

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
(19TH MARCH 2007)

REPORT ON: AIR QUALITY UPDATING & SCREENING ASSESSMENT 2006

REPORT BY: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS

REPORT NO. 115-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the contents of the 2006 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment for Dundee. Copies of the full report are available through Group Secretaries.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the principal findings of the 2006 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment and its submission to the statutory consultees, the Scottish Executive and Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

2.2 In particular, the Committee is asked to note that the findings of the Updating and Screening Assessment support the need for the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Nitrogen Dioxide at locations identified in previous reports (Reference Reports 190-2005 and 600-2005). In relation to fine particles (PM₁₀) the Council has sought the advice of the Scottish Executive and SEPA on how best to proceed with the ongoing assessment of this pollutant.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The expenditure required for the financial year 2006/2007 can be met from the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Department's revenue and capital budgets. Provision has also been made for the year 2007/2008.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report addresses the key sustainability themes:

- Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope
- Health is protected by creating a safe, clean, pleasant environment

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 REPORT

6.1 This report is the latest Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) of air quality in Dundee. The Environment Act 1995 requires all local authorities to periodically assess air quality against health-based objectives for the following seven pollutants:

- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Benzene
- 1,3-Butadiene

- Lead
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

- 6.2 The ongoing process to review and assess local air quality, begun in 1999, has led to the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), due to predicted exceedences of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant primarily associated with vehicle exhaust emissions.
- 6.3 This report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance, and examines new data and any significant changes in pollutant sources or public exposure to pollutants.
- 6.4 The report concludes that for carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead and sulphur dioxide there is no risk of the objectives for these pollutants being exceeded and hence there is no need to proceed to a detailed assessment.
- 6.5 The report confirms the need for the AQMA for nitrogen dioxide and identifies one new location at which the annual mean objective is exceeded. This forms part of a known area of exceedence and will be included in the further assessment of this area. No other exceedences of the NO₂ objectives were predicted and hence there is no requirement for detailed assessment of this pollutant.
- 6.6 For PM₁₀ the report shows that the only monitored PM₁₀ concentrations predicted to exceed the annual mean objective (2010) are in Union Street. However, this result will have been adversely influenced by major construction projects in the vicinity and may not truly represent ambient concentrations present at this location.
- 6.7 No exceedences of the PM₁₀ objectives were predicted for any roads or junctions studied. However, an air quality assessment received by the Council predicted the annual mean objective (2010) would be exceeded close to the Kingsway/Forfar Road junction. This indicates that a detailed assessment of this junction is required, however there is uncertainty regarding the assumed traffic speeds and the background PM₁₀ concentrations used in the assessment.
- 6.8 Interim findings of the local gravimetric equivalence factor study suggest that the monitored and modelled PM₁₀ exceedences may have been significantly over-estimated. Monitoring will be continued in order to clarify whether this is the case.
- 6.9 The Council has sought the advice of the Scottish Executive about these issues and how to take forward, if necessary, the detailed assessment of the Kingsway/Forfar Road junction within the timescales set for the review and assessment process.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Chief Executive
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)
Depute Chief Executive (Finance)
Director of Planning and Transportation
Director of Economic Development

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Progress Report 2005 (600-2005)
- Detailed Assessment, March 2005 (190-2005)
- Updating and Screening Assessment, May 2003 (310-2003)
- Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
- Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(03)

Albert Oswald
Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards

1st March 2007