

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

### Annual Air Quality Status Report 2024

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the latest Air Quality Status Report which has been submitted to the Department of Food Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

#### 2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Air Quality Status Report 2024 and the Updated Action Plan, be approved.**

#### 3. Detail

Each year, DEFRA requires all local authorities in England to produce an Annual Status Report (ASR) in respect of air quality. The production of an ASR is intended to aid local transparency, increase accessibility of air quality to the wider public audience and encourage buy-in to delivering air quality improvement measures by those best placed to assist (e.g. Directors of Public Health, transport managers etc.). The format of the report is specified by DEFRA. The annual bias corrections used in the report are not usually available until at least the end of April each year, and the required information from Nottinghamshire County Council is not available until June.

The Air Quality Action Plan, included in the **Appendix**, relevant to Broxtowe's direct actions is now included into the Air Quality Strand of the Climate Change and Green Futures Action Plan and updated there accordingly. Broxtowe's ASRs are approved by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change and the Director of Public Health before submission. Cabinet will be advised of the feedback received from DEFRA later in the year

Broxtowe Borough Council has taken forward a number of direct measures during the current reporting year of 2024 in pursuit of improving local air quality. Ninety-eight measures are included within this report and they are either completed, in progress or in the planning stage.

Some of the positive aspects contained in the report include the following:

- The 2023 nitrogen dioxide results show that the air quality levels are below the objective of  $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for all of the monitoring locations throughout the Borough being monitored through the use of 51 diffusion tubes.

- The diffusion tube network within the borough have consistently shown that the air quality levels are below the objective and are clearly showing a downward trend.
- The remaining AQMA in Trowell was revoked in 2023 achieving approval by Defra in January 2024 and therefore this data has still been reported on in the 2024 ASR.
- The real time monitor, which monitors PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> in the Trowell AQMA has provided BBC with results that have shown to be within the air quality objectives for the various pollutants.
- The installation of a cycle track on the Ilkeston Road Recreational Ground in Stapleford was completed in 2023.
- The installation of a Cycling proficiency track to assist children/adults when learning to ride bikes was completed in 2023.
- The installation of bicycle parking stands at the Ilkeston Road Recreational Ground in Stapleford was completed in 2023.
- All of BBCs commercial fleet vehicles (95) are now being fuelled with HVO instead of Diesel.
- An investigation was undertaken in 2023 to determine the feasibility of BBC employees having staff discounts with NET when using their trams.
- Electric Vehicle Fleet Procurement for small vans below 2 tonnes - All 9 vehicles (small vans) have now been replaced with Electric Vehicles.
- Broxtowe Borough Council Cycle to Work Scheme – Nine employees purchased bikes through this scheme in 2023. Since the scheme started, 189 employees have purchased bikes through the scheme.

Further measures to improve air quality have been devised in this reporting year for which will be implemented in 2024/2025

#### 4. Key Decision

This is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it affects more than 2 Wards within the Borough.

#### 5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

#### 6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications, with operational costs being contained within existing budgets. There could be additional costs for the Council if real time air monitoring continues past 2024 and/or action was taken to

increase monitoring levels. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 sets out statutory provisions on air quality. Section 82 provides that Councils shall review the air quality within their area. Section 83 requires Councils to designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) where air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved (i.e. where pollution levels exceed the air quality objectives) as set Cabinet 25 July 2023 out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000. Where an area has been designated as an AQMA, Section 84 requires councils to develop an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the remedial measures required to achieve the air quality standards for the area covered within the AQMA. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has provided statutory guidance in the form of the Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance. The guidance gives particular focus to so-called 'priority pollutants' such as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and so-called 'Particulate Matter' (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) which are relevant to district councils. Councils are required to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) to DEFRA in order to report the progress being made in achieving reductions in concentrations of emissions relating to relevant pollutants below air quality objective levels. The completed report is submitted to the Secretary of State (DEFRA) for consideration.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The comments from the Union were as follows:

Not applicable.

**10. Climate Change Implications**

The actions outlined in the air quality status report, support and reinforce the programme of activities identified in the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and delivery programme. These actions have already contributed to favourable environmental outcomes, such as the improvement of air quality, the reduction of carbon emissions and a contribution towards mitigating the worst impacts of climate change. Moreover, future actions resulting from Local Air Quality Management in Broxtowe Borough will continue to deliver beneficial results in the future

**11. Data Protection Compliance Implications**

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

**12. Equality Impact Assessment**

An equality impact assessment is not required as there are no new policies in relation to this report.

**13. Background Papers**

Nil.