

Subject: Air Quality Policy and Strategy

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2009

Report of: Executive Director - Business

Portfolio

Holder: Environmental Services

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan / General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Strategy is intended to set out the approach for addressing air quality issues within Rossendale. It provides a framework for delivery of services to reduce air pollution where possible, compliance with statutory duties and to minimise the effects of pollution on the more vulnerable members of the community.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
 - By ensuring consistent high quality services
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
 - By directly acting on issues related to air pollution
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
 - By enhancing the general environment
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
 - By contributing to a reduction in pollutants that affect people's health and wellbeing
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)
 - By demonstrating a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to air pollution control

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 In December 2007, the Cabinet approved an Air Quality Policy. This has been incorporated into the attached Strategy document and amended to clarify its intent.

4.2 This new Strategy identifies the effects of poor air quality on people and the environment, the key pollutants involved, the processes by which these pollutants are emitted and the means by which they will be controlled.

4.3 This Strategy aims to contribute to addressing the pollutants and objectives outlined in the Government's Air Quality Strategy published in 2007. Action taken at this local level will be an effective way of tackling localized air quality problems, thereby leading to an overall improvement of air quality across the UK.

4.4 This Strategy directly links to the Council's Environmental Strategy and demonstrates how the Air Pollution aspect of Aim Five would be achieved. Actions will be developed in order to achieve a steady decrease in pollutants and ensure achievement of national pollution objectives by the target dates.

4.5 The Council has an obligation to undertake periodic reviews of air quality under the system known as Local Air Quality Management. This imposes a duty to review and assess the current, and likely future, air quality in this area against national air quality objectives for seven specific air pollutants. Where any objective is unlikely to be met by the relevant deadline, local authorities must designate those areas as Air Quality Management Areas and take action, along with others, to work towards meeting the objectives. Investigations are ongoing to determine whether this action is needed within Rossendale.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 There are no financial implications with this Strategy.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 There are no legal implications with this Strategy.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 There are no HR implications with this Strategy.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 By adopting this Air Quality Strategy, the Council will be demonstrating its commitment to putting air quality at the heart of the decision making process and thereby act in a co-ordinated way to reduce air pollution and protect the health of people and the environment within Rossendale.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That the Air Quality Strategy be adopted and implemented.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 A Consultation Plan was developed and implemented in relation to this Strategy. The following individuals and organizations have been contacted:-
Chamber of Commerce
Lancashire County Council – Highways Department
Rossendale Climate Change Group
J&J Ormerod
Groundwork
LSP Environment Theme group
Rossendale Transport
East Lancs PCT
Health Protection Agency
Rossendale Borough Council's Green Team

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes
Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
<p>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Defra. 2007</p> <p>Air Quality Toolkit: Local action for cleaner air. LACORS. 2008.</p>	<p>Environmental Health Service Stubbylee Hall Stubbylee Lane Bacup Lancashire OL13 0DE</p>