

APPENDIX L

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 14 MARCH 2011 EXECUTIVE – 29 MARCH 2011

Title:

2011 AIR QUALITY PROGRESS REPORT

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Bryn Morgan]
[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

Waverley Borough Council is required to submit a Progress Report on Air Quality measures by 30 April 2011. The Executive is asked to approve the Air Quality progress report.

The Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 14 March 2011 and observations arising from the meeting are incorporated into this report.

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 to DEFRA is a legal requirement under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995

Introduction

1. The completion and submission of the AQ Progress Report to DEFRA 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 available on the website and in the Members' Room with updates highlighted for ease of reference. It 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.

Air Quality Data

3. At the time of preparing this report, Waverley's air quality monitoring data for the 2010 calendar year is in the process of being independently ratified. This will be complete by 30th April 2011, 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 Draft Progress Report.
4. It is expected that the data will have been ratified by the time of this report being considered. It is proposed that this year, as in 2010, that a further report containing those data and therefore supplementing this report will be made to a future meeting of ELOS. It is recommended that this further report be prepared in the autumn to that it can also take the form of a six-month review of the Action Plan.

Comments from the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5. ELOS considered this report on 14th March and resolved that the following observations be forwarded to the Executive:
 - The Committee asked officers to check that the engine switch off signs were still in position at the Farnham level crossing area following the lamp post replacement programme.
 - The Committee expressed concern that the County Council had not progressed on the actions in the plan and urged the County Council to reinstate the proposed actions.
 - Some Members asked officers to consult with Surrey County Council about the status of information they provide to satellite navigation companies within the Surrey Lorry Routing Strategy. However, it was noted that this might be out of its remit. The Committee also felt that the strategy should look at and advise suitable and secure places for lorries to 'park up'.

Conclusion

6. 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.

Recommendations

That the Executive approves the Air Quality Progress Report.

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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