

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Air Quality in Monmouthshire</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Strong Communities Select Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2018</b>
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To consider the role of Environmental Health in relation to air quality in the county. To highlight the current work undertaken including the ways other agencies are engaged to seek improvements.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 To receive and comment on the presentation provided titled 'Air Quality in Monmouthshire'.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 Air Quality is a key influencing factor on public health, and an important part of the work Environmental Health do to protect public health. There has been increased media and government attention given to air quality in recent years.
- 3.2 Air pollution results from the introduction of a range of substances into the atmosphere from a wide variety of sources. It can cause both short term and long term effects on health, but also on the wider environment.
- 3.3 Government statistics estimate that air pollution in the UK reduces the life expectancy of every person by an average of 7–8 months, with an associated cost of up to £20 billion each year.
- 3.4 Legislation and Policies aiming to minimise and track the impact of air pollution on health and the environment have been introduced in Europe, the UK and Wales.
- 3.5 Generally air quality in Monmouthshire is good, however there are some areas of concern in Usk, Chepstow, Monmouth and Abergavenny due to road transport emissions, where houses are close to busy or congested roads. Bridge Street in Usk and Hardwich Hill in Chepstow have exceeded the UK's objective levels for nitrogen dioxide, and have therefore been declared Air Quality Management Areas.
- 3.6 Environmental Health monitor, review and assess air quality in Monmouthshire, and work with the Planning Authority, Highways, Welsh Government, Town and Community Councils and other local stakeholders to work towards improving local air quality. Integral to this Environmental Health report on current air quality conditions in the county, which is assessed

by Welsh Government and is available on the Council's website, write the Action Plans for air quality management areas, and facilitate steering group meetings for the stakeholders involved in delivering the actions to improve air quality. The presentation will help gain further insight into the work being done, the reasons why and future challenges to secure against potential increases in pollution arising from new developments, infrastructure etc and ensure that air quality improvements are long-lasting.

**4. REASONS:**

- 4.1 Through the process of scrutinising Public Protection performance, the Strong Communities Select Committee expressed interest in finding out more about the role of Environmental Health in relation to Air Quality.

**5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

None as a consequence of this report.

**6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS, (incorporating Equalities, Sustainability, safeguarding and corporate parenting).**

Assessments were previously completed in relation to overall Public Protection performance. The presentation serves to update Members in relation to our air quality role and therefore does not require a further assessment.

**7. CONSULTEES:**

Head of Public Protection

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Report to Strong Communities Select, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, titled 'Public Protection 2017/18 Performance Report, first nine months'.

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