

To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 6 NOVEMBER 2019

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES

**Heading: RENFREWSHIRE'S LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT UPDATE -
2019 AIR QUALITY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

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 2019 Annual Progress Report.
 - 1.2 The 2019 Annual Progress Report reviewed air quality monitoring data from 2018. One exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean air quality objective was identified within Renfrewshire which was located within the existing Renfrew Town Centre Air Quality Management Area.
 - 1.3 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 four 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. Communities, Housing and Planning, whilst continuing with the current monitoring programme throughout 2019 are now giving consideration to recommending amending or revoking the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area in 2020.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) notes the outcome of Renfrewshire's 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report and the one exceedance of the statutory annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide identified within the existing Renfrew Town Centre Air Quality Management Area.
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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 focused 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 by means of an Annual Progress Report to the Scottish Government by the end of June each year for approval. Communities, Housing and Planning have submitted the Annual Progress Report to the Scottish Government, and this has received their approval.
- 3.3 The Annual Progress Report provides an overview of air quality within Renfrewshire during 2018. It includes a review of 2018 pollutant monitoring data and atmospheric emissions sources within Renfrewshire and compares the available data to national air quality standards.
- 3.4 The main pollutants of concern within Renfrewshire are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM). There are currently three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared within Renfrewshire; the Paisley Town Centre AQMA declared in August 2009 and the Johnstone High Street and Renfrew Town Centre AQMAs declared in August 2016.
- 3.5 In 2018 the Council operated four automatic monitoring sites (Gordon St Paisley, St James St Paisley, Cockels Loan, Renfrew and High St, Johnstone) which measured NO₂ 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 NO₂ was also undertaken via a network of sixty-two NO₂ diffusion tube sites. One exceedance of the NO₂ annual mean objective (following bias adjustment and distance correction) was identified at a diffusion tube on Inchinnan Road within the Renfrew Town Centre AQMA. The exceedance of 40.8µg/m³ was only just above the statutory objective level for NO₂ of 40µg/m³. There were no exceedances of air quality objectives at any monitoring locations within either the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area or the Johnstone High Street Air Quality Management Area. As the exceedance in Renfrew is already located within an existing Air Quality Management Area, no further action is required by the Council other than to progress with implementation of the Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan which was approved at the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board meeting on 20 March 2019.
- 3.6 Within the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area there have now been four consecutive years of compliance with statutory objective levels. 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. The Scottish Government wrote to local authorities on 2 August 2019 to remind them that one of the aims of the Scottish Government's 2015 air quality strategy *Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (CAFS)* is

for 'significant progress towards revocation of all Air Quality Management Areas' by 2020. The Scottish Government is therefore seeking those authorities where compliance has been met for this minimum time, to begin taking steps towards revocation or amendment of AQMAs and to provide a timeline for the process to both the Government and SEPA. If any authority considers that revocation is not appropriate despite meeting these minimum requirements, they are required to provide an explanation setting out the reasons for this. Communities, Housing and Planning, whilst continuing with the current monitoring programme throughout 2019 are now giving consideration to recommending amending or revoking the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area in 2020.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Communities, Housing and Planning will continue with the current monitoring programme throughout 2019 and consider amending or revoking the Paisley Town Centre Air Quality Management Area in 2020.
- 4.2 Communities, Housing and Planning will continue to progress with implementation of the Renfrewshire Air Quality Action Plan which was approved and published earlier in March 2019.

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.

Renfrewshire is well - 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
- 8. **Health & Safety** - none

9. **Procurement** - none
 10. **Risk** - none
 11. **Privacy Impact** - none
 12. **CoSLA Policy Position** - None
 13. **Climate Risk** - The interactions between air pollution and climate change are complex which is recognised within the Scottish Government's 2015 air quality strategy *Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (CAFS)*. An action measure within this strategy recommends all Scottish local authorities which have or are currently developing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan to ensure that air quality considerations are also covered.
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List of Background Papers

- a) Background Paper 1: 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report for Renfrewshire Council
The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, Housing and Planning 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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