

SERVICE AREA: Environmental Health, Environmental Monitoring

Report ref	Report title
E&C 06/07-014	Air Quality Management Area Review
<p>Summary: The purpose of this report is to brief the Executive on the Councils duties to assess air quality monitoring undertaken in the borough and confirm the monitoring arrangements for Wembley and the waste transfer site in Neasden.</p> <p>Introduction The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on all Local Authorities to review and assess local air quality against standards and objectives set out in the National Air Quality Strategy. The objectives are based on the potential health effects of 8 key pollutants: ozone, 1,3-butadiene, benzene, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead and fine particulates.</p> <p>In compliance with these duties the Council was required to take account of the air quality objectives and <i>identify all areas</i> including Wembley, where objectives are breached or will not be met. A survey was undertaken across the Borough and on 2 April 2001, Brent declared large parts of the Borough as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) by way of an Air Quality Management Order.</p> <p>The Air Quality Management Order The Order was issued based on forecasts of public exposure to nitrogen dioxide and fine particles referred to as PM₁₀. It defined the AQMA's as the entire area south of the North Circular Road and all housing, schools and hospitals along the North Circular Road, Harrow Road, Bridgewater Road, Ealing Road, Watford Road, Kenton Road, Kingsbury Road, Edgware Road, Blackbird Hill, Forty Lane, Forty Avenue and East Lane.</p> <p>Following the declaration of the AQMA's the Council published an air quality action plan (AQAP) was published in 2005. The plan outlines how the council will meet the air quality objectives in these areas. The Council must report annually to Defra and the GLA regarding the progress with the implementation of measures to improve air quality in these areas.</p> <p>Neasden Lane and Air Quality Management The air quality management areas, given Executive approval in 2001, included Neasden Lane and the area occupied by the Neasden Goods waste transfer station. Due to the longstanding environmental problems encountered as a result of the operation of the Neasden Goods Waste transfer station a commitment was made in the AQAP to address air quality impact of this area specifically (see Section 4.4.1 of the AQAP). Actions to be taken include working in partnership with the Environment Agency and other regulatory Authorities to minimise the air quality impacts of the site. We have also been monitoring air quality in the vicinity of the site since February 2004 to quantify the levels of fine particulates, as PM₁₀.</p>	

Review and Assessment of Brent Air Quality 2006

Although progress is being made to improve air quality in the borough, for example by reducing parking provision for residential areas, this is countered by concomitant increase in traffic volumes across the Borough – the key contributor to poor air quality in Brent.

As part of the Review and assessment process the Council has confirmed that the National Air Quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and fine particulates will not be met in the air quality management areas previously identified. The Council has also identified two further areas in the Borough where the objectives for these pollutants will not be met:

General Area	Description
Wembley Hill Road	From Forty Avenue along Wembley Hill Road to include the junction between Wembley Hill Road and Wembley Park Drive
A4089 Ealing Road	From A4005 Ealing Road along A4089 Ealing Road to include the junction with Mount Pleasant

As a result of these findings the Council will be required to redefine the current air quality management areas to incorporate the additional areas identified. The Council must revoke and re-issue the current Order to reflect these changes, hence the issue of the committee report outlining this process and seeking executive approval.

Nature of Decision to be taken/Intended Outcome

To approve the revised air quality management areas by order.

Timescale for decision:

January 2007

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