
LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN WEST RAYLEIGH

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the current air quality work taking place at Rawreth Industrial Estate and the surrounding area.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On 27 January 2010, the Executive agreed in principle to create an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for fine airborne dust (known as PM₁₀) in the area of Rawreth Industrial Estate. This was based upon the results of an air quality report that was approved by Defra in 2009. Please see Appendix 1 for a map of the area concerned.
- 2.2 We have a duty to periodically review and assess whether air quality targets, as set out in the National Air Quality Strategy, will be met across the district. The aim is to ensure that polluting emissions, for example from vehicles or industry, as well as general background air quality across the country, do not cause harm to human health or the environment.
- 2.3 If any assessments show up 'hot-spots' where a target might be broken for one or more of the listed pollutants, then we must designate that area an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

3 WEST RAYLEIGH AQMA

- 3.1 We are now in a period of public consultation regarding the extent of the AQMA - the first for the district.
- 3.2 Guidance advises that when an AQMA is created, as a minimum, all relevant premises potentially exposed to air quality above the target level should be included. Relevant premises include homes and Members' views are sought regarding the proposed area shown shaded in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Once we have declared an AQMA, we must produce an Action Plan within 18 months which states what we and other partner organisations will do to reduce pollutant levels. We must also consult the public as well as key organisations (including Defra).

Current & Proposed Actions

- 3.4 Since January 2009, Officers have arranged for fortnightly sweeping of the industrial estate road. This is twice the frequency with which it would ordinarily be swept. Officers have also obtained a number of quotes from air quality specialists in order to carry out the planned 12 months of continuous monitoring.

- 3.5 Officers have had informal discussions with officers from Essex County Council Highways and Environment Agency teams in order to formulate positive partnership arrangements.
- 3.6 The Council's Core Strategy Submission Document acknowledges air quality issues and this would restrict new development within the AQMA. It should be noted that the proposed Planning Policy ED3 also indicates that Rawreth Industrial Estate would be reallocated for residential development by 2012, although the complete transfer to residential use may not be realised until 2020.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 To date, the Council has only carried out monitoring on an infrequent, short-term basis. The current budget allows for 12 months of monitoring at this site starting this current year (2009/10).
- 4.2 Nonetheless, officers intend submitting a grant application to Defra in April 2010 to cover some of the monitoring costs associated with this process.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Should a Council fail to declare an AQMA where there is an exceedance of a target, Defra can direct a local authority to do so.
- 5.2 An AQMA can be revoked at any time once Defra are satisfied that the relevant target is being met.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To note the contents of the report.
 - (2) That, subject to Members' comments, the recommendation regarding the boundary of the AQMA be endorsed.

Richard Evans

Head of Environmental Services

Background Papers:-

LAQM PM10 Detailed Assessment – Rawreth Industrial Estate December 2008

LAQM Updating and Screening Assessment 2009 May 2009

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

Appendix 1 – Map of Average Air Quality Levels

