

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

22 September 2017

### Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

N. Pearce

#### Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected:** *All Wards*

#### 2017 Air Quality Progress Report

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform members of the results of pollution monitoring carried out during the calendar year of 2016, and obtain approval to place a copy of the report on the Council's website and send copies to the Welsh Assembly Government.

#### Executive Summary

- 2 Two air quality reports are covered by this Board Report (see Appendix 1 & 2).
  - a) The 2017 Air Quality Progress Report for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.
  - b) The 2017 Detailed Assessment of Air Quality for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.
- 3 These reports fulfil the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

- 4 Progress reports are produced by the Council in two out of every three years. The most recent was produced in 2016. Updating and Screening Assessments (USAs) are required in the remaining year. Progress reports should cover: new monitoring data; new local developments; the local air quality strategy; new planning applications; Planning policies; local transport plans and policies; implementation of LAQM action plans; other changes that might affect air quality.
- 5 The Council opts to include information on non-LAQM pollutants in addition to the more narrow LAQM range of pollutants required for inclusion in LAQM reports. LAQM USA reports are required to be provided to WAG as the devolved administration has responsibility for compliance with national air quality objectives.
- 6 The reports present the results of pollution monitoring data collected during the calendar year 2016. The data includes results from continuous and non-continuous equipment, some of which is supplied to national pollution monitoring networks. Conclusions are drawn about air quality based upon this information.
- 7 The Progress Report follows the format stipulated by the Welsh Government and is 121 pages long. The Detailed Assessment is 30 pages long. The reports will be available on the Council's website along with all previous air quality management reports. The report is summarised below.

### **Summary of the 2017 Air Quality Progress Report**

- 8 Neither the long-term nor short-term Air Quality Objectives for PM<sub>10</sub> were breached in Port Talbot, however the Taibach/Margam AQMA will continue to remain in force.
- 9 There were no exceedances of Air Quality Objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), lead (Pb) or carbon monoxide (CO).
- 10 Fine particulates of less than 2.5 microns in size (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) easily complied with the EU Target which is to be complied with by 2015.
- 11 Ozone is not covered by Local Air Quality Management because trans-boundary pollution can have a significant effect upon local

results. Neath Port Talbot, like other parts of the country, experiences significant numbers of exceedances of the UK air quality standard. The trend is one of gradual improvement over time.

- 12 Concentrations of polyaromatic hydrocarbons exceed the UK Air Quality Objective of 0.25 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, but are marginally less than the EU Target value of 1 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. It is likely that the EU Target will be exceeded if the current rate of increase continues. Natural Resources Wales, which regulates the steel works, has been informed.
- 13 Arsenic and cadmium easily comply with the EU Target, both in Port Talbot and Pontardawe.
- 14 Nickel concentrations comply with the EU Target at all locations in Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe, with the exception of Tawe Terrace and Pontardawe Leisure Centre. Nickel levels at Tawe Terrace went back up to levels previously encountered in 2014.
- 15 The highest rates of fallout of large particles (nuisance dust) were measured in Port Talbot at Port Talbot Fire Station and Prince Street. However, the fallout rates at both sites were down by approximately 30% on the previous year.

### **Summary of the 2016 Detailed Assessment of Air Quality**

- 16 Measurements have shown that all locations complied with the long-term Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide. This included 1 Victoria Gardens, Neath, which had previously recorded a marginal exceedance during 2015.
- 17 Measurements with the continuous analyser at the junction of Victoria Gardens and Cimla Road, show a decreasing trend in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

### **Background**

- 18 The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to

determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

- 19 Progress reports are produced by the Council in two out of every three years. The most recent was produced in 2016. Updating and Screening Assessments (USAs) are required in the remaining year. Progress reports should cover: new monitoring data; new local developments; the local air quality strategy; new planning applications; Planning policies; local transport plans and policies; implementation of LAQM action plans; other changes that might affect air quality.
- 20 The Council opts to include information on non-LAQM pollutants in addition to the more narrow LAQM range of pollutants required for inclusion in LAQM reports. LAQM USA reports are required to be provided to WAG as the devolved administration has responsibility for compliance with national air quality objectives.

### **Financial Impact**

- 21 There are no implications for financial impact on this item.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 22 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

### **Workforce Impact**

- 23 There are no workforce impact implications on this item.

### **Legal Impact**

- 24 There are no legal impact implications on this item.

### **Risk Management**

- 25 There are no implications for risk management on this item.

## **Consultation**

- 27 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item

## **Recommendation(s)**

- 1) The contents of the 2017 Air Quality Progress Report and Detailed Assessment of Air Quality should be noted.
- 2) The reports should be made available to the public and other stakeholders via the Council website and a copy sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for information.

## **Reason for Proposed Decision(s)**

- 28 To provide information about air quality in accordance with legislative requirements.

## **Implementation of Decision**

- 29 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

- 30 2017 Air Quality Progress Report
- 31 2017 Detailed Assessment of Air Quality

## **Officer Contact**

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