

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>6 JULY 2016</b>
<b>AIR QUALITY IN NOTTINGHAM</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider an update on the Council's work in improving air quality in Nottingham.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider what action Nottingham City Council is taking to manage and improve the quality of air in Nottingham.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 In the England, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has responsibility for meeting air quality limit values and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) co-ordinates assessment and air quality plans for the UK as a whole.
- 3.2 Nottingham City Council regulates industrial, commercial and domestic activities that emit pollution in order to control and reduce air pollution in the city. The Council will also monitor air pollution levels and work with other to develop and implement air quality action plans to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.
- 3.3 There are two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Nottingham:
- Nottingham No.2 AQMA: city centre north, east and south (nitrogen dioxide);
  - Nottingham No.3 AQMA: Dunkirk (nitrogen dioxide).
- 3.4 Where AQMAs are declared local authorities are required to devise and publish Actions Plans and where AQMAs arise from road transport, local authorities are encouraged to incorporate any Action Plans within the Local Transport Strategy. Nottingham City Council has done this.
- 3.5 In May 2016 the World Health Organisation (WHO) stated that more than 80% of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits<sup>1</sup>. While all regions of the world are affected, populations in low-income cities are the most impacted.

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<sup>1</sup> The WHO air quality standard for PM10 is an annual average of 20 micrograms per cubic meter. Nottingham recorded a figure of 21 micrograms per cubic meter.

- 3.6 Research produced by the WHO shows a slight reduction in overall levels of particulates in the air we breathe across Europe. However, the WHO report also reveals the following 10 UK cities which are breaching their air quality standards for levels of PM10 particulate air pollution: Port Talbot, Stanford-le-Hope, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Scunthorpe, Eastbourne, Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton.
- 3.7 Organisations and campaign groups such as Friends of the Earth are calling for 'Clean Air Zones' to be introduced across all UK cities and large towns and for urgent action to remove the worst polluting diesel vehicles from our roads.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Briefing paper provided by Nottingham Friends of the Earth.
- 4.2 Appendix 2 – Presentation provided by Environmental Health and Safer Places Team.

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 World Health Organisation – Air pollution levels rising in many of the world's poorest cities. 12 May 2016  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/air-pollution-rising/en/>

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All.

#### **8 Contact information**

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