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HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CABINET MEETING OF 11th October 2021

PUBLIC REPORT: Y

EXEMPT REPORT: N

Report Title	Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report 2021
KEY DECISION	N
Report Author	Gareth Rees
Purpose of Report	<p>The Purpose of the report is to:</p> <p>Update members on the outcome of the annual review of local air quality across the district, to seek approval of the 2021 Annual Status Report to be submitted to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (Attached as Appendix A).</p>
Reason for Decision	Compliance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Portfolio (holder)	Cllr Jonathan Bateman
Corporate Priorities	The Place: A safe, enterprising and vibrant place
Financial Implications	There are no resource implications in relation to the development of the Annual Status Report as this will be undertaken within the current staffing arrangements. A budget for ongoing air quality monitoring has been created.
Risk Management Implications	<p>Failure to meet Government targets on Air Quality may have a direct health impact on the local community.</p> <p>There is the potential for Central Government to pass on fines for failing to meet air quality standards under powers in the Localism Act.</p>
Environmental Implications	There are no environmental implications in relation to the completion of the Annual Status Report as the report outlines the work undertaken in the previous calendar year.
Legal Implications	There is a legal duty on local authorities to assess air quality and to take necessary steps to improve local issues.
Equality Implications	There are no equality implications.
Data Protection Implications	There are no Data Protection implications.
Consultation	There is no consultation required for the development and submission of the Annual Status Report.
Options	There is a duty on the Council to complete and submit an Annual Status Report to DEFRA. Not to submit an Annual

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	Status Report would mean that the Council has not fulfilled its obligations under the Environment Act 1995.
Background Papers	Previous Air Quality Reports can be found on the council's website: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/2268/air_quality_review_and_assessment
Recommendation	Members approve the 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for submission to DEFRA as set out in Appendix A.

1. Key Facts

- 1.1 Air pollution is associated with several adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions.
- 1.2 Generally the air quality throughout the district is good however there are known issues in both Lutterworth and areas of Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt along the A6 highway which cuts both villages, with regards to exceedances of the annual average objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared in both areas. The Lutterworth AQMA was first declared in 2001 and The Kibworths AQMA in November 2017.
- 1.3 The Annual Status Report (ASR) provides a detailed assessment of any monitoring results carried out in the district for the previous year along with any action undertaken to work towards improving air quality and is based on the calendar year 2020.
- 1.4 In Lutterworth, the HGV gating system which allows a greater free flow of this type of vehicle through the town by controlling the traffic light sequencing has continued to operate.
- 1.5 The Council carries out air quality monitoring across the district using a network of diffusion tubes. During 2020 an additional two monitoring sites were commissioned across the district. The annual average results are collated and corrected in accordance with the annually published correction factors. The annual average national objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide is $40\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$ and in 2020 no locations exceeded this which is likely a result of reduced traffic caused by COVID19.
- 1.7 The annual average results for all of the other tubes across the district did not show any exceedances in the national objective level at relevant receptors and ranged from $10.3\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$ to $37.6\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$.

- 1.8 The Council has been monitoring in Lutterworth since 1997 and for the third year running since the declaration of the AQMA in 2001, the 2020 Nitrogen Dioxide results did not exceed the annual mean air quality standard.
- 1.9 Whilst the 2018, 2019, 2020 annual average results in Lutterworth are very encouraging, continuation of monitoring will be required for further years before the Council can be confident that there is sufficient evidence to consider the revocation of the AQMA.
- 1.10 The Automatic monitor installed along the A6 in the Kibworths in 2019 did not record any exceedances of the 1-hour mean air quality standard for Nitrogen Dioxide during 2020
- 1.11 In 2020 council purchased portable indicative air quality monitor from Leicester based firm Earthsense <https://www.earthsense.co.uk/> called a zephyr.
- 1.12 The zephyr was first installed on Springfield Street in Market Harborough from 14/02/2020 to 03/06/2020. During that time:
- when annualised, the annual mean was below the annual mean air quality objectives for NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀
 - no exceedances of the hourly mean air quality objective for NO₂ were recorded
 - no exceedances of the daily mean air quality objective for PM₁₀ were detected.
- 1.13 The Zephyr was then installed in The Kibworths from 03/06/2020 to 31/12/2020. During that time:
- when annualised, the annual mean was below the annual mean air quality objectives for NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀
 - Three exceedances of the hourly mean air quality objective for NO₂ were recorded however 18 exceedances are allowed within the Air Quality Standard so the standard was not breached.
 - no exceedances of the daily mean air quality objective for PM₁₀ were detected.

2. Ongoing work in 2021

- 2.1 Whilst the 2021 Annual Status Report is the formal submission for activities and monitoring undertaken during 2020, there have several interventions undertaken in 2021 to date which work towards improving local air quality, including:

- The Council has continued to monitor real time Nitrogen Dioxide levels in The Kibworths using our permanent roadside Nitrogen Dioxide reference monitor:

The full results from this monitor are available online:

http://ukairquality.net/test/Dashboard/Index?dashboardName=Dashboard_2&id=258&stationInfoConfigKey=stationinfopage&DeviceType=desktop&FromAdmin=false&showHiddenElements=false&isPopup=false

- 2.2 Any actions undertaken in 2021 will be included in the 2022 Annual Status Report submission to DEFRA.