

# **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**31 OCTOBER 2017**

### **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES**

#### **LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2016**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The 2016 Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report (LAQR) for Bridgend County Borough Council has been drafted by the Shared Regulatory Services and requires Cabinet approval in order to submit a Final version to Welsh Government. The report covers monitoring data obtained during the 2016 calendar year

##### **2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities**

- 2.1 Whilst there is no direct Corporate Objective to manage and improve air quality, the report shows continued compliance with air quality objectives within Bridgend County Borough Council, which gives an indication of a healthy environment within Bridgend. As such, the Annual Progress Report helps demonstrate that the county is a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit and thus supports Priority One of the Corporate Plan to support a successful economy.

##### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Local Air Quality Management process (LAQM), places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether the air quality objectives to protect health are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances occur or are considered likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.
- 3.2 The LAQR provides details on the ratified data for the air quality monitoring undertaken in 2016 within Bridgend County Borough Council.

##### **4. Current situation / proposal**

- 4.1. The Annual Progress Report confirms that air quality within Bridgend County Borough continues to meet the relevant air quality objectives as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.
- 4.2 There are no monitoring sites with nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations above 60µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2016 anywhere in the Bridgend County Borough. This indicates it is

unlikely that the hourly NO<sub>2</sub> objective will be exceeded at any location in the Bridgend County Borough.

- 4.3 10 new NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring locations have been introduced based on known areas of particularly elevated traffic flows, introduction of traffic management systems and foreseeable development, all with nearby relevant exposure. These newly monitored road networks include Park Street, Coity Road, Cowbridge Road and Bridgend Town Centre's Market Street.
- 4.4 Whilst it is premature to try and predict the outcome of the results of the monitoring at these sites, it should be noted that should any significantly elevated concentrations or an actual exceedance of the Air Quality Standard for NO<sub>2</sub>, be established then, in line with [Welsh Government Policy Guidance on Local Air Quality Management](#), Bridgend County Borough Council would need to consider declaring an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)
- 4.5 Any such need to declare an AQMA, will have resource implications for the Shared Regulatory Services, as additional work would be required in terms of developing Action Plans to address and mitigate any exceedances of the NO<sub>2</sub> standard.
- 4.6 For some years, an automatic monitoring station (AMS) has been located at the Ewenny roundabout. Recent results indicate consecutive compliance with the national air quality objectives. The Ewenny Roundabout AMS location will be reviewed in 2018 and the AMS may be relocated elsewhere in the borough.
- 4.7 Welsh Government has issued new statutory policy guidance which highlights the need for Local Authorities to inform the public about the state of air quality in their area in a timely fashion and involve local communities in identifying local solutions to air quality issues. The Shared Regulatory Service will undertake that role and Cabinet will be apprised of any pertinent findings arising from a consultation to be undertaken in 2017.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 There are no effects upon Policy Framework or Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications.**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **8. Recommendation.**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the current Draft Annual Progress Report on Local Air Quality Management for Bridgend County Borough Council (as

attached at Appendix 1) for submission as a final version to Welsh Government before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

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Appendix 1 - Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report 2016

**Background documents:**

None