

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
15th January 2001

REPORT ON: AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT STAGE 2

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

REPORT NO: 32-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This is a covering report to inform the Committee of the contents of Stage 2 of the Statutory Review and Assessment of Air Quality in Dundee. Copies of the full report are available through Group Secretaries.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the Review and Assessment, agrees its principal points and approves its submission to the Scottish Executive.

2.2 In particular, it is recommended that the Committee approve the completion of a Stage 3 Review and Assessment and any additional work, if deemed necessary by the Scottish Executive and SEPA. They act as the statutory consultees for Air Quality Review and Assessments undertaken by Scottish Local Authorities.

2.3 It is further recommended that the Committee approve the completion of a further Review and Assessment of Air Quality in Dundee in 2003.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 If we are required to carry out a Stage 3 Review and Assessment, the investigation work will require us to use new technology and engage external consultants as we do not have the expertise within the Council to progress to Stage 3. The need for additional financial resource has been highlighted with the Scottish Executive, should they deem it necessary for us to carry out a Stage 3 Review and Assessment.

3.2 The Mobile Air Quality Station and Static Air Quality Unit sited in Union Street, which were the subject of report no. 822-1998 and 719-1999 respectively, will have annual revenue costs of approximately £15,000. This cost will require to be provided for in the Department's Revenue Estimates for 2001/2002.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The completion of the Review and Assessment of Air Quality in Dundee should serve to enhance the aims of Dundee 21.

4.2 The key theme that will be directly addressed by the Review and Assessment of Air Quality in Dundee is:

- Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Acceptance of this report will maintain the Council's equal opportunity policy.

6. REPORT

6.1 Background to Air Quality Regime

6.1.1 The UK Government published its strategic policy framework for air quality management in 1995, closely followed by the Environment Act 1995, the Air Quality Regulations 1997 and the National Air Quality Strategy.

6.1.2 The Environment Act 1995 Part IV introduced a major national air quality regime. As a first step towards achieving the objectives contained within the Regulations and National Strategy, the Act requires Local Authorities to carry out a Review and Assessment of air quality in their areas.

6.1.3 It is recommended in the Government guidance that a phased approach be taken to this task, with three possible stages becoming progressively more complex.

6.1.4 The Stage 1 report (1998) concluded that although Dundee's air quality was generally very good, there was insufficient information available to be confident that the objectives would be met in all parts of the city and that a Stage 2 review was required for all pollutants.

6.2 Stage 2 Review and Assessment

6.2.1 The document, for which this is a covering report, is the second report in this round of review and assessment. It comprises mainly a stage 2 document but contains some elements in relation to lead which may be considered as belonging to stage 3. It is a focussed report dealing only with sites and issues identified in the earlier review and taking account of comments from the Scottish Executive and SEPA. Background information and a comprehensive description of the National Air Quality Strategy can be found in our Stage 1 Review and Assessment which was the subject of report no. 844/1998.

6.2.2 Our Stage 1 report identified traffic and industrial sources throughout the city which had the potential to emit significant quantities of key pollutants. In the Stage 2 Review and Assessment, it was necessary to obtain further information on the effects of these sources. Information was obtained from:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- The Scottish Executive
- Companies operating significant processes
- Dundee City Council's Planning and Transportation Department
- Additional monitoring carried out by Dundee City Council's Environmental and Consumer Protection Department.
- Dundee City Airport

6.2.3 In addition to progress to Stage 2 of the review and assessment process, it was necessary to take cognisance of the government's revised technical guidance. This guidance was found to be lengthy and complex and necessitated the review of some previous decisions, additional monitoring and modelling assessments, all of which were required to be carried out within a very tight time scale.

6.2.4 For Carbon Monoxide, Benzene, 1,3 butadiene, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, PM₁₀ and Sulphur Dioxide, the Stage 2 Review and Assessment has concluded that the National Air Quality Standards and Objectives can all be achieved.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Stage 2 of Dundee's Review and Assessment is complete and must be submitted to the Scottish Executive at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2 The primary conclusion is that no further stages of Review and Assessment are required.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Chief Executive
Director of Finance
Director of Support Services
Director of Planning and Transportation

9. SIGNATURE

Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection Date: 5 January 2001