



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 3 APRIL 2006

Report of the Director of Environmental Services

Detailed Assessment of Air Quality in the City – Benzene, Nitrogen Dioxide and PM₁₀ Particulates

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members note the content of this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Derby's air quality has been the subject of ongoing review and Standards for several years. In 2001, 2 areas of the city were declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) – see appendix 2 for AQMA location map. This was because air quality in those areas was predicted to fail national air quality objectives set by government. One AQMA was declared for nitrogen dioxide (a traffic-related pollutant) and another for PM₁₀ particulates (fine dust associated mainly with emissions from the former QDF foundry on Victory Road).
- 2.2 In 2003, Cabinet considered an Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) report, which considered all 7 pollutants for which there are air quality standards. Four pollutants were ruled out at this stage as insignificant, but the USA report concluded that were likely to be further 'hotspots' of pollution from nitrogen dioxide, PM₁₀ particulates and benzene in the city, which previous assessments had not identified. The implications of this were that either the boundaries of the existing AQMA would need to be adjusted or further AQMA declared. In particular, it was recommended that further research was required into nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ levels at various busy road junctions and benzene levels in the vicinity of Acetate Products Ltd site in Spondon. These 'detailed assessments' are now approaching completion. In order to inform the assessment process, the council's air quality monitoring network was substantially expanded and became fully operational by October 2004. To allow for seasonal and meteorological factors (which can have a significant impact on air quality), it was decided to obtain a complete calendar year's data (in 2005) before analysing it. Whilst this has put us behind schedule in the government's timetable, the data that has been obtained is high quality, comprehensive and sufficient for officers to be able to estimate pollution levels at each of the city's 'hotspots' with a high degree of confidence and accuracy.
- 2.3 Separate reports on the detailed assessments are under preparation for each of the 3 pollutants and these will be reported to cabinet over the course of the next 2 months. It is therefore suggested that a further report and presentation be made to the Planning and Environment Commission on the recommendations of the detailed assessment reports later in the year.

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| Background papers: | Updating and Screening Assessment Report (2003) |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 2 – location map of Air Quality Management Areas |

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from directly this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Improvements in air have the potential to benefit all people in Derby.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods, by:

Making Derby cleaner and greener

- 5.2 Build healthy and independent communities, by:

Improving the health of our communities

Location map showing AQMA boundaries:

**DERBY CITY COUNCIL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS
(VARIATION NO.1) ORDER 2002
SECOND SCHEDULE**

