WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 15 MARCH 2010 EXECUTIVE - 13 APRIL 2010

Title:

INITIAL DRAFT OF THE 2010 AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Sandy] [Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

Waverley Borough Council is required to submit a Progress Report on Air Quality measures by 30 April 2010. An initial draft version of the report is submitted for approval by the Executive.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The air quality exceedences that led to the declaration of Waverley's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are due in the main to pollutants found in vehicle exhaust emissions. The proposals of the AQAP will help reduce the impact of vehicle emissions on the environment and will help deliver Waverley's corporate plan priority of tackling climate change.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

Air pollution can adversely affect some of the most vulnerable in society – older people and the very young. Often people with low incomes live in areas with poor air quality.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

The AQ Progress Report outlines the expenditure by Waverley and its partners on the AQAP to date. The projects are being undertaken within current staffing allocated to local air quality management.

Legal Implications:

Submission of an AQAP Annual Progress Report is a legal requirement under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995

Introduction

- 1. The completion and submission of the AQ Progress Report will help deliver Waverley's statutory duties as defined under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The AQAP (Air Quality Action Plan) is an opportunity for Waverley Borough Council to tackle local air pollution and help improve the health of the local community.
- 2. The draft AQ Progress Report is attached at Annexe 1 and will be developed over the coming weeks in time for the statutory deadline of 30 April. The progress report will update the AQAP by being published within the time limits laid down by DEFRA. It will contain updates on all proposed measures in the original AQAP together with any new ones that have since been developed alongside developments identified during a Farnham Multi-Agency Workshop held on 26th January 2010.

Air Quality Data

- 3. At the time of preparing this report, Waverley's air quality monitoring data for the 2009 calendar year is in the process of being independently ratified. This process will be complete by 30th April 2010, by which time the report is to be submitted to DEFRA. For this reason it has not been possible to include the data in the annexed Draft Progress Report.
- 4. It is expected that the data will have been ratified by the time of this report being considered by The Executive on 13th April. However, in the event that the ratified data is available by the date of this Committee, Officers will update this meeting accordingly. If not, it is proposed that a further report containing those data and therefore supplementing this report will be made to a future meeting of this Committee.

Conclusion

5. Annual Progress Reports are an opportunity to ensure the AQAP for Waverley is kept on track and updated. Any observations or recommendations from ELOS, partners and the Executive can be taken into account in preparing the final document for submission.

Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6. The Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 15 March 2010 and noted the content of the Draft Air Quality Progress report with no particular observations to be passed to the Executive. The Committee also asked officers to present a further report to the Committee, supplementing the information in this report with air quality data once it was available and ratified.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the content of the Draft Air Quality Progress Report be received.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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