

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Climate Change Working Group**

**29 September 2020**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Air Quality Management update on the AQAP Woodhead Road (A628) Tintwistle</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Cllr Todd, Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Tintwistle &amp; All Wards</b>

#### Appendix 1 – Air Quality Management Area (1) (Tintwistle) Action Plan Draft

#### **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To update the Working Group on the progress of the Air Quality Action Plan for the Air Quality Management Area (1) Woodhead Road (A628) Tintwistle, attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To further update the Working Group on the proposed steps the Council is taking to address the air quality issues across the Borough.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Working Group notes the contents of the report and provides any comments prior to submission to the Executive.

#### **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on the Council to regularly review air quality within its boundaries against a number of national air quality objectives. This reports outlines and updates the actions that High Peak Borough Council will deliver between 2019-2023 in order to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution in the Borough.
- 3.2 The updated Air Quality Action Plan attached at appendix 1 details specifically the progress in relation to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared at the Woodhead Road, A628 Tintwistle (1). In addition,

the Plan details measures and proposals which the Council is taking to address the Air Quality Issues across the whole of the Borough. The updated Plan is in draft format, and has not yet been formally published.

- 3.3 As detailed in the Action Plan results, the air quality within AQMA (1) Woodhead Road, A628, Tintwistle has improved significantly during 2019, with no exceedances of the Air Quality Strategy recorded.
- 3.4 Further reports will be presented to the Committee and the Executive in relation to the Air Quality Action Plan for the AQMA (2) A57, Dinting Vale and the additional proposals for the declaration of a third Air Quality Management Area in the Borough at Fairfield, Buxton. This work is not yet complete as further data is required in order to prepare these reports, including an updated transport assessment to include the impacts of the Transpennine upgrade programme which is being led by Highways England. This will ensure that appropriate transport mitigation measures are adopted, and a further updated impact assessment is also being undertaken by this Council.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak.

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options to consider, the Council is required by law to produce an action plan once an Air Quality Management Area has been declared. The Committee may comment on the contents of the Air Quality Action Plan.

#### 6. **Implications**

##### 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

There are no community safety issues arising from this report.

##### 6.2 Workforce

An existing pollution post has been converted to a full time post to support this area of work.

##### 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

##### 6.4 Financial Considerations

There are no initial financial implications arising from this report. Dependent on the final actions, additional funding may be needed if appropriate grants are not available or secured.

#### 6.5 Legal

The Council has a statutory duty to manage air quality in its area. Having declared an AQMA the Council must implement the action plan, and failure to do so may result in legal action being taken against the Council.

#### 6.6 Climate Change

As detailed within the report, measures to improve air quality within the Borough will support the Council's priority to address the implications of climate change.

#### 6.7 Consultation

As detailed within in the report, including engagement with key stakeholders such as Derbyshire County Council and Highways England to implement actions to improve air quality in the Borough.

#### 6.8 Risk Assessment

It is a statutory requirement that the Council assess air quality and takes action where appropriate.

Mark Trillo

**Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer**

#### **Contact details**

Alicia Patterson

Head of Environmental Health

E-mail: [alicia.patterson@highpeak.gov.uk](mailto:alicia.patterson@highpeak.gov.uk)

#### 7. Detail

7.1 The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on the Council to regularly review air quality within its boundaries against a number of national air quality objectives. The objectives are human health based standards, seeking to protect the most vulnerable in society, i.e. the very young, the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

7.2 This reports outlines the actions that High Peak Borough Council will deliver between 2019-2023 in order to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution, thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the High Peak.

- 7.3 The updated Air Quality Action Plan attached at appendix 1 details specifically the progress in relation to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared at the Woodhead Road, A628 Tintwistle (1). In addition, the Plan details measures and proposals which the Council is taking to address the Air Quality Issues across the whole of the Borough. The updated Plan is in draft format, and has not yet been formally published.
- 7.4 As detailed in the Action Plan results, the air quality within AQMA (1) Woodhead Road, A628, Tintwistle has improved significantly during 2019, with no exceedances of the Air Quality Strategy recorded.
- 7.5 The Council has developed actions to improve air quality in the Borough, and specifically in both the AQMAs declared by the Council (the second being the AQMA (2) A57, Dinting Vale). These are developed against the following five broad topic areas:
- Transport measures – changes to road layout or operation and formulation of traffic plans with the aim being to encourage the use of greener modes of transport, and/or reduce congestion and associated vehicle emissions;
  - Leading by example measures – measures that HPBC will implement to encourage wider behavioural changes in the local population with respect to their travel choices;
  - Education, community and partnership measures – provision of information to increase community awareness of the challenges faced on air quality within the local area, to facilitate behavioural change;
  - Statutory measures – use of legislation and targeted enforcement to control air pollution;
  - Air quality monitoring – ensuring satisfactory air quality monitoring data is available to track outcomes of the implementation of our action plan measures and allow effective management of air quality.
- 7.6 Since the last report to the Committee there have been significant changes in the emission of air pollutants noted nationally from several sectors but, with the exception of the transport sector which showed a marked decrease, availability of activity and emissions data for the lockdown period is still limited.
- 7.7 UK air quality has been negatively influenced by a significant change in meteorology between the weeks preceding and following the lockdown, in addition to changes (both positive and negative) arising from actions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 7.8 The most pronounced changes in UK air quality during lockdown have been in the urban environment, notably for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). Once weather effects are accounted for, mean reductions in urban NO<sub>x</sub> averaged over the

lockdown period have been typically 30-40%, which means NO<sub>2</sub> reductions of 20-30% in general.

- 7.9 Whilst this report focuses on the data collected in 2019, we are anticipating and forecasting for 2020 and 2021 the expected changes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the national changes in individuals' behaviour, working arrangements and travel which will need to be considered for the existing Air Quality Management Areas and any future proposed areas.
- 7.10 Further reports will be presented to the Committee and the Executive in relation to the Air Quality Action Plan for the AQMA A57, Dinting Vale (2) and the additional proposals for the declaration of a third Air Quality Management Area in the Borough at Fairfield, Buxton. This work is not yet complete as further data is required in order to prepare these reports, including an updated transport assessment to include the impacts of the Transpennine upgrade programme which is being led by Highways England. This will ensure that appropriate transport mitigation measures are adopted, and a further updated impact assessment is also being undertaken by this Council.