

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS & NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

MONITORING OF POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members on the publication of the Final Contract Report for the UK PAH Monitoring and Analysis Network (2004-2010) and to highlight the current trends in Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) within North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas and other organic substances. The principal sources of PAHs in the UK are road transport and industrial plant. Open burning is also a major source and comparatively large amounts are released on and around bonfire night.
- 2.2 The responsibility for the measurement of PAHs rests with central government, however the Environmental Protection Team currently works as a Local Site Operator (LSO) on behalf of the national contractor conducting the monitoring of PAHs on behalf of DEFRA. North Lincolnshire has two monitoring locations sited at the Scunthorpe Town AURN (Automatic Urban and Rural Network) site on Rowland Road, Scunthorpe and at Low Santon.
- 2.3 The measurement of PAHs is carried out to monitor compliance with air quality target levels. The UK has an air quality objective of 0.25ng/m^3 whereas the EU has a target value of 1ng/m^3 to be achieved by 2012 and not to be exceeded by three or more calendar years in five.
- 2.4 The report was published by the air quality contractor who has provided the national monitoring service to DEFRA during the last 10 years. The report includes PAH results up to and including September 2010 and documents results for both North Lincolnshire sites in the context of national UK-wide data.
- 2.5 The report identifies that the Scunthorpe Town and Low Santon PAH monitors show concentrations above the relevant levels.
- 2.6 Regulation of the Tata site rests with the Environment Agency who permit the site under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. Emissions from the site need to be controlled and the installation must demonstrate that they use the best available techniques (BAT) are being utilised to control emissions.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Tata Steel and DEFRA to ensure that elevated concentrations of PAHs in Scunthorpe are controlled at the earliest opportunity.

3.2 Do nothing.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Although PAHs are not pollutants that fall within the Local Air Quality Management regime, it is important that the levels of PAHs are reduced for the following reasons.

1. Reducing the level of PAHs will have a positive impact on the health of the local population.

2. Non compliance with the EU Target Value may result in the UK being liable for infraction fines from the EU.

4.2 If the Local Authority does not engage with relevant stakeholders to highlight this issue as a priority it may increase the time taken to ensure compliance with relevant limits.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are established networks with the Environment Agency, Tata Steel and DEFRA as a result of the ongoing monitoring of PM₁₀ air quality objectives in Scunthorpe. The additional staff resource required to carry out dialogue on PAH issues will be met from within existing resources.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Poor air quality has a detrimental impact on human health and life expectancy.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The results of the PAH monitoring, which was carried out on behalf of Defra, have been discussed with the Health Protection Agency, the Primary Care Trust, the Environment Agency and local industry, in order that they are aware.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the continued monitoring and investigation of the concentrations of PAHs and the likely sources be agreed.

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