
REPORT TO:	Environmental and Development Service Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	21st November 2013	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Bob Ledger – Director of Housing and Environmental Services	OPEN
MEMBERS’ CONTACT POINT:	Matt Holford – Environmental Health Manager	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Repton Detailed Air Quality Assessment	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Repton	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS14

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 report in accordance with Resolution 11 of E&DS dated 4th October 2012 and Council resolution CL/6511.
- 2.2 To advise Members of the outcomes of a 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 The most recent Assessment was undertaken in 2012 and was the subject of a Committee report on 4th October 2012. The report 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 The report was submitted to DEFRA who accepted all the conclusions and recommendations.
- 3.5 Air quality monitoring has been undertaken along High Street Repton since October 2012 and now that a full year of results is available it is possible to review the data and use it to model (predict) air quality at various locations within the village. 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 (NO₂). 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 NO₂ is from road traffic emissions.
- 4.2 In order to comply with the relevant EU Directive on air quality, NO₂ levels should not be above 40 milligrammes in every cubic metre of air (40 µg/m³) 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/m³ 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 from October 2012 to September 2013 have shown that nitrogen dioxide at kerbside in Repton is above 40 µg/m³ and that at the window of residential properties on High Street it is marginally below 40 µg/m³.
- 4.4 The monitoring results showed an unusual trend which has led us to question whether the period October 2012 to September 2013 was representative of typical conditions in Repton. In particular the results in spring 2013 were well above those which we expect to see in a location of this type. We are of 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.
- 4.5 The monitoring results have been used to provide computational predictions of air quality at various locations in Repton. Nine 'relevant locations' were chosen that were likely to be the nine properties in the village most affected by traffic emissions. The calculations suggest that four of these nine locations have nitrogen dioxide levels slightly above 40 µg/m³.
- 4.6 The report has concluded that before any further action is taken we must be certain that the 40 µg/m³ Air Quality Objective is being breached. The question mark over the monitoring results (particularly in spring 2013) mean that we are not sufficiently certain and therefore it is officers opinion that we should not act until these questions have been further investigated and resolved. This will require a period of further monitoring.

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 Any decisions that need to be made arising from the further monitoring results will be brought to E&DS Committee.

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 to be submitted to DEFRA in December this calendar year to comply with the Council’s duty under the Environment Act. We propose to submit the current report in order to comply with this duty and then to submit a further supplementary report to DEFRA on the completion of a further calendar year of air quality monitoring through 2014.