
To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 30 AUGUST 2017

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Heading: RENFREWSHIRE'S LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT UPDATE –
2017 AIR QUALITY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (BASED ON 2016
DATA)**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update in relation to air quality within Renfrewshire and details the findings of the Council's most recent Local Air Quality Management report, Renfrewshire's 2017 Annual Progress Report.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government require each Council to submit an Annual Air Quality Progress report. This provides an overview of air quality in accordance with standards set out in technical guidance. The 2017 Annual Progress Report contains detailed monitoring and technical information and is available as a background paper to this report.
- 1.3 The 2017 Annual Progress Report reviewed air quality monitoring data from 2016 and concluded that there has been an overall reduction and downward trend in pollution levels across Renfrewshire. For the first time in over a decade there have been no exceedances of statutory air quality objectives identified at any monitoring locations throughout Renfrewshire.
- 1.4 Air quality is affected by a number of factors including weather conditions. Whilst the results of monitoring during 2016 and the overall conclusion in the Annual Progress Report is positive, it is likely that in future exceedances may occur and be recorded. On this basis, air quality monitoring will continue to be

undertaken and an Air Quality Action Plan will be brought to a future meeting of this Policy Board.

- 1.5 Community Resources will require to continue with the current monitoring programme for a further two to three years, before any consideration is given to amending or revoking the Air Quality Management Areas declared for Paisley Town Centre, Johnstone High Street and Renfrew Town Centre.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Notes the outcome of Renfrewshire's 2017 Air Quality Annual Progress Report and that there were no exceedances of statutory air quality objectives identified at any monitoring sites throughout Renfrewshire during 2016.
 - 2.2 Notes that air quality is affected by a number of factors including weather conditions and it is expected that in future exceedances may occur and that further monitoring will continue for at least 2 to 3 years
 - 2.3 Notes that a Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan is currently being drafted and will be brought back to a future Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board for consideration and approval.
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2 Background

- 3.1 Air Quality is directly related to a number of key Scottish Government National Outcomes and policy priorities, notably those focussed on the environment, sustainable places, environmental impact and healthier lives.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Local Air Quality Management statutory process introduced by the Environment Act 1995, all local authorities are required to undertake a regular review and assessment of air quality within their area and submit their findings to the Scottish Government for approval. Changes to this regime (introduced in 2016) now require the submission of an Annual Progress Report (APR) by the end of June each year. Community Resources have recently submitted Renfrewshire's Annual Progress Report for 2017 and are awaiting Scottish Government comments and formal approval of the report.

- 3.3 The Annual Progress Report provides an overview of air quality within Renfrewshire during 2016. It includes a review of 2016 pollutant monitoring data and atmospheric emissions sources within Renfrewshire, comparing the available data to national air quality standards.
- 3.4 Within Renfrewshire and across Scotland, the main pollutants of concern are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀). There are currently three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within Renfrewshire: the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area declared August 2009; the Johnstone High Street and Renfrew Town Centre Air Quality Management Areas declared August 2016.
- 3.5 In 2016 the Council operated three automatic monitoring sites (Gordon St Paisley, St James St, Paisley and Cockels Loan, Renfrew) which measured NO₂ and/or PM₁₀ concentrations. Monitoring of NO₂ was also undertaken via a network of approximately seventy NO₂ diffusion tube sites. Concentrations recorded at all monitoring sites were below the annual mean and short term objective levels for both pollutants. This is an improvement on the two locations of exceedance measured during 2015 in High Street, Johnstone and Inchinnan Road, Renfrew and is the first time in over a decade that there have been no exceedances of statutory air quality objectives measured at any monitoring sites within Renfrewshire.
- 3.6 The Annual Progress Report concludes that there has been an overall reduction and downward trend in pollution levels across Renfrewshire. With regards to the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area, compliance with statutory air quality objectives was also achieved in 2015 and there are now two years of monitoring data whereby no exceedances have been identified. Whilst no exceedances were identified within the Renfrew and Johnstone Air Quality Management Areas during 2016, there are some diffusion tube locations where the annual mean NO₂ concentration was close to the objective. Therefore Community Resources will maintain the current programme and network of pollutant monitoring across the Council area for a further two years before consideration is given to amending or revoking the Air Quality Management Areas.
- 3.7 Community Resources is currently replacing the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan published in 2014 with a new Air Quality Action Plan to include the Air Quality Management Areas in Renfrew and Johnstone town centres. This Renfrewshire Action Plan will take on board the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy (which was presented to the previous Environment Policy Board on 9 November 2016). The new Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan is currently being drafted and will be

brought to a future Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board for consideration and approval.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 Air quality is affected by a number of factors including weather conditions. Whilst the results of monitoring during 2016 and the overall conclusion in the Annual Progress Report is positive, it is likely that in future exceedances may occur and be recorded. On this basis, air quality monitoring will continue to be undertaken and an Air Quality Action Plan will be brought forward for consideration by the Board later in 2017.
- 4.2 The Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan will incorporate the Air Quality Management Areas in Johnstone and Renfrew and replace the existing Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Action Plan, published in 2014. The Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan will be brought to a future Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board meeting for consideration and approval.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community Planning**
Community Care, Health & Well-being – by reviewing and assessing air quality throughout Renfrewshire and producing our annual Local Air Quality Management report we aim to improve air quality and provide a clean and safe environment for all of Renfrewshire's residents, workers and visitors.
- Greener** - improving air quality will have a beneficial impact on Renfrewshire's natural environment.
4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets**-none

6. **Information Technology** - none
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety** – none
 9. **Procurement** – none
 10. **Risk** – none
 11. **Privacy Impact** – none
 12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – Whilst CoSLA do not have a policy position of the Renfrewshire Annual Progress Report, it should be noted that they are supportive of the Scottish Government's drive to improve air quality in Scotland.
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List of Background Papers

- a) Background Paper 1: 2017 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Renfrewshire Council

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Community Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is the Regulatory and Enforcement Manager.

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