

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE -21 SEPTEMBER 2000

AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the production of The Second Stage Review and Assessment of Local Air Quality in East Ayrshire and its submission to the Scottish Executive.
- 1.2 To update the Committee on the ongoing monitoring work being undertaken by the Environmental Health Service in this regard.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part IV of the Environmental Act 1995 requires each local authority to periodically review air quality in its area.
- 2.2 The Air Quality Regulations 2000 (which now supersede the original 1997 Regulations) prescribe air quality objectives and a timetable for their achievement by local authorities.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Council submitted its Stage One Air Quality Review and Assessment of Local Air Quality to the then Scottish Office in December 1998.
- 2.4 In September 1999 a response was received from the Scottish Executive after study of the report, recommending that the Council proceed to a Stage Two Review in respect of certain parameters.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Guidance issued by the Scottish Office/Scottish Executive recommended that local authorities adopt a three stage phased approach when undertaking their reviews. The results and conclusions from each stage would indicate whether there was a need to progress to a further more detailed investigation of any specific parameters.
- 3.2 The response from the Scottish Executive recommended procedure to a Stage Two Review and Assessment in respect of four of the specific parameters listed in the Air Quality Regulations, viz. lead, nitrogen dioxide, PM10 (particulate) and sulphur dioxide. However, it was decided as a matter of policy to cover all seven pollutants listed in the Air Quality Regulations to provide a fully updated picture in this respect.

- 3.3 Compilation of the report followed similar principles and guidelines as the initial Stage One Review and Assessment. However, considerably more work was undertaken with some aspect of the report particularly with regard to the production of additional monitoring data, etc., in order to produce the more detailed report required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are ongoing costs in respect of air monitoring work currently being undertaken to provide information on a number of pollution parameters. The cost is met from existing budgets. Proposed changes in planning legislation may result in additional costs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and associated legislation places a duty on local authorities to review and assess air quality within their area.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Review and assessment of air quality supports the principles of the Council's Environment Strategy.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Second Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in East Ayrshire has been completed. A copy of the report is available in the Members Lounge.
- 7.2 The Scottish Executive has indicated that they "found the report well structured and presented and agree with your conclusion that there is no requirement for East Ayrshire Council to proceed to a further stage Air Quality Review and Assessment".
- 7.3 Monitoring of designated pollutants will continue in order to provide and maintain information on local air quality. Additional monitoring has been undertaken at a number of representative locations within the district to establish a database of information in respect of the pollutants specified in the Air Quality Regulations. The data collected will also be invaluable in respect of the next Air Quality Review and Assessment which will be required by the Scottish Executive in the future.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Committee are invited to note the contents of this Report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/MJR/EHG

31st August 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Air Quality Regulations 2000
2. Local Air Quality Management
Scottish Office Guidance
 - Review and Assessment of Air Quality
 - Developing Local Air Quality Action Plans
 - Monitoring for Air Quality
 - Air Quality and Traffic Management
 - Technical Guidance Notes
3. Second Stage Review and Assessment of Local Air Quality in East Ayrshire
(March 2000)

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact Paul L Todd, telephone (01563) 554021

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AGENDA