

AIR QUALITY – (SECOND) REVIEW & ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP REPORT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress of the second review and assessment of air quality within Rochford District and to determine what action needs to be taken.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Environment Act 1995 requires Local Authorities to periodically review and assess the air quality within their District in respect of national air quality objectives for seven specified pollutants. Rochford's first air quality review was completed in December 2000 and concluded that there were no likely exceedances of these national air quality objectives.
- 2.2 In February 2004, following the Updating and Screening Assessment which formed the first stage of the second review, the Environmental Services Committee resolved that the recommended Detailed Assessments and associated air quality monitoring be carried out.
- 2.3 The Detailed Assessment for particulate matter (PM₁₀) was completed and the results reported back to the Committee in January 2005. A further three month period of PM₁₀ monitoring was carried out shortly thereafter, as resolved by the Committee. The Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is due to commence at the junction of Eastwood Road and High Street once the Websters Way aesthetic improvements have been completed.

3 SECOND AIR QUALITY REVIEW

Air Quality Monitoring – PM₁₀

- 3.1 Since the last report to this Committee, a further 3-months of PM₁₀ monitoring has been carried out at the nearest relevant receptor to Rawreth Industrial Estate. Combined with the previous 3-months' worth of monitoring, the annualised PM₁₀ results estimated a borderline exceedance of the national air quality objective.
- 3.2 As required, the findings were reported to Defra along with the latest circumstances and the Council's recommended course of action to deal with the potential exceedance.

- 3.3 Defra has agreed to a suggestion to wait for the construction of a partial enclosure at Unit 13 Rawreth Industrial Estate (a waste transfer station) which is due to be completed by late 2005 before a period of validation monitoring is carried out.
- 3.4 The Council has not been set a deadline to carry out this monitoring, but it is preferable to carry it out soon after the construction of the partial enclosure. This would allow the results to be reported alongside the next Updating and Screening Assessment that is required by Defra in April 2006.

Air Quality Monitoring – NO₂

- 3.5 As reported to this Committee in January 2005, a Detailed Assessment of NO₂ is required. The ongoing diffusion tube monitoring will continue as normal during and beyond this period.
- 3.6 A contractor has been engaged to carry out the monitoring, using an additional budget agreed in January 2005. It is due to commence at the junction of Eastwood Road and High Street, Rayleigh after the Websters Way aesthetic improvements have been completed and subject to negotiations with Essex County Council Highways concerning the positioning of the monitoring equipment.
- 3.7 The results from this monitoring will also be reported alongside the next Updating and Screening Assessment in 2006.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Protecting the natural and built environment is one of the core themes of the Community Strategy. Air quality is a key part of the natural environment.
- 4.2 Defra approve the decisions made by Local Authorities. Should a proposal to act on the findings of a Detailed Assessment not meet their approval, Defra can then issue a Directive instructing the Local Authority to take certain steps (e.g. declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)).

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There have been complaints about dust in the vicinity of Rawreth Industrial Estate. The proposed monitoring will confirm whether the planned works are effective in reducing the migration of fugitive emissions of PM₁₀ and whether the declaration of an AQMA is required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be human resource implications. The PM₁₀ monitoring will require an estimated 3 hours each week of the 3 month monitoring period and NO₂ monitoring will require 4 hours every 3-4 weeks.
- 6.2 The total costs this year for monitoring PM₁₀ and NO₂ will be higher than anticipated in the report to Committee in January 2005.
- 6.3 Budget requirements for 2006/07 will be included in the coming budget strategy. Additional costs for 2005/06 will be funded from existing resources.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Monitoring takes place within the boundaries of Rawreth Parish Council, Rochford Parish Council and Rayleigh Town Council.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
 - (1) That a further 3 months of PM₁₀ monitoring is carried out early in 2006 at the nearest relevant receptor to Rawreth Industrial Estate.
 - (2) That a further report be made to this Committee in the second quarter of 2006 once the planned monitoring has taken place and the Updating and Screening Assessment has been submitted to Defra.

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

Background Papers:-

Detailed Assessment – May 2005

Detailed Assessment – November 2004

Updating and Screening Assessment - October 2003

DEFRA Technical Guidance LAQM. TG(03)

DEFRA Policy Guidance LAQM. PG(03)

For further information please contact Martin Howlett on:-

Tel:- 01702 318049

E-Mail:- martin.howlett@rochford.gov.uk