

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 17 November 2015

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Title: Draft Air Quality Action Plan

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Summary

1. The Council is preparing a new Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality in the Saffron Walden Air Quality Management Area. The document will go out for consultation with key stakeholders including Defra and Essex County Council, along with the public and local businesses in early 2016.

Recommendations

2. Scrutiny Committee members provide feedback to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services on the content of the draft Action Plan.

Financial Implications

3. There are no costs associated with providing feedback on the plan.

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The Action Plan will be the subject of consultation
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	The Action Plan aims to improve air quality
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	The Action plan aims to encourage alternative forms of transport
Ward-specific impacts	The Action Plan is focussed on Saffron Walden

Workforce/Workplace	None
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Situation

6. During the process of gathering member suggestions for Scrutiny work topics, the subject of air quality management was raised. As the Council will be consulting on a new Air Quality Action Plan early next year, it was thought appropriate to bring the draft plan to the Scrutiny Committee.
7. It is not intended that the Action Plan goes to Cabinet prior to consultation; however Cllr Susan Barker, the relevant Cabinet Member, has indicated she will consider feedback on the plan from members of the Scrutiny Committee prior to its publication.
8. The following background information on the draft Action Plan has been provided by Ann Lee-Moore, Environmental Health Officer:
9. "The Council last produced an Air Quality Action Plan in 2009 following declaration of three small Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) centred on the most congested road junctions in the centre of Saffron Walden. Further monitoring of air quality was subsequently undertaken which revealed a wider area of concern where air quality objectives were not being met, and in 2012 a larger AQMA was declared by the Council covering the central area of the town.
10. "The Environment Act 1995 requires the Council to produce an Action Plan for the new AQMA, setting out the measures that the Council intends to take to meet the objectives and to maintain levels below the objective for the life of the plan.
11. "Air quality monitoring and modelling carried out by the Uttlesford District Council (UDC) indicates that air quality is generally good in the district but at some junctions within the main town, Saffron Walden, the objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) has not been met in recent years or has been very slightly below the objective.
12. "The draft Action Plan will be subject to a period of statutory consultation before the final plan is adopted by the Council."

Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
None			

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.