

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**AIR QUALITY UPDATING AND SCREENING ASSESSMENT 2009**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment Draft Report submitted to DEFRA on 17 August 2009.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 As part of the National Air Quality Strategy, North Lincolnshire Council is required to periodically undertake a review and assessment of air quality within its boundaries. All potential sources of pollution (including industrial, domestic and traffic related sources) must be considered and compared against objectives for seven major pollutants.
- 2.2 The concept of Local Air Quality Management was introduced under part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and placed a duty on all local authorities to review air quality in their area. The fourth round of Review and Assessment of Air Quality is now being conducted. In November 2005 an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared for breaches of the 24 hour mean PM<sub>10</sub> air quality objective in Scunthorpe, with a further declaration in December 2008 for breaches of the annual mean at Santon.
- 2.3 The Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) is required to consider areas that have changed since the last report for example new industry or roads. The Council must consider the emissions against the Air Quality Objectives. These are PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter), Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene and Lead. The air quality objectives are based on current medical evidence for the health effects of each pollutant.
- 2.4 The assessment was conducted in accordance with updated Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(09) issued by DEFRA in April 2009. The report has identified no additional breaches of Air Quality Objectives other than those detailed in paragraph 2.2. The Council will not need to proceed to a detailed assessment for any of the pollutants listed.

2.5 Policy Guidance PG(09) requires that councils consult on their draft air quality reports. A list of consultees is contained at Appendix 1. Consultation will be commenced once confirmation is received that the Updated Screening Assessment is approved by the Cabinet Member. The results of consultation and DEFRA feedback will then be included in the report to produce the final document.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 To approve the draft report to allow for consultation.

3.2 To not approve the draft report and prevent consultation.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Consultation enables interested parties to contribute to the review and assessment process and raises the profile of air quality issues. It is important that stakeholders are included in the process.

4.2 To do nothing would be contrary to policy guidance and in some respects undermine the process of public engagement.

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

5.1 The policy guidance issued by DEFRA has over recent years placed significant additional statutory duties on councils in relation to air quality and requires either a detailed assessment, updating assessment or progress report each year until 2017. This is in addition to the submission of a Further Assessment Report and Action Plan within the Santon AQMA.

5.2 One temporary full-time equivalent (FTE) is currently employed on air quality issues however this contract is due to terminate on 31 March 2010 unless funding is secured from local industry.

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

6.1 This work is a statutory function.

6.2 Poor air quality has a detrimental impact on human health and life expectancy and the Environmental Protection Team actively seeks to make real environmental improvements throughout North Lincolnshire.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The organisations listed at Appendix 1 will be consulted on the report. Policy guidance suggests that only limited consultation is necessary at this stage and should focus on statutory consultees.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That approval is given to consult with the organisations listed at Appendix 1 and the public via use of the internet.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** None

## **APPENDIX 1**

### Statutory Consultees

DEFRA

Environment Agency

Highways Agency

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

Corus UK Ltd

Multiserv Ltd

Singleton Birch Ltd

Cemex Ltd

Centrica Killingholme Power Station

E-on UK, Killingholme

Conoco Global Heat & Power

Total Ltd - Lindsey Oil Refinery

Conoco Phillips Ltd – Humber Refinery

Selected Part B processes with emissions of relevant pollutants

Greenpeace

Friends of the Earth

Public consultation via Internet