

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT
From: HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES		
Date: 18 October 2011	Ref: CM/ AM	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Committee with a progress report on the actions taken to improve air quality within North Lanarkshire and outlined within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Environment Act 1995 requires Scottish Local Authorities to regularly review air quality within their areas under a process known as Local Air Quality Management.
- 2.2 Further to this Act, the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and Amendment Regulations 2002 prescribe air quality objectives for seven pollutants deemed to be the most prejudicial to health, namely – Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulates (PM₁₀) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). Dates have also been set for compliance with these objectives.
- 2.3 This process of Local Air Quality Management has been ongoing for a number of years now, and as time has progressed the objectives for the specific pollutants have become increasingly stringent. Continued monitoring in North Lanarkshire has identified six areas of exceedance of the 2010 Annual Mean objective for PM₁₀ (particulate pollution) and this has led to the declaration of six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Whifflet Coatbridge, Chapelhall, Motherwell Town Centre, Harthill, Moodiesburn and Croy.
- 2.4 Further to the declaration of the AQMAs, the Council is required to prepare and publish an Air Quality Action Plan. This is a document which details measures the Council pledges to consider in order to improve air quality within the AQMAs. The Action Plan was prepared following a rigorous consultation process and includes actions and commitments from a number of Council Services. The first North Lanarkshire Council Air Quality Action Plan was completed in 2010 and was the subject of a previous committee report. This Action Plan covers the Council's initial four AQMAs, at Whifflet (Coatbridge), Chapelhall, Motherwell Town Centre and Harthill and as such, the measures contained therein focus on improvements to air quality within these four areas, as well as Council-wide measures which aim to improve air quality throughout North Lanarkshire as a whole.
- 2.5 In addition to the Air Quality Action Plan, air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken at the sites of the Council's AQMAs, in line with our statutory responsibilities.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 A review of the actions contained within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan has recently been undertaken in order to assess progress with the commitments outlined in the document. It was noted that, out of the 36 measures detailed within the Action Plan, a total of 25 of the actions

have been either completed or are progressing. This equates to just under seventy per cent of actions and demonstrates a high level of commitment by the Council to improving air quality throughout North Lanarkshire and in particular within the AQMAs. A briefing note outlining further detail on the progress on the action plan measures is included in Appendix 1 to this report.

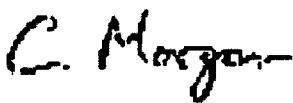
- 3.2 In light of the number of actions now completed within the original Air Quality Action Plan and the increased number of AQMA's within North Lanarkshire, there is now a requirement to update the existing Action Plan. This work has already commenced and a revised Action Plan is expected to be published in early 2012.
- 3.3 The monitoring of air quality levels throughout North Lanarkshire is critical to determining the success of any action plan measure. The equipment required to undertake such monitoring is located at a number of locations throughout the North Lanarkshire area and regular maintenance is required to ensure that all equipment continues to deliver an accurate representation of air quality levels. This maintenance is currently undertaken by Horiba Instruments Ltd, however a formal tendering process shall now be undertaken to ensure a continued high standard of maintenance is provided over the next 4 years. The value of such a contract would equate to approximately £100,000 over the 4 year period and funding for this is secured through an annual grant from the Scottish Government.

4. Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 The actions contained within the existing Air Quality Action Plan have been developed with the input and commitment of a number of Council services, including Roads and Transportation, Planning and Development, Land Services and Learning and Leisure. The revised Action Plan will also reflect this corporate approach.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That Committee note the contents of this report in respect of progress made on measures contained within the Council's 2010 Air Quality Action Plan.
- 5.2 That Committee note the intention to now update and revise the Council's Air Quality Action Plan to reflect the two new AQMAs recently declared for Croy and Moodiesburn and to take account of other relevant factors in terms of air quality within the Council's AQMAs.
- 5.3 That Committee notes the intention to pursue a formal tendering process for the provision of a 4 year maintenance contract for all air quality monitoring equipment.



C MORGAN
HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Andrew McPherson, Environmental Health Manager on 01236 638575

Appendix 1

Air Quality Update

Local Authorities have a duty to assess and review air quality within their area under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Air Quality Regulations define pollutants to be monitored, and objectives to be met for these pollutants.

Within North Lanarkshire we have an extensive network of monitoring equipment, built up over the years, which ensures that we have an accurate picture of air quality across the Council area. This equipment ranges from passive diffusion tubes, which are low cost, provide very basic information and are used as a screening tool, to sophisticated automatic monitors which monitor continuously over the long-term and provide accurate and corrected air quality data for the area. We have seven automatic monitors and they are sited throughout the district at areas where the diffusion tubes, and in some cases dispersion modelling, has revealed high levels of air pollution and actual or potential exceedences of the National Air Quality objectives. North Lanarkshire Council's automatic air quality monitors download to the Scottish Air Quality Website, at www.scottishairquality.co.uk as well as to the Council's own website.

North Lanarkshire no longer has the widespread industrial air pollution sources that it once had, however, by virtue of its location it does contain a number of Scotland's arterial road networks, namely the A8/M8, M74, A80/M80 and the M73, as well as numerous areas of local traffic congestion. It is these areas that are the focus of our air pollution problems today. The pollutants of most concern in North Lanarkshire are Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate matter (PM₁₀). Both these pollutants arise from road traffic emissions.

Air pollution monitoring identified exceedences of the annual mean air quality objective for PM₁₀ at several locations through North Lanarkshire. Once exceedences are identified the local authority is required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) by official order. North Lanarkshire Council has declared AQMAs at the following locations:-

- Motherwell Town Centre
- Whifflet, Coatbridge
- Chapelhall
- Hirst Rd, Harthill
- Croy
- Moodiesburn

Once an AQMA has been declared the local authority has a duty to undertake further monitoring in the area and must also prepare a Further Assessment report in order to justify the decision to declare. In addition to this, the Council must prepare an Air Quality Action Plan which outlines measures the Council intends to take to improve air quality within the AQMAs.

Following an extensive preparation and consultation phase North Lanarkshire Council published its Air Quality Action Plan in 2010. This document covered the four initial AQMAs declared (namely Motherwell Town Centre, Whifflet Coatbridge, Chapelhall and Hirst Rd Harthill) and outlined 36 measures that the Council aim to carry out to improve air quality. The action plan measures were developed through several Council Departments and a number of them have been achieved to date with others currently being worked towards. A range of AQMA-wide measures were developed, as well as some measures specifically tailored to each AQMA. Specific action plan measures which have seen significant progress to date include those aimed at raising the profile of air quality throughout North Lanarkshire, and awareness-raising of air pollution in general. This has included

- Discussions with the Local Planning Team in order to ensure that air quality is detailed within the revised North Lanarkshire Local Plan;
- The preparation of developer's guidance;

- Input into the Council's Local Transport Strategy;
- Vehicle emission testing/vehicle idling campaigns and enforcement throughout the AQMAs;
- Ensuring all schools within the AQMAs have School Travel Plans;
- Synchronising work carried out by the Council in relation to carbon management, with work carried out in local air quality management, for example, in terms of biomass installations;
- Local air quality management will be a key area for inclusion in the new Sustainability Working Groups to reduce the potential for a conflict of interests between measures to combat climate change and local air quality management; and
- Signage for Council vehicles highlighting air quality as a concern

In addition to awareness-raising, the Council has implemented a number of measures in relation to its own way of working, which are complementary to the Air Quality Action Plan. A so-called "getting our own house in order" approach has been adopted. Examples of this include:-

- Through the procurement process the Council is ensuring that all light good vehicles supplied by the Council for use by external contractors shall be at least to Euro 4 standard by 2012;
- Automatic Vehicle Logging Systems (AVLS) are currently in place for around a quarter of the Council's vehicle fleet, and this figure is expected to increase over the coming months. AVLS allows the tracking of Council vehicles, as well as providing information on type of driving, style of driving etc;
- As the NLC fleet vehicles are replaced (on a rolling programme), the Council will ensure that all fleet vehicles will be of at least Euro 4 standard;
- A feasibility study has been undertaken into the use of pool vehicles for Council staff – this has led to the purchase of 50 pool cars for use across the Council. The Council will gradually raise its fleet up to 300 pool cars, over the coming months;
- Following the pilot use of electric vehicles within the Council, the Council has purchased ten electric vehicles for use by staff. In addition to this, through the Air Quality Capital Grant scheme the Council has secured funding for the installation of charging points for the electric vehicles at the main Council buildings within the AQMAs. These charging points will also be available for the general public to use;
- A flexible-style working scheme for NLC staff is being piloted within certain services with a view to this being rolled out across the Council. This would reduce the number of cars travelling to and from Council buildings in North Lanarkshire and reduce the number of vehicles on the road at peak travelling times; and
- A Workplace Travel Survey has been carried out with all Council employees looking at how people travel to and from work. As a result of this, Travel Plans are being prepared for all main Council buildings and particularly those within AQMAs.

In addition to the Council-wide action plan measures, the Action Plan also includes measures relating specifically to each AQMA and some progress has also been made in this regard.

Whifflet has seen the most significant progress in terms of its action plan pledges. The Council has completed the construction of a new car park to the rear of the shops on Whifflet Street, and the majority of customers are now parking in the car park resulting in better traffic flow along Whifflet Street with both lanes available for traffic. In addition to this, the parking restrictions in this area are thought to be a deterrent to unauthorised parking in the area of Whifflet Street.

In Motherwell work is ongoing to incorporate the additional traffic anticipated from the ongoing redevelopment of the Ravenscraig site. This has included the completion of cycle route from the north of the site to the Regional Sports Facility. Two bus companies (one private company, one subsidised by SPT) are also now operating within the Ravenscraig development site. Both these should encourage a shift away from car use. There is also a significant project underway to improve the Motherwell Station area, in particular parking provision and new formalised bus bays which should improve traffic flow in the area.

In Chapelhall work is ongoing to declassify the B799 Lauchope Street, which would have the effect of encouraging traffic away from the main junction comprising the Chapelhall AQMA.

The next step in terms of North Lanarkshire Council's air quality action plan is that the plan will be updated over the coming year in order to reflect the works carried out, and also to incorporate the new Air Quality Management Areas at Croy and Moodiesburn.

Ultimately the ideal situation would be that the measures introduced by the Council within the various AQMAs would result in the air quality improving to such a level that it would comply with the statutory air quality objective, which in turn would allow the AQMA to be revoked. In order to revoke an AQMA the Council must carry out a Detailed Assessment of the air quality within the AQMA, and thus present their case for revoking the AQMA. This Detailed Assessment is then duly submitted to the Scottish Executive who then makes the decision as to whether or not the Council can revoke the AQMA. If the revocation is approved, then the Council would proceed with an AQMA Revocation Order. North Lanarkshire Council is currently working towards the revocation of the Harthill AQMA and a Detailed Assessment is currently being prepared in this regard. It is hoped that in due course the AQMA at Moodiesburn will be revoked, as a result of the new road opening in this area, however current levels are still exceeding the statutory levels. Also, air quality monitoring at the Whifflet AQMA has shown a marked decrease in PM₁₀ concentrations in this area, such that the AQMA now complies with the statutory objective and the Council will now work towards presenting a case for revoking the Whifflet AQMA over the coming year.

As is often the case in the field of air quality, when one area is solved, another potential problem is realised. This is true for North Lanarkshire and, as we have seen some areas of improvement in terms of air quality, we have also seen some air pollution levels rise, and so the work will continue in these areas in line with our statutory responsibilities.

To summarise, work is ongoing to realise the Council's commitment to improving air quality through the measures stated in our Air Quality Action Plan. Of the 36 action plan measures, 25 are either complete or are progressing. This demonstrates a clear commitment by the Council to improve air quality within North Lanarkshire's AQMAs.

Table 1 : Summary of Action Plan Measures and Progress to date (June 2011)

Action Plan Measure	Details	Progress (June 2011)
Action Plan Measure 1	Include Air Quality in agenda for Sustainability Working Groups	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 2	Introduction of policy regarding air quality issues for biomass developments	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 3	Pilot and feasibility study for use of electric vehicles	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 4	All light goods vehicles for external contractors to be minimum of Euro 4 standard by 2012	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 5	Home flexible-style working pilot to be carried out for NLC	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 6	Feasibility study into use of pool cars for all Council services	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 7	All Council Services to consider AVLS technology for vehicles by 2012	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 8	All Council Services and Contractors to consider speed limiting technology by 2012	PROGRESSING

Action Plan Measure 9	All NLC fleet vehicles to be at least Euro 4 standard by 2012	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 10	School Travel Plans will be prepared for all schools with catchments within AQMAs	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 11	To prepare and implement a Parking Management Strategy, including the AQMAs	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 12	Travel Plans will be prepared and implemented for all main Council buildings	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 13	An awareness-raising exercise will take place on the Council's car-sharing scheme	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 14	Continue work with Local Plan team to ensure Air Quality is included within revised North Lanarkshire Local Plan	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 15	Developer's guidance on air quality will be prepared	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 16	An air quality information DVD will be produced and played throughout North Lanarkshire	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 17	A Learnscape educational module will be produced for schools in North Lanarkshire	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 18	School bus contract will be amended to include requirement that school buses are less than 10 years old	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 19	Continue work to ensure strategic roads and transportation documents go hand-in-hand with the Air Quality Action Plan	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 20	The Vehicle Emission Testing programme will continue, particularly within the AQMAs	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 21	A review of the air quality monitoring stations will be undertaken	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 22	Work with SEPA in pursuance of statutory air quality duties	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 23	Air Quality messages to be advertised on the back of every van to develop public awareness	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 24	NLC will work towards viable solution to congestion, and consequently a reduction in road traffic emissions associated with ongoing development of Ravenscraig	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 25	NLC will reconsider option of widening the A721 Windmillhill St, in future budget spending options	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS

Action Plan Measure 26	NLC will look at traffic signal integration in areas of Motherwell to increase traffic flow	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 27	NLC will support the reconsideration of the Motherwell Transport Integration Project when new rail franchise is let in 2017	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 28	NLC will support the Transport Scotland-led M8/A8 Completion Project	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 29	NLC will endorse developer-led link road at Whifflet/Carnbroe	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 30	NLC will build a car park to the rear of the shops in Whifflet	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 31	NLC will look at increasing parking restrictions in Whifflet and look at optimising traffic light phasing	COMPLETE
Action Plan Measure 32	Outcome of A73 STAG for the Chapelhall area will be duly assessed and considered	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 33	NLC will work towards declassifying B799 Lauchope St and upgrade alternative road to reduce traffic flow through Chapelhall AQMA	PROGRESSING
Action Plan Measure 34	NLC will again revisit and review potential junction improvements within Chapelhall AQMA	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 35	NLC will commission Speciation Study in Harthill AQMA for sources apportionment of PM10 in this area	FUTURE PROGRAMMED WORKS
Action Plan Measure 36	Data from new monitoring site in Harthill AQMA will be duly considered and appraised to determine any alterations required to AQMA in this area.	PROGRESSING