

---

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>MIKE HAYNES – DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	<b>EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>MATT HOLDFORD – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REPTON DETAILED AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>REPTON</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS14</b>

---

## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members approve the contents and conclusions of the Detailed Air Quality Assessment in Repton (attached as Appendix 1).
- 1.2 That Members instruct the Environmental Health Manager to issue the assessment report to DEFRA in order to meet the Council's statutory duties under the Environment Act 1995.

## **2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To provide Members with a further report on air quality in Repton following their receipt of the previous report on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013.
- 2.2 To advise Members of the outcomes and conclusion of the most recent Detailed Air Quality Assessment in Repton.

## **3. Background to the Review and Assessment Report**

- 3.1 Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 all local authorities have a duty to undertake a periodic review and assessment of air quality within their administrative boundaries.
- 3.2 These review and assessments are intended to establish whether levels of the eight most common environmental air pollutants meet European standards to ensure the protection of human health. Where these standards (known in the UK as Air Quality Objectives) are not being met, the local authority has a duty to declare an Air Quality Management Order and then to develop an Air Quality Action Plan which must show how the authority is 'in pursuit of the achievement' of the Air Quality Objectives.

- 3.3 A district-wide assessment in 2012 concluded that air quality across all of South Derbyshire met statutory standards. However the report highlighted the possibility that air quality on High Street in Repton may be at risk of not meeting one of the Air Quality Objectives.
- 3.4 As a result of the report we started monitoring air quality along High Street, Repton in October 2012.
- 3.5 In November 2013 we published a Detailed Assessment of air quality in Repton using the data from nearly a full year of air quality monitoring. The report was submitted to E&DS and received Committee approval to submit to DEFRA.
- 3.6 The November 2013 report concluded that air quality from traffic emissions was marginally above EU Air Quality Objectives at the front of a handful of properties on High Street. However, the report identified that air quality readings in spring 2013 were well above those which we expect to see in a location of this type. The report stated the opinion that the results in spring 2013 were likely to be as a result of traffic congestion caused by local developments and that they therefore may not be representative of typical air quality conditions in Repton.
- 3.7 The report concluded that further monitoring be carried out to get in increased amount of data before the Council reach a decision about the need to declare an Air Quality Management Area.
- 3.8 The approved report was subsequently submitted to DEFRA who accepted the findings and recommended that an additional full calendar year (i.e. throughout 2014) of monitoring be carried out before reaching a decision.
- 3.9 The full year results for air quality monitoring during 2014 have now been received and we are able to provide an updated report for Members. The technical report is attached as Appendix A.

#### **4. Summary of the Review and Assessment Findings**

- 4.1 The main pollutant of concern in Repton is nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). This is a gas which can cause respiratory illness and cardiovascular disease. It is emitted from all forms of combustion process. The biggest source of NO<sub>2</sub> is from road traffic emissions.
- 4.2 In order to comply with the relevant EU Directive on air quality, NO<sub>2</sub> levels should not be above 40 milligrammes in every cubic meter of air (40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) averaged over a year. This level must be met at all 'relevant locations'. A 'relevant location' is generally deemed to be at the front façade of a residential property. Nitrogen dioxide levels are very often above 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at kerbside locations of busy roads, but these are not deemed to be 'relevant locations' because nobody spends the majority of their time at kerbside.
- 4.3 The monitoring results during 2014 have shown that nitrogen dioxide at all monitoring locations were well below 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 4.4 The results support our suspicions that high levels of NO<sub>2</sub> observed during the spring of 2013 were in all probability due to traffic congestion caused by local developments and they were therefore not representative of typical air quality conditions in Repton.

4.5 The assessment has concluded with a high degree of certainty that air quality in Repton meets the Air Quality Objective. There is no requirement for South Derbyshire District Council to declare and Air Quality Management Order.

4.6 We propose to continue monitoring air quality in three locations on High Street, Repton in order to satisfy ourselves that air quality continues to meet the Objective.

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 Minor. The continuation of air quality monitoring in Repton will be met from existing budgets.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

6.1 The proposals align with the “sustainable growth and opportunity” Corporate Plan Objective as well as ensuring the “health and wellbeing” of our residents.

## **7. Community Implications**

7.1 None

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1 Air quality right across South Derbyshire has consistently met health standards for the past decade and therefore has been shown to be better than that across the majority of local authorities in the UK. The Detailed Assessment report has concluded with a high degree of certainty that air quality in Repton meets Air Quality Objectives.