

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Select Committee

21st July 2021

TITLE:	Update on Air Quality Monitoring
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Todd - Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson – Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	All Wards

Appendices Attached

- Appendix 1: HPBC Air Quality Data 2020**
- Appendix 2: HPBC Annual Status Report 2020**
- Appendix 2: HPBC Air Quality Action Plan**

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the latest Air Quality Data across the High Peak and measures being proposed and undertaken in relation to the two declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) as part of the Air Quality Action Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the updated information and data.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the potential for the declaration of an AQMA in Fairfield in 2022 in the event that monitoring results and data analysis from 2021 support this.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's statutory duty to manage air quality in the Borough, monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) was completed across the Borough during 2019. The NO₂ annual mean concentrations generally showed improvement, decreasing at 70% of the sites from the previous year.
- 3.2 The results, once adjusted to be representative of a location of relevant exposure, showed only two exceedances of the Air Quality Objective

(40µg/m³). Both of these exceedances were outside the current Air Quality Management Areas in the Borough, having been recorded along Fairfield Road in Buxton, at locations HP 33 (42.3 µg/m³) and HP 42 (41.9 µg/m³)

- 3.3 No exceedances of the Air Quality Objective were observed in either of the current AQMAs in Tintwistle (No1) or Dinting Vale (No 2) during 2019.
- 3.4 A detailed assessment of Fairfield Road was conducted by AECOM at the request of officers in the Environmental Health service as part of the proposed Hogshaw roundabout. The results from the modelling exercise indicate that the Air Quality Objective should be met by in the area by 2022. Full details of the air quality results and modelling can be found in the Annual Status report 2020 (attached at Appendix 2).
- 3.5 Despite the difficulties presented by the Covid pandemic, monitoring of NO₂ was also fully completed across the Borough during 2020.
- 3.6 No exceedance of the Air Quality Objective was seen at any location across the Borough in 2020, including the two declared AQMA's at Tintwistle and Dinting vale, or the potential AQMA in Fairfield.
- 3.7 Results from 2020 should, however, be viewed with some caution as they reflect a large reduction in traffic across the Borough due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns, notably the first lockdown in April. However, they do provide valuable data and confirm that road traffic sources are the primary source of NO₂ pollution across the Borough, which supports the measures outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan (attached at Appendix 3).
- 3.8 The disruption to monitoring as a result of the pandemic has, however, made it difficult to establish if the downward trend predicted by the modelling has occurred. There are also some concerns raised regarding the source of emissions affecting location HP 33 on Fairfield Road.
- 3.9 It is proposed to continue to monitor and investigate Fairfield during 2021, with a view to declaring a further AQMA in 2022, should monitoring results not indicate a decrease consistent with model predictions.
- 3.10 Full details of the air quality results for 2020 can be found in HPC Air Quality Data 2020 (attached at Appendix 1).

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Aim 1: Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak
- 4.2 Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency

5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

6. **Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)**

There are no Community Safety issues arising from this report.

6.1 **Workforce**

There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

6.2 **Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies, there are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

6.3 **Financial Considerations**

There are no initial financial implications arising from this report. All assessments will be carried out as part of the Council's routine work. However, the Council may need to seek support from external bodies should any further modelling be required for the preparation of the action plan. Typically the cost of this would be in the region of £5,000.

6.4 **Legal**

The Council has a statutory duty to manage air quality in its area and, where nationally set criteria are exceeded, to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Having declared an AQMA, the Council is obliged to prepare, following due consultation with interested parties, an Air Quality Action Plan. The Plan must subsequently be implemented. Failure to do so may result in legal action being taken against the Council.

6.5 **Sustainability**

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

6.6 **Internal and External Consultation**

All internal and external consultations have been undertaken as appropriate with the relevant partners including County Council and Highways.

6.8 **Risk Assessment**

No Issues

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning) & Deputy Chief Executive

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ccte2dAsfoY>

Contact details

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7 Detail

- 7.1 The report provides details of the monitoring of air quality which has been undertaken in the Borough as part of the Council's statutory duty to manage air quality in its area. It is suggested that results from monitoring carried out in 2020 should be viewed with caution as they reflect a large reduction in traffic across the district due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns, notably during the first lockdown in April. However, they do provide valuable data and confirm that road traffic sources are the primary source of NO₂ pollution across the Borough, which supports the measures outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).
- 7.2 Full details of the air quality results for 2020 can be found in HPBC Air Quality Data 2020 attached at Appendix 1.
- 7.3 Appendix 3 to the report details the Council's AQAP which contains the actions which the Council and others intend to take to improve air quality in the Borough and to respond to the AQMAs already declared by the Council. Unfortunately, the implementation of some of the action plan measures outlined in the AQAP were hampered during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the delay in the submission of the Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme Development Consent Order.
- 7.4 Despite this disruption several measures were implemented during 2020, including the completion of phase 2 of the EV charging infrastructure, with the support of the D2N2 funding, meaning that 9 carparks across High Peak now have EV charging ports installed.
- 7.5 In addition, suggested new policies have been put forward for inclusion in the next review of the local plan; a green fleet review has been initiated; and a new video has been produced that will form part of a wider air aware campaign. The video can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ccte2dAsfoY>
- 7.6 Further details of the AQAP measures proposed, and progress on the implementation of these measures, can be found in Appendices 1 & 3 of the report.

