

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: October 2023

**Subject** Air Quality Action Plan

**Author** Scrutiny Advisor

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Paul Jones	Strategic Director for Environment and Sustainability
Silva Gonzales-Lopez	Head of Public Protection and Environment
Matthew Cridland	Service Manager – Public Protection
Steve Manning	Senior Scientific Officer
Cllr Yvonne Forsey	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Bio-diversity

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

1. Whether the Air Quality Action Plan provides enough information for Committee to develop an understanding of the report.
2. Whether the Air Quality Action Plan highlights the ongoing commitment to achieving and maintaining compliance with the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective in Newport's Air Quality Management Areas.
3. To consider the consultation draft and whether there is sufficient information included and questions asked to be effective and
4. Whether it wishes to provide comment and recommendations on the Annual Report to Cabinet

## 2 Context

### Background

- 2.1 The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of Newport City Councils' statutory duties required by the [Local Air Quality Management framework](#) and spans the period 2023-28.
- 2.3 The Council's 5 Air Quality Management Areas centred around motorway junctions have all been identified for revocation in view of sustained compliance nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) trends support this.
- 2.4 This AQAP focuses on the 6 AQMA's not situated at M4 junctions: Caerleon, Caerphilly Road, Cefn Road, Chepstow Road, George Street and Malpas Road.
- 2.6 Air pollution in Newport City Council's areas are undergoing transformation. Post-Covid lockdowns in early 2020, air quality impacts have not reverted to their 2019 levels and should continue their downward trends towards sustained compliance. This could be due to a number of factors including changes to working patterns, fuel prices and increasing modal change in transportation towards cleaner technologies.
- 2.7 There is a duty to Newport's citizens under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and under the Newport City Council Operational Climate Change Plan 2022-27 which are "inextricably linked with the improvement of air quality". Compliance is highlighted as being part of the "air quality journey", as it is important to pursue air quality improvements beyond compliance to the best achievable air quality.
- 2.8 Measures identified in this AQAP are set against the 2022 NO<sub>2</sub> levels and traffic counts. Measures have been identified by communities and the Council to have additional impacts on these levels where possible.
- 2.9 This AQAP outlines the plan to address air quality issues within Newport City Council's control. The AQAP will be subject to annual review/appraisal of progress and reporting to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Bio-diversity through Annual Progress Reports (ARPs) as part of the statutory Local Air Quality Management duties.

### Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.8 This item has not been brought to Committee previously.

## 3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Air Quality Action Plan.
- 3.2 This report contains:
  - A summary of the report and an introduction
  - A summary of the current air quality in Newport City Council
  - Newport City Council's Air Quality Priorities
  - The development and implementation of Newport City Council's Air Quality Action Plan including measures and how they will be moving forward
  - Air quality data prior to 2022 and an analysis of trends
  - Response to Consultation

- Measures (ongoing and suggested)
- A glossary of terms
- References
- Lists of tables and figures

3.3 The report highlights the below measures:

Measure Theme	Measure Approach in all AQMAs
<b>Emissions from Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting a cleaner vehicle fleet and alternatives</li> <li>• 100% eBus services</li> <li>• ECO Stars haulage accreditation scheme update</li> <li>• Infrastructure projects where feasible</li> <li>• Green barrier (Caerphilly Road AQMA)</li> </ul>
<b>Emissions from new development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage EV charging as part of applications</li> <li>• Encourage low energy heating as part of applications</li> <li>• Encourage Green infrastructure as part of applications</li> <li>• Encourage zero emission public transport access as part of applications</li> <li>• Updating Planning Guidance and Policy on Air Quality</li> </ul>
<b>Education &amp; Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECO Post air quality messaging monitors</li> <li>• Schools air quality monitoring learning initiative</li> <li>• Exploring walking hubs at school run times (Caerleon AQMA)</li> <li>• Maintaining Community Air Quality Groups</li> </ul>
<b>Active Travel/Green Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of Active Travel opportunities</li> <li>• Facilitate School Travel Plans</li> <li>• Promote School streets initiative</li> <li>• Promotion of green infrastructure opportunities</li> </ul>

3.3 Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Draft.

3.4 This draft demonstrates to Committee the suggested information and questions that will be included in the public consultation.

## 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1

**The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:**

- Consider:
  - Whether there is sufficient information included for Committee to develop an understanding of the report
  - Whether the report demonstrates an ongoing commitment to achieving and maintaining compliance with the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective in Newport's' Air Quality Management Areas
  - The consultation draft and whether the information included and questions asked are sufficient to ensure effective responses
- Determine whether the Committee wish to make any comments and recommendations on the Air Quality Action Plan to Cabinet.
  
- Conclusions:
  - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the report?
  - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the quality of the Air Quality Action Plan?
  - Is the Committee satisfied with the consultation draft?
  - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
  - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

**4.2 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long-term</b></p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

### 4.3 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

The Committee may wish to consider:

- How will communities be engaged with during the consultation process?
- Will discussions with communities continue post-consultation?
- Are there any plans to expand the particulates monitored to better address air quality?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

5.1 This report has strong links to Wellbeing Objectives 2 and 4.

### 7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Sustainable Travel Strategy](#)
- [Climate Change Plan 2022-27](#)

Report Completed: October 2023