
AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT (THIRD ROUND)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update Members on progress of the third review and assessment of air quality within Rochford District and provide a resolution for future air quality monitoring and assessment.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Environment Act 1995 requires Local Authorities to periodically review and assess the air quality within their district. Rochford's first air quality review was completed in December 2000 and concluded that there were no likely exceedances of the national air quality objectives. The second review in November 2004 concluded that there may be exceedances of particulate matter objectives around Rawreth Industrial Estate.
- 2.2 Local Authorities have started to carry out the third round of reviews and consider whether the objectives are likely to be achieved in 2010. This round of reviews will be carried out in two steps:-
- An **Updating and Screening Assessment** – this will identify those aspects that have changed since the previous round of reviews and which may require further assessment. The Local Authority will only be required to proceed to the second step if this stage indicates areas that require further work.
 - A **Detailed Assessment** – this will be required for any pollutants and specific locations that have been identified as requiring further work.
- 2.3 The Updating and Screening Assessment has now been completed and submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The results are reported below.

3 THIRD AIR QUALITY REVIEW

Updating and Screening Assessment

- 3.1 Having considered each pollutant, the consultants' report concluded that the air quality objectives will be met for benzene, 1, 3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, PM₁₀ (24 annual mean) and sulphur dioxide. However, the report concluded that a detailed assessment is required to assess the PM₁₀ 24 hour objective at residential properties in close proximity to Rawreth Industrial Estate (PM₁₀ is a measure of the airborne particulate matter). A dust monitoring programme will be required as part of the assessment.

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- 3.2 This further assessment had already been required as part of the second round of review and assessment, but delayed due to the proposed canopy to be constructed at Unit 13, Rawreth Industrial Estate. Essex County Council have since given planning permission for the structure, and construction is underway.
- 3.3 With respect to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) there are a number of road junctions where the annual mean NO₂ objective was predicted as only marginally being met. It is recommended that the Council carry out a monitoring programme to verify the predictions at these locations:-
- High Street/Eastwood Road junction in Rayleigh
 - Market Square, Rochford

Monitoring Programs and Detailed Assessment

- 3.4 Monitoring of the PM₁₀ 24 hour objective at properties near the Rawreth Industrial Estate will take place only after the canopy at Unit 13 has been fully constructed. The costs for this will be met from this year's Air Quality budget.
- 3.5 Monitoring of the annual mean NO₂ objective in Rayleigh High Street has already commenced. The monitoring station will be in place for three months, after which the results will be used to bias adjust the data obtained from the passive diffusion tubes distributed at Eastwood Road/High Street junction Rayleigh, Bedloes Corner, Rawreth and Market Square, Rochford.
- 3.6 In addition, further NO₂ monitoring will take place in Rochford once the new supermarket has been opened. This is a condition of the planning permission.
- 3.7 Further reports will be submitted to this Committee once the results of the ongoing NO₂ monitoring in Rayleigh High Street has been completed and the results analysed.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

Resource Risk

- 4.1 Should monitoring indicate that the air quality objectives are likely to be exceeded, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) would need to be designated and an air quality action plan produced. This could have significant financial and human resource implications.

Operational Risk

- 4.2 The additional officer time required to maintain the monitoring programme will impact most heavily during the busy summer months.

Regulatory Risk

- 4.3 The conclusions of the updating and screening assessment have been approved by Defra and the Council is now required to complete a detailed assessment of air quality in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Act 1995.

Third Party Risk

- 4.4 If an AQMA is required, this could have implications for properties within the designated area.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The detailed assessment and monitoring will provide additional information about the air quality within the District. There have been complaints about dust in the vicinity of Rawreth Industrial Estate. The monitoring will establish the extent of the problem and whether any action is required to reduce emissions in the area.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All monitoring proposed from this year will be met from existing budgets.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the contents of this report be noted and that further reports be submitted once the results of monitoring are available.

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Background Papers:-

Rochford District Council Local Air Quality Management – Updating and Screening Assessment October 2003

Rochford District Council Local Air Quality Management – Detailed Assessment November 2004

Rochford District Council Local Air Quality Management – Detailed Assessment May 2005

Rochford District Council Local Air Quality Management – Updating and Screening Assessment May 2006

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