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**To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board**

**On: 29 August 2018**

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**Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services**

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**Heading: Renfrewshire's Local Air Quality Management Update – 2018 Air Quality Annual Progress Report**

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## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update in relation to monitoring air quality within Renfrewshire and details the findings of the Council's most recent local air quality management report, Renfrewshire's 2018 Air Quality Annual Progress Report.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government require each Council to submit an Air Quality Annual Progress report. This provides an overview of air quality in accordance with the standards set out in technical guidance. The Renfrewshire 2018 Annual Air Quality Progress Report contains detailed monitoring and technical information on air quality in Renfrewshire and was submitted in accordance with the Scottish guidance and has now been approved by the Scottish Government. The report is available as a background paper.
- 1.3 The 2018 Annual Air Quality Progress Report reviews air quality monitoring data from 2017. This data confirmed that there were two exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality objective identified within Renfrewshire during 2017. One within each of the existing Johnstone (High Street) and Renfrew (Renfrew Cross) Air Quality Management Areas.
- 1.4 Within the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area there were no exceedances of air quality objectives at any monitoring locations and there have now been three consecutive years of compliance with statutory objective levels within Paisley. The legislative framework permits Air Quality Management Areas to be

amended or revoked and Scottish Government Policy Guidance recommends that, as a minimum, there will normally be at least three consecutive years where the pollutants of concern are complying with the relevant objective levels before this is considered. Communities, Housing and Planning Services will continue with the current monitoring programme throughout 2018 to collate a further years' worth of monitoring data before consideration will be given to amending or revoking the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area in 2019, based on the air quality data collected during this time.

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## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- 2.1 Notes the approval of Renfrewshire's 2018 Air Quality Annual Progress Report by the Scottish Government, with two exceedances of the statutory annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide being identified during 2017 (one within each of the existing Johnstone and Renfrew Air Quality Management Areas).

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## **3. 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 Air Quality Progress Report by the end of June each year. The Annual Air Quality Progress Report for 2018 has now been approved by the Scottish Government.
- 3.3 The Annual Progress Report provides an overview of air quality within Renfrewshire during 2017. It includes a review of 2017 pollutant monitoring data and atmospheric emissions sources within Renfrewshire and compares the available data to national air quality standards.
- 3.4 Within Renfrewshire and across Scotland, the main pollutants of concern are nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM). There are currently three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared within Renfrewshire; the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area declared August 2009 and the Johnstone High Street and Renfrew Town Centre Air Quality Management Areas declared August 2016.

- 3.5 In 2017 the Council operated four automatic monitoring sites (Gordon St Paisley; St James St, Paisley; Cockels Loan, Renfrew and High St, Johnstone) each measuring NO<sub>2</sub> and/or PM concentrations. Concentrations recorded at all automatic monitoring sites were below the annual mean and short-term objective levels for both pollutants. Monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> was also undertaken via a network of approximately sixty NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tube sites. Exceedances of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean objective (following bias adjustment and distance correction) were identified at two diffusion tube locations; one within the Renfrew Air Quality Management Area and the other within the Johnstone Air Quality Management Area. However, as these two exceedances are already located within existing Air Quality Management Areas, no further action is required by the Council other than to progress with implementation of the Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan which as previously reported to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on 24 January 2018 is currently in draft form and has been submitted to the Scottish Government and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for review and comments.
- 3.6 Within the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area there were no exceedances of air quality objectives at any monitoring locations and there have now been three consecutive years of compliance with statutory objective levels for air quality within Paisley. The legislative framework permits Air Quality Management Areas to be amended or revoked and Scottish Government Policy Guidance recommends that, as a minimum, there will normally be at least three consecutive years where the pollutants of concern are complying with the relevant objective levels. Communities, Housing and Planning will continue with the current monitoring programme throughout 2018 to collate a further years' worth of monitoring data before consideration will be given to amending or revoking the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area in 2019, based on the air quality data collected during this time.
- 3.7 The recently published Transport (Scotland) Bill introduces a legislative framework for the implementation of Low Emission Zones which has been promoted through the Scottish Government's air quality strategy: Cleaner Air for Scotland - The Road to a Healthier Future. Scottish Councils who have declared Air Quality Management Areas will be required to undertake a screening exercise to determine whether a Low Emission Zone is necessary to achieve compliance with air quality objectives.
- 3.8 This process will assist Councils to determine the need for vehicle access interventions as a means of improving air quality. The requirement to undertake this screening exercise will be embedded in the 2019 Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report with the outcome of the screening exercise for Renfrewshire Council reported to Board as part of the 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report. The proposed Transport (Scotland) Bill is covered in a separate Board being presented to this Board on 29 August 2018.
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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. Financial – None**
- 2. HR & Organisational Development – None**
- 3. Community Planning –**

Renfrewshire is well – 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.

- 4. Legal - None**
- 5. Property/Assets - None**
- 6. Information Technology - None**
- 7. Equality & Human Rights**

(a) 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 – None**

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## **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Background Paper 1 – 2018 Air Quality Annual Progress Report for Renfrewshire Council

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, Housing and Planning Services 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 Communities and Regulatory Manager.

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