

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2018

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the 2018 Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report (APR) for Bridgend County Borough Council. This report requires Cabinet approval in order to submit a Final version to Welsh Government.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy* – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.

3. Background

3.1 The Local Air Quality Management process (LAQM), places a statutory 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 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 Annual Progress Report provides details on the ratified data for the air quality monitoring undertaken in 2017 within Bridgend County Borough Council.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Annual Progress Report confirms that in general 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 However, it is notable that Park Street, Bridgend is a specific area of concern.

4.3 Two Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) monitoring locations situated on Park Street, as detailed in Figure 1, highlight elevated and exceeding annual average levels of NO₂ when compared to the annual average NO₂ Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m³. A further location at Sunnyside indicates compliance with the objective.

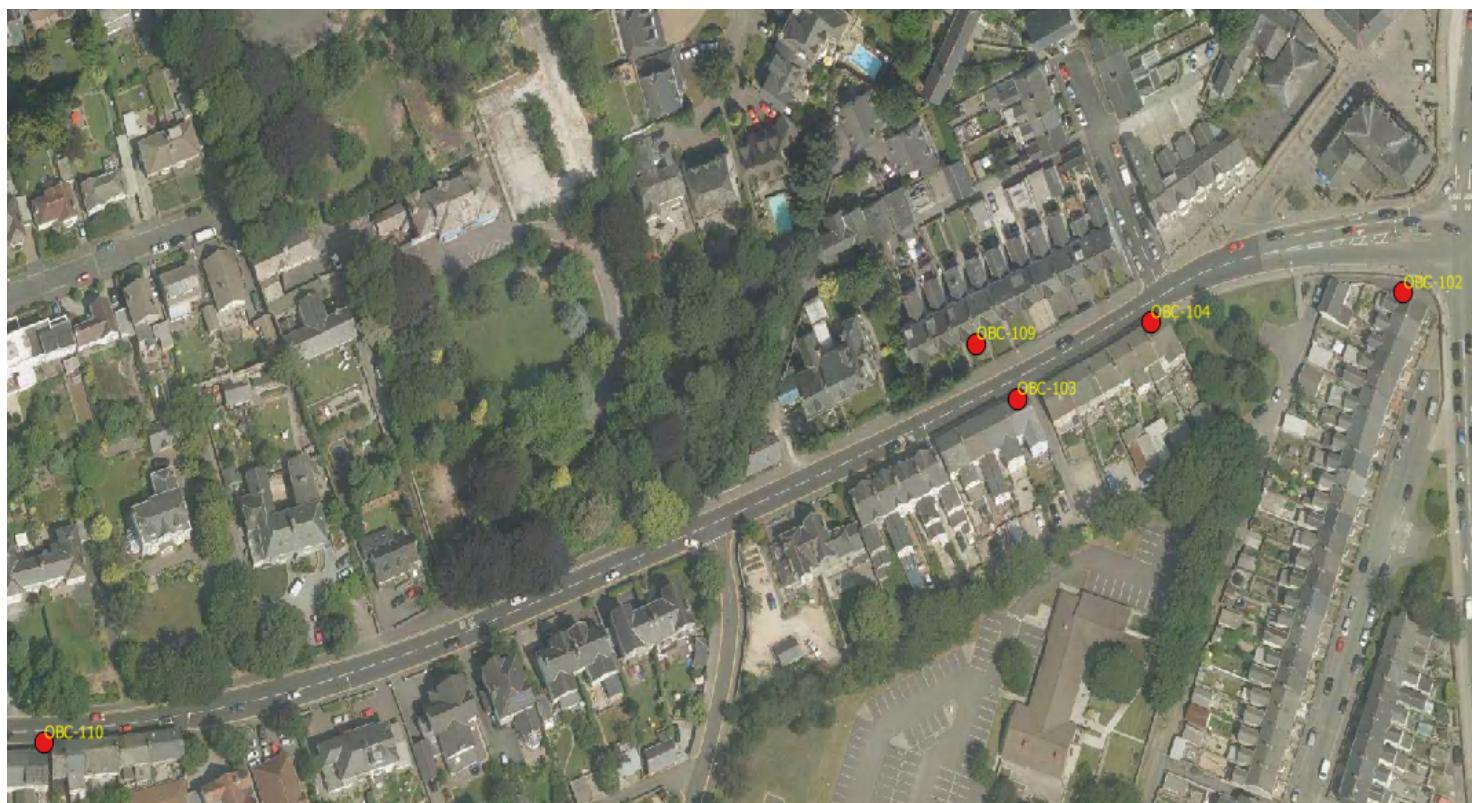
OBC 102 – Sunnyside (23.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
OBC-103- Park Street (37.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
OBC-104- Park Street (41.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Figure 1 – 2017 Monitoring Locations on Park, Street, Bridgend



4.4 During 2018, monitoring for NO_2 has been increased further along Park Street, with an additional two NO_2 monitoring sites implemented. These will continue to be monitored. **Figure 2** illustrates the current 2018 network of monitoring for Park Street including the additional two locations (OBC 109 and OBC 110).

4.5 Figure 2 – 2018 Monitoring Locations on Park Street, Bridgend



4.6 While a full dataset is not available for 2018, it is evident that site OBC-110, which is situated at residential facades on Park Street, that the results are significantly elevated and there is the likelihood of exceedances of both the air quality objectives set for NO₂. However, location OBC-109 currently meets the NO₂ Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m³.

4.7 In line with Welsh Government's Policy Guidance, following submission and approval of the 2018 Annual Progress Report, the Council will make an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) order for the Park Street Area. There will be a future report to Cabinet accompanied by an appropriate technical report setting out the reasons why the order is needed. A Draft Air Quality Action Plan will also need to be implemented.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The Report does not have any impacts on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Local Area Quality Management supports the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act goals of:

- A healthier Wales
- A globally responsible Wales

Overall, improving air quality contributes significantly to the majority of the well-being goals.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The Annual Progress Report itself does not have any financial implications.

9. Recommendation

9.1. That Cabinet approves the 2018 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 30th September 2018.

9.2. That Cabinet notes that it will receive a further report on the requirement for an Air Quality Management Area at Park Street, Bridgend.

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18th September 2018

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Background documents: None

Appendix 1 - Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report 2018