

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 OCTOBER 2015

Title:

AIR QUALITY: UPDATING & SCREENING ASSESSMENT 2014-15

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kevin Deanus]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The Updating and Screening Assessment Report (attached at Annexe 1) is a statutory document submitted to Defra in April every three years. A less detailed, Annual Progress Report is required in the intervening period. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives the report for information / endorsement before it moves on to the Executive.

Defra give feedback on the report in the period between submission (May 2015) and the autumn; there is no strict timetable for this feedback and updates will be tabled as and when received. Defra's website currently shows the USA from Waverley as assessed but awaiting comment.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 September 2015 and had no observations to forward onto the Executive.

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

Value for money – a summary of previous reviews and assessments is in the current Updating and Screening Assessment (USA). Much of this work has been achieved through Defra grant-funding and with co-operation from Surrey County Council

Leisure and Lives – reductions in air pollution / improvements in air quality promote health and well-being for all

Environment – Measures designed to improve air quality often result in reduced carbon emissions; improving carbon reduction in Waverley

Financial Implications:

No direct financial implications.

Legal Implications:

Submission of an Annual Progress Report to Defra is a legal requirement under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Legal responsibilities and requirements are detailed in the body of the report.

Introduction

1. Under its statutory functions of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime the Council must monitor and report on specified pollutants. Should trigger levels, laid down in the UK Air Quality Objectives, of a pollutant be exceeded a Detailed Assessment is made regarding the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Waverley has declared three AQMAs in the past, one of which (Hindhead) has now been revoked – The Farnham and Godalming AQMAs remain.
2. One requirement of LAQM is the production of an Annual Progress Report (APR). Every third year the APR is replaced by an Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) – these reports are completed to a Defra template. The objective of USA reports is to identify any matters that have changed which may lead to a risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. APRs are prepared in-house and USAs are normally contracted out to Air Quality specialists; the current report was prepared by Peter Brett Associates.
3. Nitrogen dioxide is monitored using diffusion tubes at 45 sites across Waverley: 18 sites in Farnham, 11 in Godalming, five in Haslemere, three in Hindhead and a further eight locations across Bramley, Cranleigh, Milford and Dunsfold. Two automatic monitoring stations remain: Godalming and Farnham.
4. The main findings of the attached report are:
 - There are no measured exceedances of the relevant objectives, at representative locations, outside of existing AQMAs
 - Detailed Assessment are not required for any location within Waverley
 - Measured NO₂ concentrations were generally lower in 2014 than in 2013
 - Particulate concentrations (measured in Farnham) continue to be well below air quality objectives

Conclusion

5. The current USA does not identify any areas of significant change. Earlier reports (the Farnham Low Emission Strategy series, 2012-14) indicate further improvements can be achieved by changes to traffic management and by less reliance on diesel-engined vehicles. Scoping study bids will be submitted to Defra in the next available round of Air Quality grant funding (anticipated in the summer of 2015)
6. Improvements in engine technology (introduction of the Euro-6 standard) may lead to elimination of exceedances in Farnham by the year 2020.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Updating and Screening Assessment for 2014-15 be noted and the Executive invited to make any recommendations for specific changes in the Local Air Quality Management regime undertaken by the Council.

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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