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) every April. This will include details of progress with implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan. Internal performance management will continue through the Air Quality Steering Group and ongoing liaison with Gloucestershire County Council. Information obtained from meetings and review of air quality monitoring data will feed into the annual report to DEFRA.

Report author	Contact officer: paul.scott@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264358
Appendices	1. Risk Assessment
Background information	1. Please see attached Air Quality Action Plan v. 1.2 FINAL

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	Risk that air quality may not improve at key locations that are required to meet UK air quality standards (areas exceeding national objective limits) following the implementation of the Highways Improvement Scheme and closure of the inner ring road. Possible health impacts from poor air quality continue.	PS	31/03/14	2	3	6	Reduce	Continue with expanded Air Quality Monitoring network to gauge effectiveness of Highways Improvement scheme. Assess further possible air quality actions that could be implemented should pollution levels not decline. Demonstrate that long term benefit to air quality is likely anyway as a result of improved emission standards and a gradual reduction in background pollution levels.	31/03/15	PS	
	Risk that Cheltenham Borough Council suffers from negative publicity if air quality (as above) is not improved.	PS	31/03/14	2	3	6	Reduce	Have robust monitoring data to demonstrate effectiveness of those measures implemented. Focus on areas of success.	31/03/15	PS	
	Risk that some measures identified in the Action Plan may not be implemented due to funding constraints at Gloucestershire County Council.	PS	31/03/14	2	3	6	Accept	Funding and resource will be maximised where possible, however limitations exist with potential for Cheltenham Borough Council to influence funding allocations at County level. Majority of proposed air quality measures & schemes are County Council funded & resourced.	31/03/15	PS	

