

## **ITEM No ...3...**

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2019**

**REPORT ON: AIR QUALITY UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**REPORT NO: 200-2019**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the improvement measures within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan that continue to be progressed and to summarise the results of the most recent full year's (2018) monitoring data.
- 1.2 To provide an update on behalf of Neighbourhood Services and City Development's joint working on the progress being made on the development of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) for Dundee.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee note the contents of this report and remit the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to:
  1. Continue with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) measures, noting the improvements that have been achieved, and continue to work with the Scottish Government and its partners with the Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) strategy in order to further improve air quality throughout the city, and;
  2. Submit the 2019 Air Quality Progress Report to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. A copy of the proposed report has been circulated to all elected members in advance of this Committee.
  3. Progress in conjunction with City Development, the development of the Low Emission Zone for Dundee including the LEZ objectives recommended in section 4.15 of this report.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article V of the Environmental Services and Sustainability Committee of 20th February 2006, which approved the establishment of an Air Quality Management Area in the city and the basis of the necessary air quality monitoring and measures the Council requires to implement to work towards meeting the required air quality standards. As well as meeting the EU/UK National Air Quality Standards (NAQS), for the purposes of Local Air Quality Management, local authorities in Scotland are also required to meet the more stringent statutory Scottish Objectives.
- 4.2 Of the seven NAQS pollutants, there continues to be no anticipated risk of exceeding the statutory objectives for benzene, carbon monoxide, 1, 3-butadiene, sulphur dioxide and lead.
- 4.3 Continuous monitoring for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) takes place at 6 locations at Broughty Ferry Road, Lochee Road, Meadowside, the Seagate, Whitehall Street and Mains Loan (background reference monitor). Continuous monitoring of particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) takes place at 10 locations at Broughty Ferry Road, Lochee Road, Meadowside, the Seagate, Whitehall Street, Logie Street, Myrekirk Terrace, Albert Street, the Stannergate and Mains Loan (background reference monitor). During 2018, continuous monitoring of particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) took place at Lochee Road and Mains Loan (background reference monitor).

- 4.4 The 2018 ratified monitoring data shows some further improvements with the main positive results including the following:
- The Hourly Average Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> was met at all sites and this objective has been met in full since 2014.
  - The Annual Average Objective for PM<sub>2.5</sub> was met at both new monitoring sites.
  - The Daily Average Objective for PM<sub>10</sub> was met at 9 of the 10 sites.
  - The Annual Average Objective for PM<sub>10</sub> was met at 9 of the 10 sites.
  - The Annual Average Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> was met at 4 of the 6 sites (Broughty Ferry Road, Meadowside, Whitehall Street and at the background monitor in Mains Loan).
- 4.5 Whilst the Annual and Daily Average Objectives for PM<sub>10</sub>, and the Hourly Average Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> were all met in full at Lochee Road and the Seagate, the Annual Average Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> was exceeded at both these locations. A further slight improvement at Lochee Road was measured however there was a small increase in the Annual Average Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> at Seagate.
- 4.6 The Daily Average Objective for PM<sub>10</sub> and Annual Average Objective for PM<sub>10</sub> were exceeded at the Logie Street monitor. Factors that may have contributed to the increased levels include a period of road surfacing works adjacent to this monitor.
- 4.7 Continuous monitors capable of monitoring both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> were installed at Whitehall Street, the Seagate, and Meadowside in March 2019 replacing existing the PM<sub>10</sub> only monitors. Ratified data for the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> sites will be available for reporting in 2020 while the current (2019) unratified data can be viewed on the Scottish Government's Air Quality website.
- 4.8 The Council's Air Quality Action Plan includes a range of measures that continue to be progressed in order to achieve further improvements in air quality. Progress with these are summarised within Appendix 1 of this report and includes the following:
- Dundee continues to lead the way in electric vehicle uptake, with 237 charging points in place. 84 charging points are available at public charging locations, including the new charging hubs opened in 2018 at Lochee, Princes Street, and Queen Street, Broughty Ferry.
  - Dundee City Council continued to help promote public transport as an attractive and affordable alternative to private car use. In 2018 Dundee City Council teamed up again with local bus operators to offer a 20p fare promotion (Holiday Hop) to children travelling with adults during the Easter, summer, and October school holiday periods. This initiative has seen a huge increase in the number of children travelling by bus during the holiday periods compared to before the promotion was introduced.
  - The Drive Dundee Electric campaign has continued with its successful engagement with current and potential EV owners, both in public and business. It has helped raise awareness about EVs and incentives by hosting, talking or exhibiting at events, promoting the new charging hubs present at Lochee, Princes Street, and Broughty Ferry and building an online social media presence (@DundeeElectric has now over 1100 followers on Twitter) and creating and distributing PR material.
  - Dundee City Council supported and participated in the 'Clean Air Day' on 21 June 2018. Members from the health protection team of NHS Tayside supported the event held in the Nethergate to help promote travel alternatives that are beneficial to air quality.
  - A Sustrans Cycling Strategy Officer was embedded at Dundee City Council from October 2018 to help the Council implement actions contained in Dundee's 2016 Cycling Strategy and support the delivery of cycling infrastructure projects.

- Investment by Xplore Dundee in late 2018 saw the introduction of 14 double decker EURO VI buses on the Service 22 corridor running from Craigowl to Ninewells via the city centre (Seagate). Xplore Dundee have also used Transport Scotland BEAR fund to retrofit cleaner EURO VI engines to five (previously) EURO V buses. In August 2018, Stagecoach East Scotland launched a fleet of 15 new EURO VI buses on the Taylink 99 service operating between St Andrews and Dundee.
- 4.9 Reference is made to Article II of the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee of 13th November 2017, which approved joint working between Neighbourhood Services and City Development to work with the Scottish Government and its partner organisations to facilitate the introduction of a low emission zone (LEZ) in Dundee. In 2017 the Scottish Government included Dundee in its commitment to the introduction of LEZ's in the 4 cities by 2020.
- 4.10 Provisions for LEZs are included in the Transport (Scotland) Bill which was introduced in Parliament in June 2018. The Bill (when passed) will provide Scottish local authorities with the power to create, enforce, operate, amend or revoke LEZs in their areas. This Bill is currently progressing through Stage 2 of the Parliamentary process. Aspects such as emission standards, penalties, certain vehicle exemptions, and parameters for grace periods will be set nationally by the Scottish Government and introduced through secondary legislation.
- 4.11 The National Low Emissions Framework (NLEF) was published by the Scottish Government in January 2019 and is an air quality focussed, evidenced based appraisal process developed to help local authorities consider transport related actions to improve air quality. This includes the development of vehicle access restriction schemes, such as LEZs, and as such is integral to the development of an appropriate LEZ for Dundee.
- 4.12 The Dundee Low Emission Zone Delivery Group (DLEZDG), co-chaired by the Head of Transportation and the Head of Community Safety & Protection is overseeing the work to design and deliver the LEZ. The group consists of relevant officers of the Council, Transport Scotland, SEPA, TACTRAN, NHS Tayside, and SYSTRA. As reported in Agenda Note 02-2019 to the Community Safety & Public Protection Committee on 7 January 2019, SYSTRA were appointed following a tendering process carried out in 2018 to support Dundee City Council in the delivery of a suitable LEZ for the city.
- 4.13 Since appointment, SYSTRA have progressed the Strategic Environmental Assessment process; produced and progressed a communication strategy including initial stakeholder events; and progressed with the NLEF processes.
- 4.14 Stakeholder engagement has commenced, including discussions with the main Dundee bus operators. Discussions with lead contacts in freight organisations and business community have taken place to arrange engagement meetings. As the LEZ development process evolves, further stakeholder engagement will be carried out.
- 4.15 A key starting point for Stage 2 of the NLEF process is to define the objectives for the LEZ. The Transport (Scotland) Bill also requires the development of objectives for the LEZ, and states that these must include a contribution to meeting air quality standards. In developing these objectives, the DLEZDG formed the view that the LEZ should also aim to positively impact on the city economy, and mirror City Plan visions.

The proposed objectives for the Dundee LEZ will:

- 1) Protect public health through improving air quality in Dundee and achieving air quality compliance for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- 2) Develop an environment that helps to promote more active and sustainable travel choices in Dundee.
- 3) Contribute to the ongoing transformational change in Dundee and help promote the city as an inclusive and desirable place to live, invest, visit and learn.

- 4.16 The objectives will guide the next steps in the development of the LEZ, i.e. the process of identifying appropriate options. Utilising the air quality model developed by Scottish Environmental Protection for Dundee, this will involve the testing of various scenarios, in terms of both possible geographical boundaries and scope of vehicles to include in the LEZ, to identify associated emissions reductions. Traffic modelling will then be used if necessary to test the wider impacts, including the potential for the displacement of non-compliant vehicles to areas outwith the LEZ. These outputs will then be used to refine the air quality modelling work, leading to evidence based options for further consideration. It is envisaged that the option appraisal process will be completed by autumn 2019, when a further update will be provided.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

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10 May 2019

## **Appendix 1: Extract from 2019 Air Quality Progress Report - AQAP Measures Progress and Impact of Measures to address Air Quality in Dundee City Council**

Dundee City Council has taken forward a number of measures during the current reporting year of 2018 in pursuit of improving local air quality. A summary of all measures completed, in progress or planned are set out below and the full detail can be found in the Air Quality Action Plan within the 2019 AQ progress Report.

Key completed measures are:

- In 2018 there was a 12% increase in membership (140 rising to 157) of the Dundee ECO Stars fleet recognition scheme for Heavy Duty Vehicles, with vehicle numbers rising to 6495 by 31 December 2018.
- Over 17% of Dundee's taxis and private hire cars are now fully electric (there was a 4% increase in electric taxis in 2018).
- The Drive Dundee Electric campaign has continued with its successful engagement with current and potential EV owners (both in public and business). It has helped raise awareness about EVs and incentives by hosting, talking or exhibiting at events (Clean Air Day, Dundee Food & Flower Festival, EV Festive Parade in Dundee as well as promoting the new charging hubs present at Lochee, Princes Street, and Broughty Ferry), building an online social media presence (@DundeeElectric has now over 1100 followers on Twitter) and creating and distributing PR material.
- Dundee City Council supported and participated in the 'Clean Air Day' on 21 June 2018. Members from the health protection team of NHS Tayside supported Dundee City Council on the day at the event held on the Nethergate to help promote travel alternatives that are beneficial to air quality.
- Dundee continues to lead the way in electric vehicle uptake, with 237 charging points in place. 84 charging points are available at public charging locations, including the new charging hubs opened in 2018 at Lochee, Princes Street, and Queen Street, Broughty Ferry.
- A Sustrans Cycling Strategy Officer was embedded at Dundee City Council from October 2018 to help the Council implement actions contained in Dundee's 2016 Cycling Strategy and support the delivery of cycling infrastructure projects.
- In conjunction with Leisure and Culture Dundee, a School Active Travel Active Delivery Programme (walking / scooting / cycling) was developed, and is due to commence in Spring 2019. The project objective is to increase the number of pupils at Dundee schools who have the opportunity to experience active travel and providing support to the Bikeability Programme.
- Dundee City Council continued to help promote public transport as an attractive and affordable alternative to private car use. In 2018 Dundee City Council teamed up again with local bus operators to offer a 20p fare promotion (Holiday Hop) to children travelling with adults during the Easter, summer, and October school holiday periods. This initiative has seen a huge increase in the number of children travelling by bus during the holiday periods compared to before the promotion was introduced.
- The Air Quality and Land Use Supplementary Guidance document was reviewed and was due to be adopted early in 2019 in conjunction with the new 2019 Dundee Local Development Plan.
- Investment by Xplore Dundee in late 2018 saw the introduction of 14 double decker EURO VI buses on the Service 22 corridor running from Craigowl to Ninewells via the city centre

(Seagate). Xplore Dundee have also used Transport Scotland BEAR fund to retrofit cleaner EURO VI engines to five (previously) EURO V buses. In August 2018, Stagecoach East Scotland launched a fleet of 15 new EURO VI buses on the Taylink 99 service operating between St Andrews and Dundee.

Key measures to be progressed over the course of the next reporting year:

- A continued expansion of the infrastructure to support uptake of ULEV, with the opening of further electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Dundee's three main multi-storey car parks; Green Market, Olympia and Bell Street. Each hub will see the installation of 10 posts with two connectors and will trial "master and slave" configurations. Each hub will also integrate solar energy and battery storage.
- Drive Dundee Electric continue to help raise awareness and encourage uptake of low emission vehicles. DDE attended the EV Roadshow hosted by Home Energy Scotland at the Dundee Science Centre in March 2019, while a 'Fully Charged' show event has been booked for June 2019 at the V&A Dundee.
- Continuation of both ECOSTARS Schemes for Heavy Duty Vehicles and Taxis/Private Hire vehicles to encourage engagement with and participation of these transport providers in the achievement of air quality improvements in the city;
- Continuation of the 20p Holiday Hop promotion through the Easter, summer and October school holidays in 2019
- Continued support for Active Travel related projects including the delivery of the School Active Travel Active Delivery programme and the embedding of the Sustrans Cycling Strategy Officer within the Council.
- Additional support to the proposed E-bike public bike hire scheme expected to be launched in 2019 at locations in parts of the city with higher levels of pollution and health inequality.
- Continued active participation with the Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) Governance Group and assist as necessary with the review of the CAFS strategy being undertaken in 2019.
- Further progression with the development of the Dundee low emission zone in line with guidance provided in the National Low Emission Framework, and continued participation in all tiers of governance set up to deliver the low emission zones in Scotland.
- Completion of the Paramics Traffic Model for Dundee update which will be used in conjunction with the National Modelling Framework Air Quality City Model as necessary during the development of the Dundee low emission zone.