

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Cabinet

DRAFT AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT (ASR) 2023

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to consult on the Local Air Quality Management Annual Status Report 2023 and publish the final document following consultation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council as part of its regulatory duties under Local Air Quality Management, must carry out a review of air pollution every year. Industrial, domestic and traffic sources must be compared with legal limits for major pollutants.
- 2.2 The report is sent to DEFRA who provide technical guidance on how to write the report.
- 2.3 In March 2018 following improvements in local air quality, we revoked the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Low Santon. The Scunthorpe AQMA was also reduced in size. There are now approximately 1700 residential properties located within the AQMA. This is equivalent to 2.4% of residential properties within North Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 The Annual Status Report for 2023 sets out all the air pollution data for the calendar year 2022 against Local Air Quality objectives as set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000.
- 2.5 Some areas within the Scunthorpe AQMA still experience elevated concentrations of PM10 or 'near miss' exceedance days. These are often influenced by changes in wind speed or direction which may lead to an exceedance and are associated with industrial emissions.
- 2.6 Consequently, there is more work to do in order to try and bring about improvements in air quality (PM10) within the Scunthorpe AQMA. In order to achieve this aim, the council continues to work with local

industry, the Environment Agency and UK Health Security Agency via the Local Industry Forum.

- 2.7 The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Scunthorpe AQMA is currently being reviewed in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that the revised actions continue to bring about real improvements to local air quality. The AQAP will be submitted to DEFRA for approval in Summer 2023.
- 2.8 During the Summer of 2022, the council invested in our air quality monitoring network, with five replacement Beta Attenuation Monitors (BAM's). Four will measure PM10 and one will measure levels of PM2.5. The new monitors will ensure continued data capture and reliability providing consistent, high quality and reliable data. To provide this assurance, the equipment aligns to the specification of the Automatic Urban Rural Network (AURN) operated by DEFRA. This investment demonstrates our continued commitment to the review and assessment of local air quality.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To accept the draft report, consult with the organisations listed at Appendix 1 and via the council website and produce a final report for publication.
- 3.2 Not to approve the draft report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Accepting and consulting on the draft report will make sure that we meet our legal duty as set out in the guidance and enable interested parties to contribute. Consulting on the report raises the profile of our work.
- 4.2 If consultation does not take place and the report is not approved the council could be challenged.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 The council must prepare an air quality report every year. We must declare an air quality management area if air quality is poor. We achieve improvements by working closely with industry, their regulators and Public Health. This work is carried out from within existing staff resource.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The council and its partners have made significant improvements in local air quality in recent years which contributes to keeping people safe and well.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 The integrated impact assessment has not identified any issues.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The organisations listed in Appendix 1 will be consulted on the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Approval is given to consult with the organisations listed in Appendix 1.

9.2 Relevant feedback is incorporated into the report and officers produce the final document for publication.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – Integrated Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1 - Statutory Consultees

Environment Agency
Highways England
UK Health Security Agency (former Public Health England)
North East Lincolnshire Council
Doncaster MBC
Kingston upon Hull City Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
West Lindsey Council
East Lindsey Council
Bassetlaw District Council
British Steel Ltd
Singleton Birch Ltd
Phillips 66 Ltd
Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery Ltd
VPI Immingham LLP
Selected Part B processes with emissions of relevant pollutants
Public consultation via NLC website
NLC Economy & Growth
NLC Director of Public Health
NLC Highways