

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Cllr Wood , Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>Not before 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 3449</b>
TITLE:	<b>Adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan: Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney</b>	
WARD:	Mendip, High Littleton	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
Air Quality Action Plan: Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 local authorities are required to review and assess air quality within their area. Following a review of the air quality across the district an area within Temple Cloud has been identified as exceeding the government's objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations.
- 1.2 Poor air quality is the largest known environmental risk to public health in the UK. Investing in cleaner air and doing more to tackle air pollution are priorities for the UK government, as well as for Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES). B&NES has monitored and endeavoured to address air quality in Bath, and the wider B&NES area, since 2002.
- 1.3 Officers monitor the concentration of nitrogen dioxide throughout the district. Where concentrations are found to be exceeding the objective limit of an annual average in excess of 40 micrograms per cubic metre, the local authority is required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The AQMA for Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney was declared in 2018. Following declaration of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), the Council is obliged to develop Air Quality Action Plans which seek to reduce air pollution to below the objective limit.
- 1.4 This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the action we will take to reduce the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the

villages of Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud in Bath and North East Somerset between 2023 and 2028.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet Member is asked to:**

- 2.1 Adopt the proposed Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), which has been derived from the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney following a public consultation.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The content of the proposed air quality action plans seek to reduce the concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in certain areas of Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney. The draft action plan was approved by the Cabinet Member prior to the commencement of the consultation period and was developed by the Air Quality Working Group that includes officers from Public Health, Transportation Policy, Sustainability and Public Protection and Health Improvement. The matter has since been heard at the Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.2 The lifespan of the action plan is 5 years as suggested within the guidance. Air Quality monitoring will continue throughout this period to evaluate the impact of the actions contained within the plan. If the objective limits have not been met by 2028, a new plan will be developed to identify potential new measures for reducing air pollution.
- 3.3 The reporting of progress made in relation to each of the actions will be made through the 'Annual Status Report' which is produced annually by the Environmental Monitoring Team.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The action plans are developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 Each of the actions contained within the plan has an initial resource assessment.
- 5.2 The preparation of the action plan creates a listing of proposals to be implemented. This does not commit the Council to implementation and spend against these actions at this time, but it will be important to document any decisions not to implement as this could lead to future challenge.
- 5.3 Of the actions proposed, some could potentially be incorporated in the design of ongoing and future capital works aligned with current strategies, funded through new grant monies, provided by external partners or managed through existing revenue budgets (where in line with the required service provision).
- 5.4 Each action proposed requires individual assessment, including funding options, through outline business case review or as part of a wider project business case.

- 5.5 Each action put forward for implementation would then require the appropriate approval through the usual council process.
- 5.6 Some of the proposed actions have been assessed and granted funding with progress already having been made.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

The Action Plan has been produced in accordance with the 'Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG16)'. The key risks arising from this statutory action plan are the fact that there is no identified funding currently for the actions. The existence of these plans will assist in leveraging finance in from other sources such as DEFRA grants.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and no adverse impacts have been identified.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 The Air Quality Action Plan brings measures to help slow down vehicles avoiding stop starting situations. This improves the vehicle flow and reduces fuel usage.
- 8.2 The Plan has several actions which encourages less reliance on polluting vehicles for mobility.

Trees have been planted in Farrington Gurney to protect residents and improves the local climate.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The actions contained within this Air Quality Action Plan are a culmination of several other options that were considered and ruled out. Furthermore, additional actions were incorporated into the draft Air Quality Action Plan following positive contributions made through the public consultation process.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 The Head of Building Control and Public Protection, the Director for Place Management, Head of Legal Services, Financial Officer and the appropriate Cabinet Members were consulted in the writing of this report.

<b>Contact person</b>	Aled Williams Environmental Protection Manager 01225 396625
<b>Background papers</b>	Consultation Report – Air Quality Action Plan: Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney  Options and Feasibility Study  <a href="https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pollution-noise-nuisance/air-quality/temple-cloud-and-farrington-gurney-air">https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pollution-noise-nuisance/air-quality/temple-cloud-and-farrington-gurney-air</a>
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