

ITEM No ...6...

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2018

REPORT ON: AIR QUALITY UPDATE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 164-2018

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on the improvement measures within the Councils Air Quality Action Plan that continue to be progressed, to summarise the results of the most recent full year's (2017) monitoring data, and to provide an update on the progress that is being made with the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy.

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 2018 Air Quality Progress Report to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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 at 6 locations for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) takes place at Broughty Ferry Road, Lochee Road, Meadowside, Seagate, Whitehall Street and Mains Loan (background reference monitor). The monitoring of particulates (PM₁₀) is undertaken using 12 continuous real time monitors at Broughty Ferry Road, Lochee Road, Meadowside, Seagate, Whitehall Street, Logie Street, Myrekirk Terrace, Albert Street, Stannergate and Mains Loan (background reference monitor).

4.4 The 2017 ratified real-time monitoring data shows that further improvements have been achieved and the main positive results include the following:

- The Daily Average Objective for PM₁₀ was met at all sites.

- The Annual Average Objective for PM₁₀ was met at all sites.
 - The Hourly Average Objective for NO₂ was met at all sites and this objective has been met in full since 2014.
 - The Annual Average Objective for NO₂ was met at 4 of the 6 sites (Broughty Ferry Road, Meadowside, Whitehall Street and at the background monitor in Mains Loan).
- 4.5 The 4 Objectives above were measured at 18 real-time monitors across the city and compliance was met in 34 of the 36 cases with most showing downwards improving trends.
- 4.6 Whilst the Annual and Daily Average Objectives for PM₁₀, and the Hourly Average Objective for NO₂ were all met in full at Lochee Road and the Seagate, the Annual Average Objective for NO₂ was exceeded at both these locations. The Seagate however continues to show a downward improving trend. Lochee Road has also slightly improved however progress is slower.
- 4.7 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 measures is summarised within Appendix 1 of this report and includes the following positive points:
- A further uptake of the Council's use of electric vehicles, development of the charging infrastructure and engagement with domestic and commercial current and potential EV owner/users via the Drive Dundee Electric campaign, and as such, Dundee continues to be regarded as 'leading the way' with electric vehicles.
 - A further progression of the ECOSTARS Scheme for both heavy duty vehicles and Taxis & Private Hire vehicles. A total of over 6500 vehicles are now included in this scheme with their operators committed to achieving cleaner emissions.
 - A technical specialist review of bus routes and logistics in the Crichton Street / Whitehall Street / Nethergate to investigate and identify measures to improve congestion and air quality and this will help inform the NMF and NLEF process associated with the CAFS strategy.
 - The Council's Corporate Air Quality Steering Group is making preparations for Clean Air Day which will take place in June 2018 and will be designed to maximise awareness raising and encouraging all sectors to avoid unnecessary car journeys and use public transport / walking cycling etc.
- 4.8 Real-time monitoring of PM_{2.5} has now been installed at Lochee Road and at the background reference monitor at Mains Loan. The Annual Objective for PM_{2.5} in Scotland is being set at 10µg/m³ in line with the World Health Organisation's guideline and this Objective requires to be met by 31st December 2020. Ratified data for 2018 will be available for reporting in 2019 and the current real-time unratified data can be viewed on the Scottish Government's Air Quality site.
- 4.9 Reference is made to Article II of the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee of 13th November 2017, which approved working with the Scottish Government and its partner organisations to facilitate the introduction of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in Dundee.
- 4.10 In addition to the Council's AQAP, the Scottish Government launched the Cleaner Air for Scotland programme which will provide a consistent national strategy that is designed to achieve the best possible air quality for Scotland. This includes compiling a National Modelling Framework (NMF) and a National Low Emission Framework (NLEF) which will provide a standard air quality assessment methodology for use across Scotland and a consistent framework procedure for local authorities to determine effective measures for addressing transport related air quality issues in their areas. These frameworks will form the basis of the Low Emission Zones (LEZs) that are to be implemented in Scotland and are expected to be available in the late summer of this year to allow the establishment of LEZ's to be progressed.
- 4.11 The Scottish Government has committed to the introduction of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) into Glasgow by 2018 and Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee by 2020. LEZ's are a form of

access regulation which sets an environmental limit on certain road spaces, to improve air quality by allowing access to only the cleanest vehicles (emissions standard Euro VI). It is likely that any LEZ to be implemented within Dundee will have a lead-in period to allow for the phasing-in of the cleanest emissions-standard vehicles.

- 4.12 In September 2017, the Scottish Government issued a national consultation 'Building Scotland's Low Emission Zones' which sought to help inform the delivery of LEZ's. The analysis of responses was published in March 2018 and includes 967 responses. 95.5% of the respondents support the principle of LEZ's to help improve air quality in Scotland. The information gathered by this consultation will be used to inform the LEZ making process, helping to shape the guiding principles that the Scottish Government will adopt to design, establish, and operate Scottish LEZ's.
- 4.13 Technical Officers and Political Members from Dundee City Council are actively participating in the various working groups that the CAFS Strategy is currently establishing and this includes the CAFS Governance Group and LEZ Leadership Group. The associated meeting minutes are available via the Scottish Government Cleaner Air for Scotland web page.
- 4.14 As part of the annual funding bid that Dundee City Council make to the Scottish Government for measures to improve air quality, financial assistance was requested in 2018 for developing a Greater City Paramics Traffic Model to support the NMF/NLEF assessment process and this has since been approved. Further funds will also be provided to the council for a range of measures that are being progressed via the Council's AQAP.
- 4.15 The Energy Saving Trust (EST), on behalf of Transport Scotland, recently launched phase 1 of the Bus Emissions Abatement Programme (BEAR) and this allowed bus operators to apply for funding to retrofit suitable buses up to EURO VI standard. Dundee City Council also wrote to the main bus operators in the city to ensure that local bus operators make the best use of this funding opportunity to improve the standard of local buses. Xplore Dundee were successful in their application to BEAR and buses that operate on the Service 28/29 route (serving Lochee Road Corridor) will be upgraded to EURO VI standard later this year
- 4.16 It is expected that the Scottish Government will announce further funding in support of the 'Green Bus Fund' that will improve the emissions standard of buses on a national basis. The Council's own fleet of vehicles continues to be upgraded to the highest emission standards and 56% of the existing refuse collection vehicle fleet already meet the necessary standard of any future LEZ requirements.

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. A copy of the Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundeecity.gov.uk/ia

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 **None**

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4th June 2018

Appendix 1: Extract from 2018 Air Quality Progress Report 2017- 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 reporting year of 2017 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 Section 2.2 within the 2018 AQ progress Report.

Key completed measures are:

- The Whitehall St / Crichton St / Nethergate bus movement review was completed with the report received in July 2017. Information from this project will help inform the Cleaner Air for Scotland National Modelling Framework assessment for Low Emission Zones.
- In 2017 there was a 33% increase in membership (105 rising to 140) of the Dundee ECO Stars fleet recognition scheme for Heavy Duty Vehicles, with vehicle numbers rising to 5946 by 31 December 2017. This has since risen to 143 members covering over 6000 vehicles.
- Over 10% of Dundee's taxis are now fully electric (there was an 18% increase in electric taxis between August and November 2017), with 17 members (including 519 vehicles) joined to the Dundee ECO Stars fleet recognition scheme for Taxis / Private Hire Vehicles by 31 December 2017.
- The Drive Dundee Electric campaign was launched by DCC in June 2017 which has been successful in engaging 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 (Green Fleet Dundee @ Caird Hall in August; Cenex-LCV in September; Dundee Food & Flower Festival in September, EV Festive Parade in Dundee in November), building an online social media presence (@DundeeElectric has over 400 followers on Twitter) and creating and distributing PR material. Dundee City Council also supported and participated in the inaugural 'National Clean Air Day' on June 5 with an event being held in the City Square to promote travel alternatives that are beneficial to air quality.
- Dundee continues to be described as 'leading the way' in electric vehicle uptake, with 75 charging posts (supplying 181 charging points) within the council area. Of these, 56 charging posts (118 charging points) are owned by Dundee City Council. Further steps were taken in 2017 to increase the charging infrastructure to meet the high demand by focusing on the completion of the rapid charging hubs. Construction at the Lochee hub commenced in 2017 (officially opened April 2018), while investigatory work for the Princes Street hub continued (work on site commenced in March 2018).
- The adopted Dundee Cycling Strategy progressed with regular meetings of the Dundee Cycling Forum held throughout 2017.
- Dundee City Council continued to promote public transport as an attractive and affordable alternative to private car. This included the 'Kids travel for 20p' scheme which ran during the Easter break in 2017 and saw more than 13200 bus journeys (over 800 per day) taken for 20p during this period.

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

- Continuing active participation with the Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) Governance Group and in the implementation/consideration of aims and objectives of CAFS across all relevant service/policy areas to contribute to the achievement of the necessary air quality improvements.

- A continued expansion of the infrastructure to support uptake of ULEV by taxi trade, with the Princes Street charging hub opening. Drive Dundee Electric will continue to help raise awareness and encourage uptake of low emission vehicles.
- Continuation of the “i-bike officer” initiative to raise awareness and encourage modal shift to gain air quality improvements, while also supporting and participating in Clean Air Day 2018 which will be held on 21 June 2018.
- 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.
- Development of Active Travel hub at the Waterfront and identification of a suitable operator of this which is due to open in Summer 2019.
- Creation of a ‘Cycling Action Plan Project Officer’ to help implement actions within the 2016 Cycling Strategy.
- Expansion of the ‘Kids Travel for 20p’ scheme to run through the summer holidays in 2018.