



Report Reference Number: PR/19/6

To: Policy Review Committee
Date: 10 September 2019
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Lead Executive Member: Cllr Chris Pearson, Lead Executive Member for Housing, Health and Culture
Lead Officer: Julie Slatter, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning

Title: Progress with the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan

Summary:

To provide an update and information relating to the Air Quality Action Plan.

Recommendations:

To consider and comment on the progress with the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan.

Reasons for recommendation:

The report helps to promote the management of air quality in Selby District and in particular provides information on the progress regarding the implementation of measures identified in the Air Quality Action Plan.

1. Introduction and background

On the 29 February 2016 Selby District Council designated its first Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on New Street, Selby for nitrogen dioxide levels related to traffic emissions.

Selby District Council has now finalised an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to help address concentrations of nitrogen dioxide along New Street. The AQAP identifies the measures expected to deliver the greatest and most immediate improvements in Selby's air quality and longer term steps needed to address the impact of development. The Executive approved the adoption of the AQAP in May 2018. The AQAP is intended to be a live document that will be continuously reviewed and developed to take account of future development, traffic growth, and changes in local air quality.

A 'source apportionment' study has previously been carried out for New Street. Source apportionment refers to the process of looking at how different source categories contribute to overall concentrations of a certain pollutant in a particular area. The study has highlighted that traffic sources are likely to be a significant contributing factor to the exceedances of the air quality objectives in the New Street area. Traffic sources are estimated to contribute around 69% to the total nitrogen dioxide in this area, with cars being the predominant source.

The Council is currently working with its partners, including North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), to deliver measures contained within the AQAP.

2. The Report

Since adoption of Selby District Council's AQAP in May 2018, progress has been made with the following measures:

- Selby District Council undertook a local anti-idling campaign in and around New Street as part of Clean Air Day on 21st June 2018. Posters were distributed to local residents and businesses in relation to anti-idling and an anti-idling banner was erected on New Street to ask drivers to switch off their engines when stationary. The Environmental Health team also received over 20 pledges from Selby District Council staff to leave their cars at home on the day and explore other sustainable means of getting into work. Selby District Council plan to undertake further promotional work around anti-idling as part of Clean Air Day 2019. Events are planned for local businesses and schools and it is proposed to promote the campaign via social media channels. Selby District Council is also currently discussing approaches to anti-idling promotion with Ryedale District Council (*who already have anti-idling signage erected on roads approaching their AQMA*) with a view to erecting further signage in the district (*See AQAP Measure 2 in Annex A*)
- Selby District Council has undertaken research into car clubs and pool bike schemes and is investigating the potential for provision of such facilities in the car park shared by the council and the Selby War Memorial Hospital (Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9BX). NYCC Public Health have offered support to the scheme and current funding opportunities are being explored in partnership with North Yorkshire (*See AQAP Measure 3 in Annex A*)
- The origin destination study undertaken to support the development of Selby's AQAP identified a large number of LGV movements around Selby town centre and an influx of commuter trips in the AM peak. With a view to gathering further information about how trips associated with local business operations impact upon traffic levels in New Street, surveys were distributed to local businesses to establish the nature of journeys made and specific routes used by staff (both for travel to work

and during working hours). The information collected will be used to inform the development of further action planning measures relating to workplace travel planning and freight partnerships. Workplace travel initiatives will be delivered in conjunction with the Selby Health Matters group who are currently developing a Public Health Action Plan for the Selby district (*See AQAP Measure 4 in Annex A*)

- Selby District Council has worked with other authorities in the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire regions (through the YALPAG forum) and has input into a set of common principles with respect to low emission planning. This includes an agreed approach to requesting mitigation measures such as EV charging points, Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and Low Emission Travel Plans. Selby District Council is currently developing Low Emission Planning Guidance to formalise this process and also take into account the need to minimise opportunities for new exposure on new developments. In the longer term, it is anticipated that this guidance will form a supplementary planning document as part of the Local Plan (*See AQAP Measure 6 in Annex A*)
- Funding for electric vehicle charge points has been secured for the following Selby District Council car parks - South Parade and Back Micklegate. Selby District Council has also secured funding through the OLEV Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS). The WCS is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge points. Two charge points have been secured for the car park at the council's Civic Centre Offices. Selby District Council is currently discussing the initiative with the NHS (Selby War Memorial Hospital share the car park) to consider how to maximise the benefits of the charge points for both sites. Selby District Council will continue to explore all possible funding opportunities for further EV charging and will continue to pursue the provision of public EV charging points on new developments via the planning system (*See AQAP Measure 8 in Annex A*)
- Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council are currently reviewing their vehicle procurement policies to ensure that low emission vehicles are purchased whenever possible (*See AQAP Measure 9 in Annex A*)
- The Selby District Council Taxi Licensing Policy has been updated and now includes a section on 'environmental considerations', including air quality. The new policy went out to public consultation in early 2019 and was to be considered by the Executive in June 2019. Selby District Council will only accept applications to licence vehicles for the first time for vehicles under 5 years old. Existing licensed vehicles will not be licensed after the age of 12 years (*See AQAP Measure 10 in Annex A*)
- Selby District Council has updated the air quality information available on its website and issues regular social media updates on air quality

and the AQMA. Selby District Council is also currently discussing opportunities for undertaking joint promotional work with North Yorkshire County Council, especially in relation to anti-idling in the vicinity of schools (See AQAP Measure 11 in Annex A)

- With respect to improving cycling opportunities for Selby District Council staff, a pool bike scheme is proposed to allow pool bike use for local visits within a 2 mile radius of the Civic Centre. North Yorkshire County Council Public Health has offered support to the scheme and current funding opportunities are being explored in partnership with North Yorkshire. Various promotional activities are planned off the back of two major cycling events in 2019 (Tour De Yorkshire and the UCI Road World Cycling Championships) to promote cycling across the district. Further information can be found on the Selby District Council website at: <https://www.selby.gov.uk/cycling-selby-district>. There has also been ongoing development of Selby Bike Hub, located at Selby Park. The bike hub was launched in 2016 as part of the on-going development of cycling across Yorkshire following the Tour de France Grand Depart in 2014. The Bike Hub is funded by Sport England and delivered by Cycle Yorkshire, an initiative led by Welcome to Yorkshire, and is the only one of its kind in North Yorkshire. The Hub is a focal point for a broad spectrum of cycling activity, from informal support and advice to led rides, cycle training and supervised activity. (See AQAP Measure 12 in Annex A)
- Selby District Council is committed to promotion of sustainable travel initiatives in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council (See AQAP Measure 13 in Annex A). Examples of work undertaken include:
 - Officers from Selby District Council attended the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) workshop on 7th February 2019.
 - As part of the business survey work (see AQAP Measure 4 in Annex A) posters on sustainable travel were designed and left with local businesses to offer advice to employees about sustainable travel modes.
 - Selby District Council met with North Yorkshire County Council Public Health on 28th Feb 2019 to discuss opportunities for joint working on issues relating to sustainable travel choices and air quality improvement.
 - Initiatives including development of a pool bike scheme at Selby District Council offices, ongoing promotional work with the council's Communications team and participation in Clean Air Day.
 - North Yorkshire County Council are committed to working with Selby District Council to deliver travel planning in schools and will continue to try and attract additional funding to support sustainable transport

measures both within the Selby District and the wider North Yorkshire area.

- North Yorkshire County Council will review signalling and junction priorities. However, overall there is not much scope with regards to signal alterations for New Street/Ousegate/Toll Bridge (Measure 14).
- Signs to be erected by NYCC advising drivers of a U turn and to use the bypass just before Barlby roundabout. Potential opportunity to establish a visible presence without formal enforcement, noting any breaches and contacting haulage companies (Measure 5).

3. Legal/Financial Implications

3.1 Legal Implications

Section 84 of the Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities, in this case Selby District Council, to prepare a report on the air quality in the area and a written plan to be exercised by the authority in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives in the designated area.

Section 86(3) of the Environment Act places a duty on county councils to Submit proposals for exercise by the county council in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standard objectives in relation to powers exercisable by the county council.

3.2 Financial Implications

Selby District Council's obligations in relation to the existing monitoring and assessment work proposals will be met within budgets allocated for this work. Additional funding will also be necessary from partners to implement some of the measures identified in the Plan.

4. Conclusion

Selby District Council will continue to monitor air quality across the district to observe progress in achieving concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below health based objective levels, both within the AQMA and across the wider district. A number of new monitoring sites within 1km of the existing AQMA were established in May 2018. Initial results from these sites are presented in this Annual Status Report and will continue to be reported in subsequent reports.

Selby District Council has published an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the AQMA in conjunction with North Yorkshire County Council and other partners, to address elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in the New Street Area. Good initial progress has been made with a number of measures in the AQAP and full updates are also provided in the Annual Status Report that is submitted to DEFRA..

5. Background Documents

None.

6. Appendices

Appendix A - Measures to improve air quality

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