

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

23 July 2018

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

N. Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

2018 Air Quality Progress Report

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the results of pollution monitoring carried out during the calendar year of 2017 and to 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. The 2018 Air Quality Progress Report for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council fulfils 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.
3. Progress reports are produced by the Council annually. 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.
4. 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.

Background

5. The reports present the results of pollution monitoring data collected during the calendar year 2017. 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.
6. The Progress Report follows the format suggested by the Welsh Government and will be published on the Council's website along with all previous air quality management reports. The report is summarised below.

Summary of the 2018 Air Quality Progress Report

7. Neither the long-term or short-term Air Quality Objectives for PM₁₀ were breached in Port Talbot nevertheless the Taibach/Margam AQMA will continue to remain in force.
8. There were no exceedances of Air Quality Objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) sulphur dioxide (SO₂), lead (Pb) or carbon monoxide (CO).
9. Fine particulates of less than 2.5 microns in size (PM_{2.5}) easily complied with the EU Target.
10. 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. However the trend is one of gradual improvement over time.
11. The concentration of polyaromatic hydrocarbons at Port Talbot whilst exceeding the Air Quality Objective of 0.25 ng/m³, has never exceeded the EU target value of 1 ng/m³. Moreover, the increasing trend observed in recent years has been reversed in 2017 with a reduction of approximately 30% compared to the previous year.
12. Arsenic and cadmium easily comply with the EU Target, both in Port Talbot and Pontardawe.
13. Nickel concentrations comply with the EU Target at all locations in Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe. This is the first occasion that nickel levels at Tawe Terrace have complied with the EU Target

and is a consequence of effective regulation and operation of an industrial facility within this area.

14. The highest rates of fallout of large particles (nuisance dust) were measured in Port Talbot at Port Talbot Fire Station and Prince Street. Fallout rates at these locations were broadly similar to the previous year.

Financial Impact

15. There are no implications on this item.

Equality Impact Assessment

16. 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 Impacts

17. There are no workforce impact implications on this item.

Legal Impacts

18. There are no legal impact implications on this item.

Risk Management

19. There are no implications for risk management on this item.

Sustainable Development

20. Air quality results are steadily improving, in line with national and local aspirations to create a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable environment. Moreover the council is actively pursuing initiatives to further reduce the impact of its activities upon the environment including the use of low emission vehicles within its fleet. These initiatives should in time further improve air quality.

Consultation

21. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item

Recommendations

22. The contents of the 2018 Air Quality Progress Report and Detailed Assessment of Air Quality during the previous calendar year should be noted.
23. The report 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 Decisions

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

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

26. Appendix A - 2018 Air Quality Progress Report

List of Background Papers

27. There are no background papers

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