

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Draft revised Air Quality Action Plan

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That Cabinet approves the revised Air Quality Action Plan for public consultation.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Chichester District Council declared by order four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (in 2006, 2007 and 2020). These AQMAs were declared where air quality fails or is likely to fail an Air Quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) prescribed in Regulations. The AQMAs are located in parts of St Pancras, Orchard Street, Stockbridge A27 roundabout and Rumbold's Hill, Midhurst. When an AQMA is declared then adopting an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is a legal requirement. The AQAP must propose actions aimed at driving local air quality towards compliance with the relevant air quality objective of 40µgm⁻³ of NO₂ measured as an annual mean.
- 3.2. The statutory guidance suggests that AQAPs should be renewed every five years and the revised AQAP 2021 follows the two previous AQAPs from 2008 and 2015 which were also subject to public consultation.
- 3.3. The previous AQAPs have been focused on Chichester as at that time there were only AQMAs declared in Chichester. In January 2020 the Council declared the Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst AQMA and so the revised AQAP now includes Midhurst.
- 3.4. Actions within AQAPs are generally unfunded at the outset but adoption of the plan enables bidding for grants to deliver air quality actions. Under the previous AQAPs projects delivered using grant monies include the Co-Wheels car club in Chichester, doubling the number of bike racks in Chichester City Centre, delivering policy for the integration of electric

vehicles in the Council fleet, assisting Parking Services to procure two electric vehicles, delivering staff benefits including the 'cycle to work' scheme, a green lease car scheme for staff and Easit, delivery of a district-wide network of electric vehicle charge points, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, grant assisting the development of the Selsey Greenway (Selsey to Chichester) cycling and multi-user route, a feasibility study for a cycleway, behavioural change interventions in the community and schools and promotional activities such as for 'Bike to Work' day.

- 3.5. The draft for consultation revised AQAP contains an analysis of air quality monitoring and air quality modelling data with an emphasis on NO₂. Air quality in the district has steadily improved in the last five years and the modelling predicts that this trend will continue. Air quality in the Stockbridge A27 and Orchard Street AQMAs is such that the AQAP recommends these AQMAs are 'undeclared' and the Orchard Street air quality monitoring station is decommissioned. A watching brief is recommended for the St Pancras and Rumbold's Hill AQMAs which are predicted to both be compliant with the UK's Air Quality Standards by 2024.
- 3.6. The document contains a list of proposed and current air quality actions or projects with indicative timescales. For Midhurst this is informed by discussions with partners and community members following the more recent declaration of the Rumbold's Hill AQMA.
- 3.7. The Council also monitors ground-level Ozone (O₃) at Lodsworth. The pollutant is not included in the Local Air Quality Management regime and the AQAP proposes that the O₃ monitoring station is decommissioned as part of the post-Covid recovery work budget reductions.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. The outcomes sought through the AQAP are:
 - To present an evidence base from the air quality monitoring and modelling data for air quality policy in Chichester District,
 - To detail a proportionate policy response to the air quality issues in Chichester District,
 - To deliver actions that seek to improve air quality in Chichester District,
 - The future 'undeclaration' of the Orchard Street and Stockbridge A27 roundabout AQMAs (which will be the subject of a future Cabinet report(s)),
 - The future decommissioning of the air quality monitoring stations at Orchard Street and Lodsworth with an annual saving of approximately £5,000 and
 - To maintain a watching brief for NO₂ at St Pancras and Rumbolds Hill AQMAs.
- 4.2. This work supports the Corporate Plan priority that CDC will 'manage our built and natural environments to promote and maintain a positive sense of

place' and the actions in the Council's Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. To consult on the draft for consultation revised AQAP and, subsequently, to report back the consultation responses and draft for adoption AQAP to Cabinet.

6. Alternatives considered

- 6.1. None. Where an authority declares an AQMA the adoption of an AQAP is a statutory matter as is the requirement to publically consult on draft AQAPs.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. The intended work is within existing budgets in relation to staffing costs. The 'air quality actions' contained in the AQAP are either proposed and subject to funding, or where the projects are current, they are funded. The adoption of the AQAP post-consultation will help support bids for grant monies in the following five year period.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. Prior to going out for public consultation the AQAP has been considered by the Environment Panel on 24 February 2021 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&SC) on 9 March 2021. Environment Panel resolved: That the Environment Panel recommends to Cabinet that the revised AQAP be approved for public consultation. O&SC resolved: That O&SC recommends to Cabinet that the revised AQAP be approved for public consultation.
- 8.2. The Council will consult the following (including statutory consultees):
 - (i) Internal consultees: Development Management, Planning Policy, Parking Services, CDC Members via Members' Bulletin Board.
 - (ii) External consultees: Chichester City Council, West Sussex County Council (Planning and Transport Policy), the Environment Agency, Sussex-air, South Downs National Park Authority, West Sussex Public Health, Transition Chichester, Chichester and District Cycle Forum.
 - (iii) Public consultation by publishing on the Council's website 'Let's Talk' page.
- 8.3. The consultation period will be from 17 May to 28 June 2021.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1. The adoption of an AQAP has, over the past 12 years, enabled successful grant bids for the delivery of a number of air quality actions (a selection of which are detailed at paragraph 3.4). The impact of the adoption of a revised AQAP will enable continued grant bids to deliver air quality actions as detailed in the AQAP.
- 9.2. The work proposed by the AQAP largely depends on grant funding. As such there remains the risk that relevant grants do not become available or that applications and bids do not result in CDC being awarded monies. Likewise, whilst we seek to deliver initiatives and interventions that offer the best business case we are nonetheless influenced by what grants are available. The AQAP allows for these possibilities and, whilst it seeks to direct our efforts to where they will have most effect, allows flexibility to accommodate the above issues.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		✓
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation Many air quality actions seek to enable walking and cycling and the reduction of use of liquid fuelled vehicles both of which also reduce carbon emissions.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓
Safeguarding and Early Help		✓
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		✓
Health and Wellbeing Many air quality actions seek to enable walking and cycling and the reduction of use of liquid fuelled vehicles. Active travel and reduced air pollution have mental and physical health co-benefits.	✓	

11. Appendices

- 11.1. Draft revised AQAP for consultation.