



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	16 JUNE 2016
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT BECKIE BENNETT
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
WARDS AFFECTED:	MALTON AND NORTON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members as to new statutory policy guidance and technical guidance relating to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM), advise Members as to the current air quality within the Malton Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), provide an update on the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and the recent activities in relation to air quality.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that:
(i) The contents of the report be noted.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The new guidance is statutory and due regard will be had to it on future decision making.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 New statutory guidance on LAQM has been issued which is applicable to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) as well as Ryedale District Council. The effectiveness of measures to deal with poor air quality will depend on the cooperation and priority of relevant departments within the Council and partner organisations. As the Malton AQMA has arisen because of road traffic emissions, NYCC as the transport authority for local road networks needs to continue to work jointly with the Council on transport measures within the district.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Ryedale District Council Aim 3. To have a high quality clean and sustainable environment. The proposed measures to tackle air quality within the Malton AQMA are detailed in the Malton Air Quality Action Plan 2012. The last assessment of air quality within the district is detailed in the Update and Screening Assessment for Ryedale District Council May 2015.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 Following a Motion to Council on 14 April 2016 regarding air pollution, it was resolved amongst other matters that a report be produced for the Policy and Resources Committee on the progress of the Malton Air Quality Action Plan. The Motion coincided with the publication of new streamlined policy guidance and technical guidance relating to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) which was published on 8 April 2016.
- 6.2 The new policy guidance is statutory and all relevant Local authorities(both district and county level) should have regard to it. The guidance applies to local authority action on air quality using available levers, including planning and transport responsibilities. In two tier authorities, it is directly relevant to both district and county councils who both have obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act. The Secretary of State expects that all departments across the authorities should work together to identify suitable measures to address air quality. This includes measures in relation to local transport, highways, land use planning, environmental health and public health.
- 6.3 A summary of the main changes to the original policy are detailed below:
- The objectives for pollutants: benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead and carbon monoxide have been met for several years and are well below limit values. Government accepts that, in the absence of any particular concerns in a local area, national monitoring is currently providing a sufficient basis for the review of these four pollutants under LAQM. On this basis local authorities are not expected to report annually on these pollutants.
 - Defra have consolidated all previous assessments required of local authorities into a single Annual Status Report (ASR) which for this year should be submitted by 30 June 2016.
 - In addition to the objectives set out in the Regulations, local authorities have a new flexible role in working towards reducing emissions and concentrations of PM_{2.5} (particles), in their local area as is practicable. In doing so they are not required to carry out any additional local review and assessment (including monitoring) but make use of national monitoring. The new policy guidance does not prescribe what the local authority role should be. Councils are expected to work with the Directors of Public Health to address issues of PM_{2.5} in their area.
 - Introduction of Fast Track AQMA Declaration Option - a new Fast Track AQMA Option has been introduced, which local authorities may use if deemed appropriate. This would cut out the need for a Detailed Assessment. Where annual monitoring and local intelligence shows a persistence exceedance the local authority is encouraged to consider moving immediately to declaring and

establishing an AQMA and hence the development of action plan measures to remediate the problem.

- The introduction of Clean Air Zones, which are geographically defined areas where only the cleanest vehicles are encouraged to operate to improve air quality. There are different classes of Clean Air Zone, each successive class includes more vehicle types to bring about a larger reduction in emissions. Vehicle owners will be required to pay a charge if they enter a zone and their vehicle does not meet the required emission standard. Local authorities may also wish to implement a Clean Air Zone operating on a voluntary basis (i.e. without charging).

Air quality in the Malton Air Quality Management Area

6.4 The last assessment of local air quality (Updating and Screening Assessment 2015), was published in May 2015 and remains available for viewing and downloading on the Councils website.

http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/attachments/article/196/USA_2015_Ryedale_v2.pdf

The results for 2014 show that:

- The annual mean Air Quality Objective (AQO) of 40 micrograms per cubic metre was exceeded at just one monitoring site (Site 9, Yorkersgate (1), which is within the Malton AQMA. The annual mean at this site was 43 micrograms per cubic metre.
 - Levels at six sites within the AQMA were below the AQO, and the level at one site was equal to the AQO.
 - In 2014 annual mean levels decreased at six of the nine sites within the AQMA in comparison with the previous year. The decreases ranged from 3 to 14%. Levels were unchanged at two other sites, whilst at one site insufficient data was obtained to determine the annual mean.
 - Five year trend charts in the report show a clear downward trend in NO₂ levels. Data for the 5 year period from 2010 to 2014 shows that levels have fallen at all the sites inside or close to the AQMA over this period. The reductions in levels range from 4 to 24%, with a median reduction of 13%.
 - Reductions in NO₂ levels over the two years after completion of the Brambling Fields junction improvements ranged from 7 to 17%, with a median reduction of 12%. In contrast, in the two years immediately preceding the completion of the junction the reduction in levels was smaller or in the case of several sites levels increased, particularly in 2012.
- 6.5 The reduction in annual NO₂ levels in 2014 is a positive finding. Although this does not demonstrate conclusively that the improvement in air quality was the result of traffic flow changes related to the Brambling Fields junction improvement, it is likely that changes in traffic flow and changes in vehicle fleet composition have contributed to the downward trend observed. An example graph of the trend for nitrogen dioxide is presented in Annex B, taken from the Update and Screening Assessment 2015, which also contains trend graphs for each site within the AQMA.

Air Quality Action Plan

- 6.6 Following the introduction of the Malton AQMA in 2009 an Air Quality Action Plan was developed and subject to formal consultation and was amended in light of the consultees' responses. The Action Plan was adopted by the Commissioning Board on 26 January 2012.
- 6.7 The Air Quality Action Plan presents a number of measures that have been identified for inclusion in the Action Plan. They range from the major junction improvement at Brambling Fields to measures that seek to promote less polluting forms of travel, such as school travel plans and awareness raising. The focus is now on the implementation of a weight restriction over the Malton/Norton level crossing. Further details of recent activities in relation to air pollution are summarised below and details of the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan are detailed in Annex C. Work is underway on completing the new ASR for 2015, which as stated in 6.3 should be submitted to Defra by 30 June 2016.

Recent activities relating to air quality

- 6.8 There has been significant interest in air pollution matters recently. The most recent events are summarised below:
- NYCC commissioned a video survey of traffic using the level crossing on 7 October 2015 (a neutral month). The survey allowed all vehicle classes and turning movements over the crossing to be counted.
 - Following the results of the survey, at the request of NYCC the Councils Environmental Protection Officer, produced a report 'Proposed Heavy Commercial Vehicle restrictions over Norton Level Crossing - Predicted Impacts on Pollution Emissions'
 - On 24 March NYCC consulted on proposed weight restrictions on the level crossing. This consultation was taken to the Councils Planning Committee on 12 April 2014 and the Committee resolved to support the weight restriction.
 - A Motion was presented to Council on 14 April, relating to air pollution issues in Malton, resulting in this report to the Policy and Resources Committee.
 - It is anticipated the result of the weight restriction consultation will be taken to the next meeting of the NYCC Ryedale Area Committee on 29 June 2016.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
The Annual Status report is being produced in house and as such there is no additional expenditure.
 - b) Legal
The new guidance on Local Air Quality Management produced by Defra is statutory, therefore the Council will seek to comply with the guidance.
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
The policy guidance emphasises the need for all departments and partners to work together and to ensure the highest level of support to tackle the impacts of air

pollution.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Following the NYCC consultation on the proposed weight restriction over the level crossing, the Council will work closely with NYCC regarding the implementation of any restriction.

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Background Papers:

Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance. (LAQM.PG16). Defra. 2016
Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance. (LAQM.TG16). Defra. 2016
Malton Air Quality Action Plan. Ryedale District Council 2012.
2015 Update and Screening Assessment for Ryedale District Council. Ryedale District Council. May 2015
Ryedale District Planning Committee -North Yorkshire County Council (Highways) consultation: Proposed weight limit Malton/Norton Level crossing.

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

<http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/supporting-guidance.html>

<http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/services/environment-waste/pollution/air-quality.html>

<http://democracy.ryedale.gov.uk/documents/b4402/Late%20Observations%2012th-Apr-2016%2018.00%20Planning%20Committee.pdf?T=9>

<http://democracy.ryedale.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MId=1577&Ver=4>